

**USE OF FORCE**

The San Francisco Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the sanctity of all human life. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to serve. The Department is committed to using appropriate situational communication skills and sound de-escalation principles tactics before resorting to the use of force, whenever feasible. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics requires all sworn law enforcement officers to carry out their duties with courtesy, respect, professionalism, and to never employ unreasonable force. These are key factors in maintaining legitimacy with the community and safeguarding the public's trust.

- Commented [SFPD1]: See corresponding comment #1
- Commented [SFPD2]: See corresponding comment #2
- Commented [DOJ COPS 3]: Principles vs. tactics – use of force as described here is an action or tactic
- Commented [sfpd4]: See corresponding comment #3
- Commented [SFPD5]: See corresponding comment #4

The purpose of the policy is not to restrict officers from using reasonable force to protect themselves or others, but to provide general guidelines that may assist the Department in achieving its highest priority.

- Commented [DOJ COPS6]: The purpose should be stated in positive or affirmative tone: The true purpose of the policy is to guide officer's discretion in the use and application of force to ensure such applications are used only to effect arrest or lawful detention or to bring a situation under legitimate control
- Commented [sfpd7]: See corresponding comment #5
- Commented [sfpd8]: See corresponding comment #6

**I. POLICY**

**A. SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.** The Department is committed to the sanctity and preservation of all human life, human rights, and human dignity.

**B. ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION.** Communication with non-compliant or agitated subjects is most effective when officers attempt to establish rapport, use the proper voice intonation inflection, ask questions, demonstrate empathy listen carefully, and provide and provide offer advice alternatives to defuse conflict and achieve voluntary compliance before resorting to force options.

**C. DE-ESCALATION.** If a subject is not endangering the safety of the public or an officer, fleeing, or destroying evidence, officers should, when feasible, employ de-escalation techniques to decrease the likelihood of the need to use force during an incident and to increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance. Officers should consider the possible reasons why a subject may be noncompliant or resisting arrest. A subject may not be capable of understanding the situation because of a medical condition; mental, physical, or hearing impairment; language barrier; intoxication; drug interaction; or emotional crisis, and but have no criminal intent. These situations may not make the subject any less dangerous, but understanding a subject's situation may enable officers to calm the subject and allow officers to use de-escalation techniques provide an opportunity to identify alternatives to using force, while maintaining public safety and officer safety.

- Commented [sfpd9]: See corresponding comment #7
- Commented [DOJ COPS 10]: "When feasible" already takes into consideration extenuating circumstances, such as subjects who are an immediate danger to the safety of others or who are destroying evidence.
- Commented [DOJ COPS 11]: Need to be aware?
- Commented [DOJ COPS12]: Minor cleanup – the opening sentence appears to suggest using de-escalation when the subject is not dangerous while the last sentence suggests that the subject is dangerous.
- Commented [SFPD13]: See corresponding comment #8
- Commented [DOJ COPS 14]: A lot of minimizing language here – should establish an overarching view and then take it forward. Shall, when feasible. Using 'safe and feasible' is really limiting in terms of decision responsibility.

Members should use the following de-escalation tactics, when safe and feasible under the totality of the circumstances known to the officer:

1. Attempt to isolate and contain the subject;

2. Create time and distance from the subject by establishing a buffer zone ("reaction gap") and utilize cover to avoid creating an immediate threat that may require the use of force;
  3. Request and/or utilize additional resources, such as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers, Crisis/Hostage Negotiation Team, Conducted Energy Devices, or Extended Range Impact Weapon;
  4. Designate an officer to establish rapport and engage in communication with the subject without time constraint;
  5. Tactically re-position as often as necessary to maintain the reaction gap, protect the public, and preserve officer safety;
  6. Continue de-escalation techniques and take as much time as reasonably necessary to resolve the incident, without having to use force, if feasible.
- Other options, not listed above, may be available to assist in de-escalating the situation.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 15]:** Is this defined in training? What specifically does this mean – if not defined in training

**Commented [DOJ COPS 16]:** This statement can be twisted out of context. "Without time constraint" can only occur if the situation is safely being managed and not deteriorating.

Supervisors who become aware of a situation where an officer is using de-escalation techniques should monitor the radio communications and evaluate should the need to respond to the scene— as soon as practical.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 17]:** Supervisors need to respond to the scene of any use of force or critical incident. Providing the option allows for a failure of supervision

**D. PROPORTIONALITY.** The Department requires that officers use only the degree of force that is reasonable for the purpose of accomplishing their duties. The degree and kind of force used should be proportional to the severity of the offense committed or the threat posed to human life; however, the principle of proportionality does not require officers to refrain from using reasonable force to overcome a threat to the safety of the public or officers or to overcome resistance.

**Commented [sfpd18]:** See corresponding comment #9

**Commented [S19]:** See corresponding comment #10

**E. DUTY TO INTERVENE.** Officers shall intervene when they reasonably believe another officer is about to use, or is using, unreasonable force. Officers shall promptly report any use of unreasonable force and the efforts made to intervene to a supervisor.

**Commented [SFPD20]:** See corresponding comment #11

## II. CONSIDERATIONS GOVERNING ALL USES OF FORCE.

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**A. USE OF FORCE MUST BE FOR A LAWFUL PURPOSE.** The courts have found that under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and the California Penal Code section 835a, asserts the same, that officers may use reasonable force in the performance of their duties, for the following purposes:

1. To effect a lawful arrest, detention, or search.
2. To overcome resistance or to prevent escape.
3. To prevent the commission of a public offense.
4. In defense of others or in self-defense.
5. To gain compliance with a lawful order.
6. To prevent a person from injuring himself/herself. **However, an officer is prohibited from using lethal force against a person who presents only a danger to himself/herself and does not pose an imminent threat of death or**

**Commented [SFPD21]:** See corresponding comment #12

**Commented [sfpd22]:** See corresponding comment #13

serious bodily injury to another person or officer. See DGO 5.02, Use of Firearms and Lethal Force.

**B. USE OF FORCE MUST BE REASONABLE.** ~~The courts have found that pursuant to~~ Under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution an officer's decision to use force, and to use a particular type and degree of force, must be objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances known to the officer. ~~Furthermore, California~~ Penal Code section 835a states, in part, that a peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his/her efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed the aggressor or lose his/her right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest, or to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance.

Commented [SFPD23]: See corresponding comment #14

Commented [DOJ COPS 24]: The 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment doesn't actually say this. This is the language as interpreted in Graham v. Connor. Suggest changing it to reflect the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment accurately or cite the case.

Commented [DOJ COPS 25]: This IS current CA law. I think it's fine to leave this in the policy. There is plenty of qualifying and clarifying language that mandates de-escalation and force appropriate/reasonable for the circumstances.

An officer must be able to clearly articulate the objective reasons, based on the information available to the officer at the time, why a particular force option was used. Relevant factors include but are not limited to:

Commented [sfpd26]: See corresponding comment #15

1. Whether the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the public or officers, and the degree of that threat;
2. Proximity, access to and type of weapons available to the subject;
3. Time available to an officer to make a decision;
4. Availability of additional officers or resources to de-escalate the situation;
5. Any force should be proportional to the severity of the offense committed for which the officer is taking action;
6. Environmental factors and/or other exigent circumstances;
7. Severity of the crime(s) at issue;
8. Whether the subject is attempting to evade arrest by flight or is actively resisting, and the degree of that resistance;
9. Whether the subject's escape could pose a future safety risk.

Not all of the above factors may be present or relevant in a particular situation, and there may be additional factors not listed.

Commented [sfpd27]: See corresponding comment #16

**C. UNLAWFUL PURPOSES.** California Penal Code Section 149 provides criminal penalties for every a public officer who "under color of authority, without lawful necessity, assaults or beats any person." Any assaults and batteriesbatteries committed by an officers constituteconstitutes gross and unlawful misconduct and will be criminally investigated.

