


## VOLUME 3 - POLICE OPERATIONS

**Volume: 3**  
**Chapter: 1**

**Limits to Authority**  
**Effective: April 8, 1999**

**3-101. USE OF FORCE POLICY.** This Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life. In vesting Officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. It is the policy of this Department that Officers will use only that force reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the Officer or other persons.



### A. Definitions of levels of resistance:

1. **No Resistance:** the subject offers no resistance to the officer's orders.
2. **Passive Resistance:** the subject does not comply or only partially complies with the officer's orders but takes no action that could be defined as defensive resistance, active aggression or deadly force threat. Refusing to move or refusing to walk when subjected to an escort hold are considered passive resistance.
3. **Defensive Resistance:** any action by a subject that attempts to prevent an officer from gaining control of the subject (e.g., pulling/pushing away to defeat the Escort Position). It is not an attack on the officer, but a physical act designed to prevent the officer from gaining control.
4. **Active Aggression:** includes physical actions/assaults against the officer or another person with less than deadly force (e.g., advancing, challenging, punching, kicking, grabbing, wrestling, etc.).
5. **Deadly Force Threat:** includes actions that place the officer or another at risk of imminent serious bodily injury or death.

**3-101.01 PARAMETERS FOR USE OF DEADLY FORCE.** The Texas Penal Code sets forth when the use of deadly force is justified. The Department sets further guidelines and administrative restrictions regarding the use of deadly force. Immediate threat is considered to exist if the suspect has demonstrated actions that would lead an Officer to reasonably believe that a suspect will continue to pose a threat of death or serious bodily injury if not apprehended without delay. Reasonable belief, death, and serious bodily injury carry the same definition as in Section 1.07 of the Texas Penal Code. *(CALEA 1.3.2) (Amended 09-12-05 C05-19)*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**B.** A Police Officer may discharge a firearm under the following circumstances:

1. In the use of deadly force.
2. During range practice or competitive sporting events.
3. To destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety or as a humanitarian measure when an animal is seriously injured.

**C.** When feasible, Officers will give a warning before using any force including deadly force. Officers must identify themselves as Police Officers and convey their purpose and reason for the use of force unless the Officer believes such information is already known by the suspect or the information cannot reasonably be made known to the suspect.

**D.** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- E. Except for maintenance or during training, Officers will not draw or exhibit their firearms unless circumstances create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use the weapon in accordance with this policy.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- G. Officers after having deployed deadly force will evaluate the suspect's need for medical attention and summon appropriate medical assistance as necessary. *(CALEA 1.3.5) (Amended 09-12-05 C05-15)*

**3-101.02 PARAMETERS FOR USE OF NON-DEADLY FORCE.** When deadly force is not authorized, Officers should assess the incident to determine which non-deadly technique or weapon the Officer reasonably believes will best diffuse the incident and bring it under control in a safe manner.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**3-101.03 USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM.**  
*(Amended 09-23-11 C11-09)*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

tool to assume control over a situation without having to progress to a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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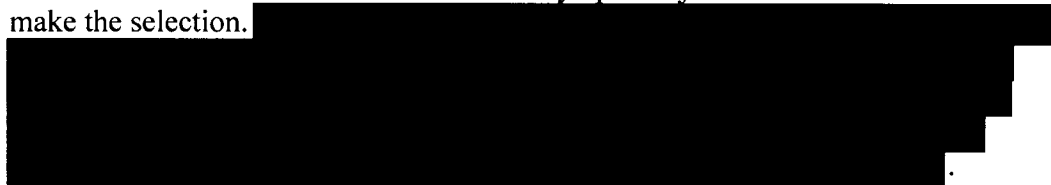
[REDACTED]

- F. Level 6: Deadly Force/Potentially Deadly Force:** Any force used by an officer that may result in serious injury or the loss of human life. Officers' use of deadly force will be consistent with the parameters set forth in this chapter. *(Amended 06-26-2003 C03-09)*

**3-101.04** In all cases where force is used of a level 4 or higher, officers will notify a supervisor and complete an offense report. *(CALEA 1.3.6 a, b, c, d) (Amended 07-25-2006 C06-14)*

- A.** All Officers utilizing level 4 or above must complete an offense report and check-mark the Use of Force Supplement box in the I-LEADS Incident Module. Officers shall describe the circumstances surrounding the use of force in the police report. Supervisors will ensure that the supplement box is checked before approving the report. *(CALEA 1.3.6 c, d)*
- B.** Supervisors will conduct an inquiry in all cases where level 4 force or higher is used. Supervisors conducting the inquiry will complete a Use of Force supplement in I-leads.
- C.** Risk Management will complete a monthly analysis of the Use of Force supplements and forward the report to the Chief of Police. An annual analysis of use of force incidents, level 4 and above, will be compiled in a report and submitted to the Chief of Police. *(CALEA 1.3.7, 1.3.13) (Amended 04-29-2008 C08-11)*

**3-101.05 SITUATIONAL FORCE MODEL.** The Department recognizes that a Police Officer may have to immediately resort to any level of force appropriate for the situation at hand. The Situational Force Model is designed to show that an Officer has a variety of force levels available and will select the least violent means relative to the situation. The Officer will rely upon objective reasoned discretion to make the selection.