**D. DUTY TO RENDER FIRST AID.** Officers shall render first aid as soon as possible when a subject is injured or claims injury caused by an officer's use of force unless first aid is declined, the scene is unsafe, or emergency medical personnel are available to render first aid.

Commented [DOJ COPS 28]: This is unclear. Officers will arrange for medical evaluation and/or treatment as soon as reasonably feasible. Subjects complaining of injury shall be transported for evaluation to a medical facility. As commented in the ECW policy, use that language as it is more clear.

**E. DUTY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** Officers shall, as soon as possible, arrange for a medical assessment by emergency medical personnel when a subject is injured or complains of injury caused by a use of force, or complains of pain that persists beyond the use of a physical control hold, and the scene is safe. If the subject requires

medical treatment/evaluation, the subject shall be transported to a medical facility. If the emergency medical response is excessively delayed under the circumstances, officers should contact a supervisor to coordinate and expedite the medical assessment or evaluation of the subject, e.g., transport subject to nearest medical facility by SFPD. See DGO 5.18. Prisoner Handling and Transportation.

**F. SUBJECT ARMED WITH A WEAPON – NOTIFICATION AND COMMAND.** In situations where a subject is armed with a weapon, officers and supervisors shall comply with the following:

1. **OFFICER’S RESPONSIBILITY.** Upon being dispatched to or on-viewing a subject with a weapon, an officer shall call a supervisor immediately, or as soon as feasible. When safe and feasible under the totality of the circumstances, officers should consider the principles of communication and de-escalation, as listed in Section I. A-E. –
2. **SUPERVISORS’ RESPONSIBILITIES.** When notified that officers are dispatched to or on-view a subject armed with a weapon, a supervisor shall immediately, or as soon as feasible:
  - a. Notify DEM, monitor radio communications, and respond to the incident (e.g., “3X100, I’m monitoring the incident and responding.”);
  - b. Remind responding officers, while en-route, absent a “Code 33” or other articulable reasons why it would be unsafe to do so, to protect life, isolate and contain the subject, maintain distance, find cover, build rapport, engage in communication without time constraint, and call for appropriate resources;
  - c. Upon arrival, assume command, and ensure appropriate resources are on-scene or are responding.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 29]:** The COPS Office suggests that officers should apply the principles listed in Section I. A-E

**Commented [S30]:** See corresponding comment #17

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**Commented [DOJ COPS 31]:** The term remind isn’t the best term, they should already know this. What they need is leadership and supervision. This should state something like: “provide clear and consistent direction in critical incident management and alternatives to using force.”

**Commented [DOJ COPS 32]:** Remains unclear

**Commented [DOJ COPS 33]:** Would this be better accomplished through training and something that should situationally be left up to the supervisor’s discretion?

This will tie up radio communications during a critical incident and could create risk

**Commented [sfpd34]:** See corresponding comment #18

**Commented [DOJ COPS 35]:** Before the policy starts talking about use of force options, where has it described levels of force?

**Commented [sfpd36]:** See corresponding comment #19

**Commented [DOJ COPS 37]:** Requiring use of force based on a continuum is not a current best practice.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 38]:** This section does not define purpose, but rather the variance and limitations of force options

**Commented [DOJ COPS 39]:** Are the titles switched? This section defines purpose rather than use.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 40]:** If you are going to mention thoughtful communication, why limit it to that? Why not just state in addition to de-escalation alternatives or techniques?

**III. FORCE OPTIONS**

The force options authorized by the Department are physical controls, personal body weapons, chemical agents, impact weapons, extended range impact weapons, vehicle interventions, conducted energy devices, and firearms.

**A. PHYSICAL CONTROLS/PERSONAL BODY WEAPONS.** Physical controls, such as control holds, takedowns, strikes with “personal body weapons” (i.e., body parts such as a hand, foot, knee, elbow, head butt, etc.), and other weaponless techniques are designed to incapacitate and subdue subjects.

1. **PURPOSE.** Officers should consider the relative size and possible physical capabilities of the subject compared to the size, physical capabilities, skills, and experience of the officer. When faced with a situation that may necessitate the use of physical controls, officers should consider requesting additional resources to the scene prior to making contact with the subject, if feasible. – Different physical controls involve different levels of force and risk of injury to a subject or to an officer. Some physical controls may actually involve a greater risk of injury or pain to a subject than other force options.
2. **USE.** When a subject offers some degree of passive or active resistance to a lawful order, in addition to thoughtful utilizing appropriate communication skills,

officers may use physical controls to gain compliance, consistent with Department training. A subject's level of resistance and the threat posed by the subject are important factors in determining what type of physical controls or personal body weapons should be used.

3. **PROHIBITED USE OF CONTROL HOLDS.** Officers are prohibited from using choke holds, i.e., choking by means of pressure to the subject's trachea or other means that prevent breathing.
4. **MANDATORY MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** Any subject who has been injured, complains of an injury in the presence of officers, or complains of pain that persists beyond the use of the physical control hold shall be medically assessed by emergency medical personnel. (See Section I.E.)

- 4.5 **REPORTING.** Use of physical controls is a reportable use of force when the subject is injured, complains of injury in the presence of officers or EMS personnel, or complains of pain that persists beyond the use of a physical control hold. Striking a subject with a personal body weapon (i.e., body parts such as a hand, foot, knee, elbow, head butt, etc.) is a reportable use of force. (See DGO 5.01.1)

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Commented [DOJ COPS 41]: Report all physical control over an individual as a use of force, whether there is an injury or complaints of pain. It can be an abbreviated report, but documents the incident. It is risk management and ensures consistency.

**B. CHEMICAL AGENTS.** Chemical agents, such as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray, are designed to cause irritation and temporarily incapacitate a subject.

1. **PURPOSE.** Chemical agents can be used to subdue an unarmed attacker or to overcome active resistance (unarmed or armed with a weapon other than a firearm) that is likely to result in injury to either the subject or the officer. In many instances, chemical agents can reduce or eliminate the necessity to use other force options to gain compliance, consistent with Department training.
2. **WARNING.** Officers shall provide a warning prior to deploying a chemical agent, if feasible:
  - a. Announce a warning to the subject and other officers of the intent to deploy the chemical agent if the subject does not comply with officer commands; and
  - b. Give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply unless it would pose a risk to the community or the officer, or permit the subject to undermine the deployment of the chemical agent.
3. **MANDATORY FIRST AID.** At the scene or as soon as possible, officers or other appropriate medical personnel shall administer first aid by:
  - a. Seating the subject or other person(s) exposed to a chemical agent in an upright position, and
  - b. Flushing his/her eyes out with clean water and ventilate with fresh air.
4. **MANDATORY MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** Any person exposed to a chemical agent shall be medically assessed by emergency medical personnel. (See Section I.E.) Any exposed person shall be kept under direct visual observation until he/she has been medically assessed. If an exposed person loses consciousness or

Commented [DOJ COPS42]: A supervisor should be called to scene anytime a chemical agent is used

has difficulty breathing, that information shall be provided to dispatch to expedite emergency medical personnel.

5. **TRANSPORTATION.** Subjects in custody exposed to a chemical agent must be transported in an upright position by two officers. The passenger officer shall closely monitor the subject for any signs of distress. If the subject loses consciousness or has difficulty breathing, officers shall immediately seek emergency medical attention. Hobble cords or similar types of restraints shall only be used to secure a subject's legs together. They shall not be used to connect the subject's legs to his/her waist or hands in a "trussed" manner or to a fixed object.
6. **BOOKING FORM.** Officers shall note on the booking form that the subject has been exposed to a chemical agent.
7. **REPORTING.** If an officer deploys a chemical agent on or near someone, it is a reportable use of force. (See DGO 5.01.1)

**Commented [DOJ COPS 43]:** Is there a specific policy on restraints, because if there is not there isn't sufficient guidance for the use of restraints.

**C. IMPACT WEAPON.** Impact weapons, such as a baton, are designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject.

1. **PURPOSE.** An impact weapon may be used to administer strikes to non-vital areas of the body, which can subdue an aggressive subject in accordance with Department training. Only Department issued or authorized impact weapons shall be used. If under unusual circumstances, officers need to resort to the use of other objects as impact weapons, such as a flashlight or police radio, officers shall articulate the reason for doing so.
2. **WARNING.** When using an impact weapon, an officer shall, if feasible:
  - a. Announce a warning to the subject of the intent to use the impact weapon if the subject does not comply with officer's commands; and
  - b. Give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply, except that officers need not do so where it would pose a risk to the community or the officer or permit the subject to undermine the use of the impact weapon.
3. **RESTRICTED USES.** Unless exceptional circumstances exist, officers should not:
  - a. raise an impact weapon above the head to strike a subject, or
  - b. Strike vital areas, including the head, neck, face, throat, spine, groin or kidney.
4. **PROHIBITED USES.** Officers shall not:
  - a. Use the impact weapon to intimidate a subject or person, such as slapping the palm of their hand with an impact weapon or;
  - b. Strike a handcuffed prisoner with an impact weapon.
5. **MANDATORY MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** Any officer who strikes a subject with an impact weapon shall ensure the subject is medically assessed. (See Section I.E.)
6. **REPORTING.** If an officer strikes a subject with an impact weapon, it is a reportable use of force. (See DGO 5.01.1)

**Commented [DOJ COPS 44]:** Needs to be better defined

**Commented [DOJ COPS 45]:** Where is the list of authorized impact weapons?

**Commented [DOJ COPS 46]:** Exigent is probably the better term

**Commented [DOJ COPS 47]:** Terms should be consistent or defined – unusual vs exceptional

**Commented [DOJ COPS 48]:** This needs to clearly stated that the use of an impact weapon in areas that have a likelihood to cause serious bodily injury or death is considered to be a use of deadly force. Intentional strikes to the head, neck, throat, etc. are considered deadly force.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 49]:** Should include mandatory reporting for behaviors observed.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 50]:** These are more than prohibited uses, they are crimes. Should be stated as such.

**D. EXTENDED RANGE IMPACT WEAPON (ERIW).** An Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW), such as a beanbag shotgun, is a weapon that fires a bean bag or other projectile designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject. An ERIW is generally not considered to be a lethal weapon when used at a range of 15 feet or more.

Commented [DOJ COPS 51]: Purpose here? Should be a limitation on use, not used as a descriptor

1. **PURPOSE.** The ERIW may be used on a subject who is armed with a weapon, other than a firearm, that could cause serious injury or death. This includes, but is not limited to, edged weapons and improvised weapons such as baseball bats, bricks, bottles, or other objects. The ERIW may also be used to subdue an aggressive, unarmed subject who poses an imminent threat of injury to another person or the officer in accordance with Department training.
2. **USE.** The ERIW shall be properly loaded and locked in the shotgun rack of the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Officers should observe the following guidelines:
  - a. An ERIW officer shall always have a lethal cover officer. When more than one officer is deploying an ERIW, good tactical judgment in accordance with Department training will dictate the appropriate number of lethal cover officers. In most circumstances, there should be fewer lethal cover officers than the number of ERIWs deployed.
  - b. The ERIW officer's point of aim should be Zone 2 (waist and below). The ERIW officer's point of aim may be Zone 1 (waist and above) if:
    - Zone 2 is unavailable; or
    - The ERIW officer is delivering the round from 60 feet; or
    - Shots to Zone 2 have been ineffective.Keep in mind that ERIW strikes have the potential to cause serious injury or death, particularly if vital areas are struck or if the subject is physically frail.
  - c. The ERIW officer shall assess the effect of the ERIW after each shot. If subsequent ERIW rounds are needed, the officer should aim at a different target area.
3. **LIMITED USES.** The ERIW should not normally be used in the following circumstances:
  - a. The subject is at the extremes of age (elderly and children) or physically frail.
  - b. The subject is in an elevated position where a fall is likely to cause serious injury or death.
  - c. The subject is known to be or appears pregnant.
  - d. At ranges of less than 15 feet.
4. **WARNING.** When using the ERIW, an officer shall, if feasible:
  - a. Announce to other officers the intent to use the ERIW by stating "Red Light! Less Lethal! Less Lethal!"
  - b. All other officers at scene to acknowledge imminent deployment of ERIW by echoing, "Red Light! Less Lethal! Less Lethal!"
  - c. Announce a warning to the subject that the ERIW will be used if the subject does not comply with officer commands;

Commented [sfpd52]: See corresponding comment #20

Commented [DOJ COPS 53]: Define?

Commented [DOJ COPS 54]: The COPS Office would suggest adding a statement that the intentional use of these projectiles in vital areas is considered deadly force.

- d. Give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply unless it would pose a risk to the community or the officer, or permit the subject to undermine the deployment of the ERIW.
- 5. MANDATORY MEDICAL ASSESSMENT. Any subject who has been struck by an ERIW round shall be medically assessed by emergency medical personnel. (See Section II.E.)
- 6. BOOKING FORM. Persons who have been struck by an ERIW round shall have that noted on the booking form.
- 7. REPORTING. Discharge of an ERIW is a reportable use of force. (See DGO 5.01.1)

**E. VEHICLE INTERVENTIONS.** An officer's use of a police vehicle as a "deflection" technique, creation of a roadblock by any means, or deployment of spike strips, or any other interventions resulting in the intentional contact with a noncompliant subject's vehicle for the purpose of making a detention or arrest, are considered a use of force and must be reasonable under the circumstances. The Department's policies concerning such vehicle intervention tactics are set forth in DGO 5.05, Response and Pursuit Driving.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 55]:** Why is this section in the use of force policy? This should be in a pursuit policy or vehicle operations policy.

**F. CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE (CED).** See Special Operations Bureau Order on use of CED.

**Commented [S56]:** See corresponding comment #21

**G. CAROTID RESTRAINT.** While the carotid restraint is generally not necessarily lethal force, the carotid restraint is an allowable force option only in situations where lethal force would otherwise be justified. The carotid restraint is a control technique in which the carotid arteries on the sides of the neck are compressed, restricting blood flow to the brain, causing the subject to lose consciousness.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 57]:** Absent a robust training program, this becomes a choke hold – hard to differentiate and hard to practice without the training

**Commented [SFPD58]:** See corresponding comment #22

**Commented [SFPD59]:** See corresponding comment #23

1. **WARNING BEFORE USE.** When deploying the carotid restraint, an officer shall, if feasible:

**Commented [DOJ COPS 60]:** Very difficult to train this technique and/or ensure that it won't be used improperly resulting in death. If allowed at all, it should be limited to lethal force situations.

- a. Announce a warning to the subject to stop resisting; and
- b. Give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply, except that officers need not do so where it would pose a risk to safety or permit the subject to undermine the deployment of the carotid restraint.

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2. MANDATORY MEDICAL ASSESSMENT. In all cases where the carotid restraint is used, the subject shall be medically assessed and medically evaluated. Officers shall monitor the subject's vital signs closely. Additionally, if the subject has difficulty breathing or does not immediately regain consciousness, officers shall immediately seek medical care by trained personnel. (See Section II.E.)

**Commented [DOJ COPS 61]:** This does not appear to be reasonable – how will they monitor?

3. BOOKING FORM. Persons who have been the subject of a carotid restraint shall have that noted on the booking form.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 62]:** If they don't regain consciousness officers shall also provide immediate lifesaving medical treatment, not just call for it.

4. REPORTING. Use of carotid restraint, even if unsuccessful, is a reportable use of force. (See DGO 5.01.1)

**H. FIREARMS.** See DGO 5.02, Use of Firearms and Lethal Force.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 63]:** This policy lacks enough guidance on deadly force applications. Most policies have an entire section dedicated to differentiating between non-deadly force options and deadly force options.