**3-101.06 USE OF FORCE TRAINING POLICY.** Annual training will include training in the Department's Use of Force Policy, the Department's Continuum Levels of Force and the proper application of each, and instruction on the safety, care and maintenance of each weapon. All training will be conducted by a qualified instructor and properly documented with the Training Division. *(CALEA 1.3.10, 1.3.11 a, b, 1.3.12) (Amended 02-26-2007 C07-04b)*



- A. Duty, Secondary Duty and Off-Duty Firearms.** All Officers will qualify annually with their primary duty handgun. Off-duty and secondary duty handguns are optional, but failure to qualify with these weapons means the officer is not authorized to carry said weapons. Failure to qualify with a duty weapon will result in remedial training and possible disciplinary action, as per Section 8-403. Qualification courses and pass/fail requirements for all firearms and authorized weapons are set by the Training Division.
1. Officers are encouraged to practice with their firearms quarterly at the Training Academy, when scheduling and ammunition availability permits.
  2. The Department strives for realistic firearms training. Therefore, Officers must attend annual training that includes night or reduced-light shooting, shooting at moving targets, strong hand/weak hand shooting, shoot/no shoot decision making, and combat simulation shooting.
  3. The Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) may be used in conjunction with other firearms training to accomplish the goals listed in A. (2) above. The FATS shall only be operated by Training Division staff.
- B. Shotgun/Patrol Rifle Training.** Officers will successfully complete an approved training course to be authorized to carry a Department approved shotgun or patrol rifle. To maintain their certification, they must successfully complete an annual qualification course. All officers of sergeant rank and lower shall qualify with the shotgun. Patrol rifle qualification is designated for personnel chosen by the Division's Commander or officers who wish to carry a personally owned patrol rifle on duty.
- C. Baton Training.** Officers will receive training in the use of Department approved batons prior to their use in field situations. Officers will successfully complete a certification course to carry the expandable baton. Baton certification is required for all officers of sergeant rank or lower. Certified officers must attend a re-certification course annually. The straight riot baton shall only be used when ordered by the incident commander during periods of civil unrest and in accordance with the use of force guidelines delineated in the Terrorism/Critical Incident Response plan, the use of force policy and mobile field force training.

- D. Chemical Agent.** Officers will carry only those chemical agents approved by the Department. Officers will successfully complete a certification course prior to being authorized to carry any chemical agent. Chemical agent certification is required for all officers of sergeant rank or lower. Certified Officers must attend a re-certification course annually. Officers trained in the use of gas grenades and gas launchers may only use these agents in accordance with the civil unrest use of force policy in the Critical Incident/Terrorism plan and upon order of the Incident Commander.
- E. Air Tasers.** Air Tasers will be used in the manner instructed in the Air Taser training course and in accordance with department policy and State Law. The Training Academy will ensure that Officers receive basic certification and re-certification every two years. Taser certification is required for all officers of sergeant rank or lower. Training records will be kept at the Academy. The Academy will also be responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of the Department's Taser program. *(CALEA 1.3.11)*
- F. Defensive Tactics.** When reasonably possible, Officers will limit their use of defensive tactics to those for which they have received Department approved training. Defensive tactics certification is required of all officers. Certified Officers must attend a re-certification course at least once every two years. *(CALEA 1.3.11)*
- G. 12 Gauge Bean Bag Munitions.** Officers will successfully complete a certification course to use 12 gauge "bean bag" munitions. Bean bag certification is required for all officers of sergeant rank or lower. Officers must attend a re-certification course at least once every two years. *(CALEA 1.3.11)*
- H. Other Approved Weapons.** Special assignments and/or assignment to certain sections or divisions may require the Officer to utilize weapons other than, or in addition to, those specified in this policy. To use other weapons, three conditions must exist:
1. Written permission from the Bureau Commander; one copy in the Training Division file and one copy in the personnel file at the Chief's Office.
  2. Written documentation to indicate that the Officer has had instruction in the proper use of the weapon from a qualified instructor; one copy is to be placed in the training file at the Training Division.
  3. Continuing use of the weapon requires maintenance of any qualification and/or certification. *(Amended 02-26-2007 C07-04b)*