**IV. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.** If exceptional circumstances occur, an officer's use of force shall be reasonably necessary to protect others or him/herself. The officer shall articulate the reasons for employing such use of force.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 64]:** This statement is not descriptive enough and doesn't provide much guidance or clarity. This should be moved to the beginning of the policy and state that no policy can possibly predict every situation and officers are always required to select reasonable force options and shall adhere to the department's primary mission of safeguarding human life.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 65]:** What does this mean? Where is it defined? There are many allowable exceptions within the policy – this appears to be an overly broad catch all

**Commented [SFPD66]:** See corresponding comment #24

**Commented [SFPD67]:** See corresponding comment #10

**Commented [DOJ COPS 68]:** Not sure why this is needed. There are multiple places elsewhere in this policy where exceptions are allowed for greater levels of force based on the circumstances.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 69]:** The policy is missing the supervisor's role in use of force incidents. Maybe there is a separate policy for this, but other than section F(2) supervision is missing in this policy.

**Commented [DOJ COPS 70]:** The policy is missing the supervisor's role in use of force incidents. Maybe there is a separate policy for this, but other than section F(2) supervision is missing in this policy.

DRAFT

**USE OF FORCE REPORTING**

The purpose of this order is to set forth Departmental policy and procedures for reporting, evaluating, reviewing, and managing use of force incidents involving Department members.

**I. POLICY**

**A. REPORTABLE USES OF FORCE.** Officers shall report any use of force involving physical controls when the subject is injured, complains of injury in the presence of officers, or complains of pain that persists beyond the use of a physical control hold. Officers shall also report any use of force involving physical strikes or contact, the use of personal body weapons, chemical agents, impact weapons, extended range impact weapons, vehicle interventions, conducted energy devices, and firearms. Additionally, officers shall report the intentional pointing of conducted energy devices and firearms at a subject.

**Commented [DOJ COPS1]:** Should be reported even absent injury complaint – risk management. Also, the use of body weapons seems to be an odd term

**Commented [DOJ COPS2]:** In the current climate, the COPS Office would suggest reporting all uses of force that exceed un-resisted handcuffing.

**B. NOTIFICATION OF USE OF FORCE.** An officer shall notify his/her supervisor immediately or as soon as practical of any reportable use of force. A supervisor shall be notified if an officer receives an and allegations of excessive force.

**Commented [DOJ COPS3]:** Why is this here? Any use of force is notified, so why delineate excessive allegations? It is covered below in D

**C. EVALUATION OF USE OF FORCE.** A supervisor shall conduct a use of force evaluation in all cases involving a reportable use of force as set forth in DGO. 5.01, Use of Force, and DGO 5.02, Use of Firearms and Lethal Force.

**D. EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE.** Every allegation of excessive force shall be subject to the reporting and investigative requirements of this General Order and applicable disciplinary policies.

**Commented [DOJ COPS4]:** ...And subject to the procedures in their personnel misconduct investigative policy?

**II. PROCEDURES**

**A. OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** Any reportable use of force shall be documented in detail in an incident report. Descriptions shall be in plain language and shall be as specific as possible.

**Commented [DOJ COPS5]:** Is this general narrative? There should be a specific form or template for reporting use of force rather than open narrative

1. When the officer using force is preparing the incident report, the officer shall include the following information:
  - a. The subject's action necessitating the use of force, including the threat presented by the subject;
  - b. Efforts to de-escalate prior to the use of force;
  - c. Any warning given and if not, why not;
  - d. The type of force used;
  - e. Injury sustained by the subject as set forth in DGO 5.01.II.E, Use of Force;

**Commented [DOJ COPS6]:** What exactly does this mean? There are certain technical aspects to using force that sometimes need to be described using technical terms in order to be as accurate and specific as possible.

- f. Injury sustained by the officer(s);
  - g. Information regarding medical assessment or evaluation, including whether the subject refused;
  - h. The supervisor's name, rank, star number and the time notified;
2. In the event that the officer using force is not the officer preparing the incident report, the officer using the force shall:
- a. Ensure that he/she is clearly identified in the incident report; and
  - b. Prepare a supplemental report or a statement form with the above information.

**Commented [DOJ COPS7]:** Include third party as officer, suspect, or third party could form the basis of a reportable use of force, e.g., officer uses force to stop or prevent imminent harm to a third party.

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**Commented [DOJ COPS8]:** Supervisors should respond

In the event that an officer cannot document his/her use of force due to exceptional circumstances, such as incapacitation, another officer shall document this use of force in an incident report, supplemental incident report or statement form at the direction of a supervisor. The officer using force shall document the use as soon as reasonably possible.

**Commented [DOJ COPS9]:** The policy should include a statement that if multiple officers are involved in a use of force that all officers are required to submit a report describing their actions during the incident.

**Commented [DOJ COPS10]:** This is confusing. Witness officers should be completing their own documentation. The officer(s) using the force should write their own reports and complete the appropriate forms at whatever point they are reasonably able to do so.

**B. SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITY.** When notified of the use of force, the supervisor shall conduct a supervisory evaluation to determine whether the force used appears reasonable and within the provisions of this order. The supervisor shall:

**Commented [sfpd11]:** See corresponding comment #1

1. Immediately respond to the scene unless a response is impractical, poses a danger, or where officers' continued presence creates a risk. When more than one supervisor responds, the responsibility shall fall on the senior officer's senior direct supervisor;
2. Observe the scene is secured and injured subjects or officers;
3. Ensure that witnesses (including officers) are identified and interviewed, and that this information is included in the incident report. Uncertain situations or the number of witnesses may preclude identification and interview of all witnesses, however supervisors shall ensure identification to the best of their ability;
4. Ensure photographs of injuries are taken and all other evidence is booked;
5. Remain available to review the officer's incident report, supplemental incident report and written statement at the direction of the superior officer. A supervisor shall not approve an incident report or written statement involving a use of force that does not comply with the requirements as set forth in II.A above;
6. If applicable, ensure the supervisor's reason for not responding to the scene is included in the incident report.
7. Complete and submit the Supervisory Use of Force Evaluation form, providing pertinent information and a preliminary determination indicating whether the force used appears reasonable, by the end of watch;
8. Complete the Use of Force Log (SFPD 128) and attach one copy of the incident report by the end of watch.

**Commented [DOJ COPS12]:** Why? Shouldn't this responsibility fall to the supervisor most directly involved, or the involved officer's specific supervisor? There may also be cases where the less tenured supervisor is the most knowledgeable about a particular force option or set of circumstances.

**Commented [DOJ COPS13]:** What does this mean? What is an "uncertain situation"?

**Commented [DOJ COPS14]:** Should use a use of force report

**Commented [DOJ COPS15]:** If not approved, then what?

**Commented [DOJ COPS16]:** Are these treated the same? What are the procedures for death/bodily harm?

**Commented [DOJ COPS17]:** Notification should be made anytime serious bodily injury or deadly force is used. It is recommended to include a separate section for procedures that involves serious bodily injury or death. For example, shouldn't a specialized force investigations team, the DA, civil liability team, PIO, etc. be notified when a deadly force situation occurs? Maybe this is covered in another policy but it should be in policy.

When a supervisor has determined that a member's use of force is unreasonable or that an officer has applied force that results in serious bodily injury or death, the supervisor shall notify his/her superior officer.

**Commented [DOJ COPS18]:** Consider empowering the first line supervisor to initiate complaints regarding the use of force following established protocols.

C. **SUPERIOR OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** When a superior officer is notified of unreasonable force or force that results in serious bodily injury or death, the superior officer shall:

Commented [DOJ COPS19]: Why are these linked? One is a necessary action the other is misconduct. Linking them associates all force with misconduct.

1. Respond to the scene and assume command, as practical;
2. Notify commanding officer and ensure all other notifications are made consistent with DGO 1.06, Duties of Superior Officers;
3. Make the required notification to the Office of Citizen Complaints if a citizen complaint is made;
4. Determine which unit(s) will be responsible for the on-going investigation(s);
5. Prepare a report containing preliminary findings, conclusions and/or recommendations, as appropriate.

Commented [DOJ COPS 20]: Does SFPD notify the DA when an unreasonable use of force incident occurs? This should occur to allow DA investigators to be present from the beginning.

Commented [DOJ COPS21]: If force is perceived to be unreasonable a complaint should be initiated regardless of whether the citizen makes a complaint.

### III. OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

A. **USE OF FORCE LOG.** The following units shall maintain a Use of Force Log:

1. District Stations
2. Airport Bureau
3. Department Operations Center

Commented [DOJ COPS22]: How is this determined? Established policy? Who investigates such incidents. What are the protocols and where defined?

B. **RECORDING PROCEDURES.** Supervisors shall document a reportable use of force for all officers – including those officers assigned to specialized units – in the Use of Force Log at the District Station where the use of force occurred, except as noted below:

Commented [DOJ COPS23]: What is required? Who is responsible? What notifications?

1. Any use of force occurring outside the city limits, except at the San Francisco International Airport, shall be recorded in the Department Operations Center's Use of Force Log.
2. Any use of force occurring at the San Francisco International Airport shall be recorded in the Airport Bureau's Use of Force Log.

C. **DOCUMENT ROUTING.**

1. Commanding officers shall forward the original completed Supervisor's Use of Force Evaluation Form(s) to the Commanding Officer of Risk Management and one copy to the Commanding Officer of the Training Division and another to the officer's Bureau Deputy Chief.
2. On the 1st and 15th of each month, commanding officers shall sign the Use of Force Log and send it, along with one copy of the incident report, to their respective Bureau Deputy Chief and one copy of the Use of Force Log with copies of the incident reports to the Commanding Officer of the Training Division.

Commented [DOJ COPS24]: Does SFPD have an internal database with use of force information that can be accessed throughout the organization by executive leadership?

Commented [DOJ COPS25]: Once a week? What about electronic entry into a database or other such holder?

Commented [DOJ COPS26]: Who has responsibility for monitoring repeat uses of force? Anomalies in force incidents?

D. **TRAINING DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Commanding Officer of the Training Division will maintain controls that assure all Use of Force Logs and Supervisor Evaluations are received, and shall perform a non-punitive review to ascertain the number, types, proper application and effectiveness of uses of force. The information developed shall be used to identify training needs. The Commanding Officer of the Training Division shall report quarterly/monthly to the Chief of Police on

Commented [DOJ COPS27]: Is this an assessment? How is this information gathered and used? Does it direct interventions?

Commented [DOJ COPS28]: Quarterly reports are too infrequent. The Chief should have use of force data available to him in real-time and be informed on use of force trends.

the use of force by Department members that in a format that includes comprehensive use of force statistics consistent with current federal, state and local laws on use of force reporting.

**Commented [DOJ COPS29]:** Minimum reporting standards?

The Commanding Officer of the Training Division will provide yearly a written Use of Force report to the Police Commission, which will also be posted to the Department's website.

**Commented [DOJ COPS30]:** What seems to be missing in this policy is the responsibilities of some type of use of force investigative team

DRAFT

**USE OF FIREARMS AND LETHAL FORCE**

The San Francisco Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the sanctity of all human life. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to serve. The Department is committed to using appropriate situational communication skills and sound de-escalation tactics principles before resorting to the use of force, whenever feasible. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics requires all sworn law enforcement officers to carry out their duties with courtesy, respect, professionalism, and to never employ unreasonable force. These are key factors in maintaining legitimacy with the community and safeguarding the public's trust.

The purpose of the policy is not to restrict officers from using reasonable force to protect themselves or others but to provide general guidelines that may assist the Department in achieving its highest priority.

This order establishes policies and reporting procedures regarding the use of firearms and lethal force. Officers' use of firearms and any other lethal force shall be in accordance with DGO 5.01, Use of Force, and this General Order.

**I. POLICY**

**A. GENERAL.** The Department is committed to the sanctity and preservation of all human life, human rights, and human dignity. It is the policy of this Department to use lethal force only when no other reasonable options are available to protect the safety of the public and the safety of police officers. Lethal force is any use of force designed to and likely to cause death or serious physical injury, including but not limited to the discharge of a firearm, the use of impact weapons, other techniques or equipment likely to cause serious bodily injury or death, under some circumstances (see DGO 5.01, Use of Force), and certain interventions to stop a subject's vehicle (see DGO 5.05, Response and Pursuit Driving).

**B. ALTERNATIVES TO LETHAL FORCE.** When safe and feasible under the totality of circumstances known to the officer, officers shall consider other force options before discharging a firearm or using other lethal force. Further, officers are reminded to consider apply the principles outlined in DGO 5.01, I.A. Sanctity of Human Life, I.B. Establish Communications, I.C. De-escalation, I.D. Proportionality, and I.E. Duty to Intervene, to decisions about the use of lethal force.

**C. SUBJECTS ARMED WITH WEAPONS OTHER THAN FIREARMS.** When encountering a subject who is armed with a weapon other than a firearm, such as an edged weapon, improvised weapon, baseball bat, brick, bottle, or other object, officers shall follow DGO 5.01, II.F. Subject Armed with a Weapon – Notification and

**Commented [DOJ COPS1]:** Why is most of this policy part of the overall use of force policy? Having two policies make it more confusing since the legal and philosophical force issues are woven through both policies. For example, Lexipol's Use of Force policy includes SFPD's three separate policies (Use of Force, Use of Firearms and Reporting) in one policy. This helps with future changes and training because you would only need to meet with stakeholders over one policy.

**Commented [DOJ COPS2]:** This order should be combined with the others, it needs definition and it needs to be structured to follow the progression.

Also, more direction and structure is needed regarding the investigation of these incidents.

**Commented [SFPD3]:** See corresponding comment #1

**Commented [SFPD4]:** See corresponding comment #2

**Commented [sfpd5]:** See corresponding comment #3

**Commented [sfpd6]:** See corresponding comment #4

**Commented [SFPD7]:** See corresponding comment #5

**Commented [DOJ COPS8]:** Should consider a single document, with definition and structured to use and reporting of force

**Commented [sfpd9]:** See corresponding comment #6

**Commented [SFPD10]:** See corresponding comment #7

**Commented [DOJ COPS11]:** Yes, a bit of a two-tiered response for field personnel is being created, but why is that a bad thing? There is plenty of leeway and discretion provided that more than adequately addresses officer safety considerations. The whole point here is to get cops to slow things down whenever possible if the weapons involved are other than firearms so that alternative strategies can be utilized.

**Commented [sfpd12]:** See corresponding comment #8

Command. Where officers can safely mitigate the immediacy of threat, and there are no exigent circumstances, officers should ~~shall~~ isolate and contain the subject, call for additional resources and engage in appropriate de-escalation techniques and tactical repositioning without time constraints. It is far more important to manage the situation and use take as much time to help as needed to resolve the incident in keeping with the Department's highest priority of safeguarding all human life. Except where circumstances make it reasonable for an officer to take action including the use of lethal force to protect human life or prevent serious bodily injury, immediately ~~immediately~~ action, including immediately disarming the subject and taking the subject into custody, is a lower priority than preserving the sanctity of human life. Officers who act to de-escalate an incident, which can proceed accordingly and delay taking a subject into custody, while keeping the public and officers safe, will not be found to have neglected their duty. They will be found to have fulfilled it.

Commented [sfpd13]: See corresponding comment #9

Commented [DOJ COPS14]: As long as the safety of the community and officers isn't being degraded.

Commented [SFPD15]: See corresponding comment #10

Commented [DOJ COPS16]: Clarify

Commented [DOJ COPS17]: "Shall" is appropriate here because there is already plenty of leeway given based on the first part of the sentence.

**D. HANDLING, DRAWING AND POINTING FIREARMS.**

1. **HANDLING FIREARMS.** An officer shall handle and manipulate a firearm in accordance with Department-approved firearms training. An officer shall not manually cock the hammer of the Department-issued handgun to defeat the first shot double-action feature.
2. **AUTHORIZED USES.** An officer may draw, exhibit or point a firearm in the line of duty when the officer has reasonable cause to believe it may be necessary for the safety of others or for his or her own safety. When an officer determines that the threat is over, the officer shall holster his or her firearm or shoulder the weapon in the port arms position pointed or slung in a manner consistent with Department-approved firearms training. If an officer points a firearm at a person, the primary officer shall, if feasible, advise the subject the reason why the officer(s) pointed the firearm.
3. **DRAWING OTHERWISE PROHIBITED.** Except for maintenance, safekeeping, inspection by a superior officer, Department-approved training, or as otherwise authorized by this order, an officer shall not draw a Department-issued firearm.
4. **REPORTING.** When an officer intentionally points any firearm at a person, it shall be considered a reportable use of force. Such use of force must be reasonable under the objective facts and circumstances.

Commented [DOJ COPS18]: Define?

Commented [DOJ COPS19]: It probably should be specified that this expectation would only apply well after the fact, not at any time during when the officer might be in actual or perceived danger.

Commented [S20]: See corresponding comment #11

**E. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS OR OTHER USE OF LETHAL FORCE.**

1. **PERMISSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES.** Except as limited by Sections D.4 and D.5., an officer may discharge a firearm or use other lethal force in any of the following circumstances:
  - a. In self-defense when the officer has reasonable cause to believe that he or she is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury; or

- b. In defense of another person when the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. However, an officer may not discharge a firearm at, or use lethal force against, a person who presents a danger only to him or herself, and there is no reasonable cause to believe that the person poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or any other person; or
- c. To apprehend a person when both of the following circumstances exist:
  - i. The officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed or has attempted to commit a violent felony involving the use or threatened use of lethal force; AND
  - ii. The officer has reasonable cause to believe that a substantial risk exists that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to officers or others if the person's apprehension is delayed; or
- d. To kill an animal posing an imminent threat. To kill an animal that is so badly injured that humanity requires its removal from further suffering where other alternatives are impractical and the owner, if present, gives permission; or
- e. To signal for help for an urgent purpose when no other reasonable means can be used.

The above circumstances (D.1 a-e) apply to each and every discharge of a firearm or application of lethal force.

Where lethal force is reasonable. Officers should constantly reassess the situation, as feasible, to determine whether the subject continues to pose an active threat.

2. **VERBAL WARNING.** If feasible, and if doing so would not increase the danger to the officer or others, an officer shall give a verbal warning to submit to the authority of the officer before discharging a firearm or using other lethal force.
3. **REASONABLE CARE FOR THE PUBLIC.** To the extent feasible, an officer shall take reasonable care when discharging his or her firearm so as not to jeopardize the safety of the public or officers.
4. **PROHIBITED CIRCUMSTANCE.** Officers shall not discharge their firearm:
  - a. As a warning; or
  - b. At a person who presents a danger only to him or herself.
5. **MOVING VEHICLES.** An officer shall not discharge a firearm at the operator or occupant of a moving vehicle unless the operator or occupant poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the public or an officer by means other than the vehicle. Officers shall not discharge a firearm from his or her moving vehicle.
6. **REPORTING.**
  - a. **DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS.** Except for firearm discharges at an approved range or during lawful recreational activity, an officer who discharges a firearm, either on or off duty, shall report the discharge as required under DGO 8.11,

**Commented [DOJ COPS21]:** When you are trying to establish a culture that moderates the use of deadly force all applications of the use of deadly force are examined. Police officer's should be prohibited from shooting animals as a form of euthanasia – that's for others.

**Commented [DOJ COPS22]:** This is a risk issue and not consistent with national best practice

**Commented [DOJ COPS23]:** This seems confusing because an officer can't fire warning shots, but can fire to signal for help?

**Commented [DOJ COPS24]:** There should be more clarifying language here. Maybe add "At a person who is only presenting a danger to his or herself and is not acting aggressively or demonstrating assaultive behavior towards others."

**Commented [sfpd25]:** See corresponding comment #12

**Commented [S26]:** See corresponding comment #13

**Commented [DOJ COPS27]:** May be worth considering allowing this under severely limited circumstances when other options are unavailable and the life of the officer or a member of the public is at immediate risk.

Investigation of Officer Involved Shootings and Discharges. This includes an intentional or unintentional discharge, either within or outside the City and County of San Francisco.

- b. **OTHER LETHAL FORCE.** An officer who applies other force that results in death shall report the force to the officer's supervisor, and it shall be investigated as required under DGO 8.12, In Custody Deaths. An officer who applies other lethal force that results in serious bodily injury shall report the force to the officer's supervisor. The supervisor shall, regardless whether possible misconduct occurred, immediately report the force to their superior officer and their commanding officer, who shall determine which unit shall be responsible for further investigation. An officer who applies other lethal force that does not result in serious bodily injury shall report the force as provided in DGO 5.01.1, Reporting and Evaluating Use of Force.

Commented [DOJ COPS28]: Defined?

Commented [DOJ COPS29]: Unclear – does the policy provide for a death investigation protocol?

Commented [DOJ COPS30]: This should be an established policy and practice. What other notifications required?

- II. **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.** If exceptional circumstances occur, an officer's use of force shall be reasonably necessary to protect others or him/herself. The officer shall articulate the reasons for employing such use of force.

Commented [DOJ COPS31]: As with the other policy, is there a need for this section given the specific direction provided elsewhere in this policy.

Commented [sfpd32]: See corresponding comment #14

Commented [SFPD33]: See corresponding comment #10

**References**

DGO 5.01, Use of Force

DGO 5.05, Response and Pursuit Driving

DGO 8.11, Investigation of Officer Involved Shootings And Discharges

DGO 8.12, In Custody Deaths

# BUREAU ORDER

UNIT  
INDEX  
NUMBER

DRAFT

DATE  
ISSUED

03/21/16

SUBJECT:

Conducted Energy Devices

ISSUED

TO:

Special Operations Bureau

ISSUED

BY:

The San Francisco Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the sanctity of all human life. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to serve. The Department is committed to using communication and de-escalation principles before resorting to the use of force, whenever feasible. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics requires all sworn law enforcement officers to carry out their duties with courtesy, respect, professionalism, and to never employ unreasonable force. These are key factors in maintaining legitimacy with the community and safeguarding the public's trust.

This order establishes policies and reporting procedures regarding the issuance and use of Conducted Energy Devices (CED), and the supervisory responses required after the use of a CED. Officers' use of CEDs shall be in accordance with DGO 5.01, Use of Force, and DGO 5.01.1, Use of Force Reporting.

## I. POLICY

- A. GENERAL.** The Department is committed to the sanctity and preservation of all human life, human rights, and human dignity. It is the policy of this Department to only use CEDs to protect the public and officers from serious injury or death by a subject armed with a weapon other than a firearm. The CED is not recommended for use on a subject armed with a firearm.
- B. PRIOR TO THE USE OF A CED.** When safe and practical under the totality of circumstances, officers shall consider other available options before using a CED. Further, officers are reminded to consider the principles outlined in DGO 5.01, I.A. Sanctity of Human Life, I.B. Establish Communication, I.C. De-escalation, I.D. Proportionality, and I.E. Duty to Intervene, to decisions about the use of lethal force.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. ACTIVATION.** Depressing the trigger of the CED causing an arc or the firing of probes.
- B. CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE.** Any Department-issued device that fires darts, i.e., electrodes that are attached by wire to the main body of the device held by an officer, and that through these electrodes emits an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily disable a person. CEDs are not normally considered to be a lethal weapon but the risk of adverse effects, including death, can be higher for some subjects. See III. F.1. and H.
- C. DEPLOYMENT.** Removal of the CED from the holster and pointing it at a subject.

Commented [sfpd1]: See corresponding comment #1

Commented [DOJ COPS2]: See language suggested for this section on the other attached policies.

Commented [sfpd3]: See corresponding comment #2

Commented [sfpd4]: See corresponding comment #3

Commented [DOJ COPS5]: What of active assailants? Only for weapons leaves only the option of shooting such an assailant if the officer loses control or is enduring great bodily harm

Commented [DOJ COPS6]: Might even want stronger language, such as, "A CED should not be used on a subject armed with a firearm."

Commented [DOJ COPS7]: Is the CED being defined as lethal force?

Commented [DOJ COPS8]: Not limited to Department issued - defining the device generally

Commented [sfpd9]: See corresponding comment #4

Commented [DOJ COPS10]: Suggest listing the adverse effects and refer the officer to sections III E, F.1, and H

**Unit Order, continued:**

- D. DISPLAYING THE ARC.** Displaying the electrical current to a subject by first removing the cartridge and then depressing the trigger of the CED.

**III. PROCEDURES**

- A. ISSUANCE AND CARRYING CEDS.** Only officers assigned to the Tactical Company or the Specialist Team are authorized to carry Department-issued CEDs after having successfully completing the Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and all other required Department-approved CED training. Officers shall only use Department-issued CEDs and cartridges.

Officers who have been issued the CED shall wear the device in a Department-approved holster and carry the CED in a weak-side holster on the side opposite their duty weapon to reduce the chances of accidentally drawing and/or firing their firearm.

Officers no longer assigned to the Tactical Company or the Specialist Team are not authorized to carry the CED and shall immediately surrender the CED to the Commanding Officer of the Tactical Company upon re-assignment.

- B. INSPECTION.** Officers carrying the CED shall perform an inspection of the CED at the beginning of every shift and:
1. Perform a daily spark test on the CED;
  2. Ensure the CED is clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate it from the duty weapon and any other device;
  3. Whenever practical, officers should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the CED;
  4. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued CED is properly maintained and in good working order. If an officer discovers that the CED is damaged or inoperable, the officer shall cease its use and promptly notify his/her supervisor and document the specific damage or inoperability issue in a memorandum. The supervisor shall facilitate a replacement CED as soon as practical;
  5. Officers shall not alter the CED from the original factory specifications and markings;
  6. Officers shall not hold both a firearm and a CED at the same time;
  7. Due to the flammable contents in some chemical agent containers, officers shall only carry Department-issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) which is non-flammable (water based and will not ignite); and
  8. Officers carrying the CED shall have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) readily available when carrying the CED. [The AED may be secured in the officer's Department vehicle or other secure location that would be reasonably accessible to the officer while performing his or her duties.]

- C. VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS.** Officers shall provide a verbal warning prior to activating the CED, if feasible, to:

1. Announce a warning to the subject and other officers of the intent to activate the CED if the subject does not comply with an officer's command; and

Commented [sfpd11]: See corresponding comment #5

Commented [DOJ COPS12]: Will this ensure sufficient coverage on all watches to address the need that deploying CEDs is meant to handle?

Commented [DOJ COPS13]: It is recommended to simply state that only authorized and trained officers as determined by the department are approved to carry Tasers. You don't want to be in a position of changing a policy each time you want to expand the authority to carry Tasers. You can still have community and internal discussion of the issue without grounding this leadership prerogative in policy.

Commented [DOJ COPS14]: Not sure how this is part of inspection?

Commented [DOJ COPS15]: Are there enough to support the deployment of the CEDs? If not, why not issue to a supervisor

Commented [sfpd16]: See corresponding comment #6

**Unit Order, continued:**

2. Give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply unless it would pose a risk to the community, the officer, or permit the subject to undermine the use of the CED.

If, after a verbal warning, a subject is unwilling to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and practical under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided that a cartridge has not been loaded into the device), or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the CED. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The officer activating the CED shall document that a verbal or other warning was given, or the reason a warning was not given, in the incident report or written statement.

**D. AUTHORIZED USE OF THE CED.** An officer may activate the CED when a subject is:

1. Armed with a weapon other than a firearm, such as an edged weapon or blunt object, and the subject poses an imminent threat to the safety of the public or officers,
2. Aggressive or violent and poses an imminent threat of injury to the safety of the public or officers.

**E. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.** The activation of the CED on certain subjects should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available force options would be ineffective or would present a greater danger to the public, the subject or the officer, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to subdue the subject outweighs the risk of using the device.

Subjects who may be under the influence of drugs/alcohol or exhibiting symptoms of altered mental state (e.g., nudity, profuse sweating, irrational behavior, extraordinary strength beyond physical characteristics or impervious to pain) may be more susceptible to collateral problems. Officers shall closely monitor these subjects following the application of the CED until they can be examined by emergency medical personnel.

**F. PROHIBITED USE.** Officers are prohibited from using the CED:

1. Unless the subject is armed with a firearm, on the following subjects:
  - a. On a subject who is only a danger to him/herself;
  - b. Female who is known or appears to be pregnant;
  - c. Visibly frail;
  - d. Children (who appear under 14 years of age);
  - e. Subjects whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height; operating an automobile, motorcycle or bicycle);
  - f. On a fleeing subject;
  - g. On a subject who is passively resisting;
  - h. Subjects who have recently been sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based OC spray. Department-issued OC spray is not flammable.
3. To prevent a subject from destroying evidence, such as placing evidence in his/her mouth;

Commented [DOJ COPS17]: Isn't this a reportable use of force? It should be

Commented [DOJ COPS18]: What about active resistance to an arrest?

Commented [DOJ COPS19]: Seems to be a broad category – is it defined in training or force matrix? Active assailant vs. 'aggressive' – can be quite a distinction

Commented [DOJ COPS20]: Euphemism – what specifically are they attempting to address?

Commented [DOJ COPS21]: What, if any, evidence supports the notion that homeless individuals may be more susceptible to an adverse reaction if a CED is used on them?

Commented [SFPD22]: See corresponding comment #7

Commented [DOJ COPS23]: Pretty subjective

Commented [DOJ COPS24]: What if they are a danger to the community? It would be better stated that use of a CED for mere flight only, without other considerations is prohibited. This may be too restrictive.

Commented [DOJ COPS25]: Missing #2?

**Unit Order, continued:**

4. To psychologically torment, punish or inflict undue pain on a subject;
5. For interrogation purposes or to elicit statements;
6. As a prod or escort device;
7. To rouse unconscious, impaired or intoxicated subjects;
8. [In the drive stun mode] - activating the CED with the cartridge removed and placing the electrodes upon the skin or clothing of the subject; and
9. Subjects who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.

**G. TARGET AREAS.** Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety does not permit the officer to limit the application of the CED probes to a precise target area, officers shall monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by emergency medical personnel.

**H. SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS OF THE CED.** Officers should apply the CED for only one standard cycle. Thereafter, officers shall evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycle. Every application of the CED is a separate use of force, and officers must be able to articulate the reason for each use of the CED.

If the first application of the CED appears to be ineffective in gaining control of a subject, before a subsequent application of the CED is applied, the officer should consider additional factors, including but not limited to whether:

1. The probes are making proper contact;
2. The subject has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply; or
3. Verbal commands, other options may be more effective.

No more than one officer shall activate a CED against a single subject at the same time.

**I. OFFICER REQUIREMENTS AFTER DEPLOYMENTS/ACTIVATIONS.** Officers shall contact the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and request emergency medical personnel to respond to the scene of a CED application.

Officers shall notify a supervisor of all CED deployments and activations, including all unintentional discharges; pointing the device at a person; laser activation; and arcing the device, in compliance with DGO 5.01, Use of Force.

[Confetti tags should be collected and the expended cartridge, along with both probes and wire, should be submitted into evidence. The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

**J. DUTY TO RENDER FIRST AID.** Officers shall render first aid when a subject is injured or claims injury caused by an officer's use of force unless first aid is declined, the scene is unsafe, or emergency medical personnel are available to render first aid. Officers shall continue to render first aid and monitor the subject until relieved by emergency medical personnel.

**Commented [DOJ COPS26]:** #4 and #5 are crimes and it seems odd to list them. There are other criminal acts that officer could commit with the CED. Generally speaking this type of policy statements are included in other portions of the department's manual.

**Commented [sfpd27]:** See corresponding comment #8

**Commented [DOJ COPS28]:** Why is this? Drive stun is an appropriate and reasonable way to utilize a CED under many circumstances.

Drive stun mode has been proven to be effective defense or compliance method for officers engaged in hand-to-hand combat - especially when the suspect pulls out the Taser darts.

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**Commented [DOJ COPS29]:** The policy may want to limit the total number of cycles an individual can be Tased. For example, many jurisdictions limit total use to 3 cycles after which some other method must be utilized to restrain a combative/dangerous individual.

**Commented [DOJ COPS30]:** Limit on number of uses?

**Commented [DOJ COPS31]:** ...and it appears reasonable that another subsequent application would be successful.

**Commented [DOJ COPS32]:** This is very clear here - why isn't it so in the other use of force policies?

**Commented [DOJ COPS33]:** Electronic download, saving of dispatch tape, etc?

**Commented [DOJ COPS34]:** This is a better rendition of the concept than in the other 2 policies and should be used there as well.

**Unit Order, continued:**

Only appropriate emergency medical personnel should remove CED probes from a person's body. Officers shall treat used CED probes as biohazard sharp objects, such as a used hypodermic needle, and shall use universal precautions when handling used CED probes.

**K. DUTY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** Officers shall arrange for a medical assessment and removal of CED probes from a person's body by emergency medical personnel.

**L. DUTY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL EVALUATION.** All subjects who have been struck by CED probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be transported by emergency medical personnel for evaluation at a local medical facility as soon as practical.

If a subject refuses medical evaluation, the refusal shall be directed to the on-scene emergency medical personnel and not to the officer. Officers shall document a subject's refusal in the incident report by listing the name and identification number of the emergency medical personnel who obtained the refusal from the subject. The officer shall inform any person providing medical care and the personnel receiving custody of the subject that he or she has been subjected to the application of the CED.

**M. BOOKING OF SUSPECT.** Anyone subject to criminal charges who has been struck by CED probes or who has been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall not be detained at a district station holding facility. Officers shall immediately book the arrested subject into the county jail upon release from the medical facility. Officers shall note the use of the CED on the field arrest card on any subject who has been struck by CED probes or who has been subjected to the electric discharge of the device.

**N. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.** Officers shall document all CED deployments and activations, including all unintentional discharges; pointing the device at a person; laser activation; and arcing the device, in an incident report, supplemental incident report or a written statement. Officers shall include the following information in the incident report or written statement:

1. Date, time and location of the incident;
2. The subject's actions necessitating the use of the CED, including the weapon displayed by the subject;
3. Subject's known or suspected drug use, intoxication and other medical problems;
4. De-escalation techniques used by the officer(s);
5. Whether the officer used other force options;
6. The type and brand of CED and cartridge serial number;
7. Whether any display, laser or arc deterred a subject and gained compliance;
8. The number of CED activations, the duration of each cycle, the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined) the duration that the subject received applications;
9. The distance at which the CED was used;
10. Location of any probe impact;
11. Description of where missed probes went;

**Commented [DOJ COPS35]:** The COPS Office doesn't know what model ECD SFPD is using but most modern devices have internal memories that should be downloaded as evidence. These memories document the number and length of cycles, date/time, ect. This is important evidence to obtain.

Sample language would be:

*"The device's onboard memory shall be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor and saved with the related arrest/crime report."*

**Commented [sfpd36]:** See corresponding comment #9

**Commented [DOJ COPS37]:** Department should also establish a separate Taser report and an executive level employee (Assistant Chief, etc) should read the submitted Taser reports daily. In addition, a monthly Taser use report should be prepared)

**Commented [DOJ COPS38]:** Inconsistent with the other policy – no 'plain language'

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**Unit Order, continued:**

12. Information about the medical care provided the subject;
13. Whether the subject sustained any injuries;
14. Whether any officers sustained any injuries;
15. Identification of all officers firing CEDs;
16. Identification of all witnesses; and
17. All supervisory notifications required by DGO 5.01, Use of Force.

Commanding Officer of the Tactical Company shall route a copy of all incident reports involving the use of a CED to the Commanding Officer of the Training Division.

Officers at the Police Academy Physical Techniques and Defensive Tactics staff shall analyze all incident reports involving CED use, upon receipt, to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness. CED information and statistics, with identifying information removed, shall be made available to the public.

**O. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES.** Supervisors shall respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the CED may be used.

A supervisor shall respond to all incidents where the CED was activated, including negligent or unintentional activations. Upon arrival at the scene, the supervisor shall:

1. Conduct a supervisory evaluation regarding the CED application as required by DGO 5.01.1;
2. Notify a superior officer to initiate an immediate evaluation by the Internal Affairs Division – Admin consistent with the response to an Officer-Involved Discharge;
3. Confirm that any probes that have pierced the subject's skin are removed by medical personnel;
4. Ensure that photographs of probe sites are taken;
5. Ensure that all evidence is photographed, collected and properly booked;
6. Ensure that the subject is medically evaluated prior to being booked into any facility;
7. Ensure that the CED's memory record has been uploaded;
8. Review all incident reports and written statements;
9. Provide replacement CED cartridges to the officer, as necessary;
10. Complete and submit the Supervisory Use of Force Evaluation Form; and
11. Enter the incident into the Use of Force Log and attach one copy of the incident report.

**P. OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS.** Officers are not authorized to carry or use Department-issued CEDs while off-duty. Officers shall ensure that CEDs are secured in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

**Q. TRAINING.** Officers authorized to carry the CED shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and Department-approved CED training. Any officer who has not carried the CED as a part of his or her assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a Department-approved CED instructor before carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for officers who have been issued CEDs shall occur bi-annually. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge or practical skill may be required at any time if

**Commented [DOJ COPS39]:** Does this review by Police Academy and Defensive Tactics staff occur in all other uses of force? This was not included in the other policies.

**Commented [DOJ COPS40]:** When, how often, what format?

**Commented [DOJ COPS41]:** How is this supposed to be determined?

**Commented [DOJ COPS42]:** Is this required by any other jurisdiction?

**Commented [DOJ COPS43]:** This was not made clear in the other sections on use of force

**Commented [DOJ COPS44]:** Who is responsible for securing and how?

**Commented [DOJ COPS45]:** This is a big training commitment. Many agencies do it with annual fire arms qualifications – more efficient

**Unit Order, continued:**

deemed appropriate by the Department-approved CED instructor. All training and proficiency for CEDs will be documented in the officer's training file.

Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive CED training for the investigations they supervise, conduct, and review.

Officers who do not carry CEDs should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize themselves with the device and with the tactics of deployment and activation of the CEDs.

The Commanding Officer of the Training Division is responsible for ensuring that all officers who carry CEDs have received initial and bi-annual proficiency training.

Application of CEDs during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Commanding Officer of the Training Division shall ensure that all training includes:

1. A review of this Special Operations Bureau Order;
2. A review of DGO 5.01, DGO 5.01:1, DGO 5.02;
3. Performing weak-hand draws or cross-draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing, pointing and firing a firearm;
4. Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin;
5. Handcuffing a subject during the application of the CED and transitioning to other force options;
6. Scenario-based training;
7. CIT updates;
8. De-escalation techniques; and
9. Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the CED.

**IV. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.** If exceptional circumstances occur, an officer's use of force shall be reasonably necessary to protect others or him/herself. The officer shall articulate the reasons for employing such use of force.

**Commented [DOJ COPS46]:** Why is this section here or what advice is intended. An officer's use of force always should be reasonable to protect himself or others and not limited to exceptional circumstances.

**Commented [SFPD47]:** See corresponding comment #10