



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



580.02 USE OF FORCE 5-16-17

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to outline procedures for the use and application of force, the medical follow-up that may be needed when the use of force results in injury, and the reporting and investigation of incidents involving the use of force.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department that officers value and preserve the sanctity of human life at all times. Officers shall use only that amount of force necessary under the circumstances presented that the officer reasonably believes is required. Officers are expected to use de-escalation techniques when reasonably possible and without increasing the risk of harm to officers or others in an effort to reduce or eliminate the use of force. When using force, officers shall continuously reassess the perceived threat to select the reasonable use of force response.

When making use of force decisions, officers should be mindful that subjects may be physically or mentally incapable of responding to police commands due to a variety of circumstances, including, but not limited to, alcohol or drugs, mental impairment, medical conditions, or language and cultural barriers.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. **INJURY** – Any visible bodily injury or complaint of bodily injury (non-visible injury). The injury must be reasonably related to the use of force applied. Injury, as defined in this order, does not include the temporary pain associated with the proper application of control holds and/or restraints.
2. **MEDICAL CLEARANCE INJURY** – Any injury that requires a Fit for Incarceration report prior to booking, or, if the suspect is not booked into jail/juvenile hall, any injury that would likely require a Fit for Incarceration report.
3. **LESS LETHAL FORCE** – Any force, agent, or device that is not reasonably likely to cause death.
4. **IMPACT WEAPON** – Any weapon/device/technique used to strike a subject or fire an impact projectile at a subject. Examples of impact weapons include, but are not limited to, baton, pugilistic hand strikes, 40 MM launchers, and flexible baton rounds.
5. **DEADLY FORCE** – Any force, agent, or device that is likely to cause death.
6. **REPORTABLE USE OF FORCE** – Any use of force (UOF) that causes injury, as defined above; any UOF, whether or not it results in injury, involving the discharge of a firearm, a canine bite, or use of an impact weapon, chemical agent, carotid restraint, or CED; and any UOF, whether or not it results in injury, that deviates from the techniques taught and the equipment provided by the Department (see extraordinary conditions in section B.4).
7. **FIELD SUPERVISOR** – The district sergeant for officers working in a patrol capacity or the specialized unit supervisor for officers working in a specialized unit capacity (e.g., POP, Bikes, Mounted Units, RT, SWAT, etc.). The specialized unit supervisor must be a sworn member of the Sacramento Police Department holding the rank of sergeant, acting sergeant, or higher and must be able to respond within a reasonable period of time and assume the responsibilities of supervisor as outlined in this order. If not, the district sergeant is the field supervisor by default.



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8. BLUE TEAM (BT) – Web-based computer software that allows sergeants to enter UOF and pursuit incidents from a Department computer.
9. DE-ESCALATION – Employing techniques to stabilize a situation, to decrease the likelihood of the need to use force, and to increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance.

B. GENERAL

1. Force shall be used in compliance with Penal Code Section 835a, which states “Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use reasonable force to affect the arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed an aggressor or lose his right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to affect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.”
2. Officers may use deadly force if, under the circumstances, the officer reasonably believes that the suspect poses a threat of death or serious bodily injury either to the officer or to others.
3. Officers shall not use force upon a subject’s head or neck area in an effort to prevent individuals from swallowing or attempting to swallow evidence.
4. When using force, officers should use techniques and equipment that are approved by the Department. Under extraordinary conditions that involve the risk of serious bodily injury or death, and in situations where it may be impractical or impossible to comply with the provisions of this order, officers may resort to using any reasonable means of force to prevent injury or death to themselves or any other person.
5. When reasonable under the totality of the circumstances and where it may be accomplished without increasing the risk of harm to officers or others, officers should attempt to de-escalate situations. De-escalation techniques include, but are not limited to, gathering information about the incident; assessing risks; gathering resources (personnel and equipment); using time, distance, cover; using crisis intervention techniques; and communicating and coordinating a response.
6. Refer to GO 522.02 Emergency Care for Individuals Under Police Care or Control when rendering emergency medical treatment or summoning medical assistance.

C. MANDATORY REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. Officers’ Responsibilities
 - a. Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so and without increasing the risk of harm to officers or others, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.
 - b. If officers are in doubt as to whether the UOF is reportable, the officers shall notify their field supervisor, who will then be responsible for making the determination.
 - c. Any reportable UOF shall require the immediate notification of the officer’s field supervisor and the following:
 - (1) The applicable report(s) (crime, casualty, and/or incident) shall be completed and include a complete description of how and why force was used, as well as a description of injuries that the suspect received or claims to have received.
 - (2) When an individual is arrested, the booking officer shall notify the jail intake nurse or detox staff nurse of the injury and type of force used.
 - (3) The City of Sacramento General Liability Loss Report Non-vehicular (RM Red Border Form) shall be completed and forwarded through the chain of command to the Professional Standards Unit (PSU).



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- d. When the UOF has resulted in an injury, officers shall comply with the provisions in GO 522.02 Emergency Medical Care for Arrestees. If the individual is not arrested or will be released with a citation, officers should offer to call for an ambulance or assist in arranging transportation to an authorized medical facility.
2. Supervisors' Responsibilities
 - a. Upon notification of a reportable UOF, the officer's field supervisor shall
 - (1) Respond to the location of the arrest to ensure that a thorough investigation takes place. A thorough investigation into the UOF by officers should include, but is not limited to, an area canvass (for witnesses, evidence and surveillance video), witness statements (which should be obtained by officers not involved in the UOF or a supervisor), suspect statements, and photographs of the scene and any injuries. If the supervisor is unable to respond to the location of the arrest, the supervisor shall note the reasons why on the call and in the BT entry (see section C.2.c. below).
 - (2) Review the incident with the arresting officer and/or other officers.
 - (3) Review all recordings (both audio and video) of the event (e.g. In-Car Camera [ICC] video, Body Worn Camera [BWC] video, surveillance video).
 - (4) Assess the appropriateness of the UOF and the charge(s) against the suspect (if applicable).
 - (5) Consider arranging for other officers to transport and book the suspect in the event the suspect continues to display hostile, confrontational, or oppositional behavior toward the arresting officer(s).
 - b. If the UOF requires a BT entry (as outlined in section C.2.c. below), the officer's field supervisor shall
 - (1) Notify the watch commander immediately.
 - (2) Review the UOF with the watch commander. If, after this review, the watch commander determines that the force used was inconsistent with this order or Department policy, the watch commander shall contact the officer's captain and review the incident. If necessary, the captain will refer the incident to Internal Affairs.
 - c. Blue Team
 - (1) The officer's field supervisor shall initiate a BT entry whenever the following reportable UOF events occur:
 - (a) Any use of force that results in the suspect having Medical Clearance as defined in section A.2.
 - (b) Any UOF, whether or not it results in injury, involving the discharge of a firearm or a canine bite, or use of an impact weapon, chemical agent, carotid restraint, or CED.
 - (c) Any UOF, whether or not it results in injury, that deviates from the techniques taught and the equipment provided by the Department. NOTE: Nothing shall preclude a supervisor or watch commander from using BT to document any type of UOF.
 - (2) The BT entry should contain the following information:
 - (a) Summary of the event, including which officer(s) were involved, what type of force was used, and the extent of injuries to the officer and the suspect (if any).
 - (b) Any information that is not relevant to the crime or incident report (e.g. administrative actions taken by supervisor or other personnel).
 - (c) The supervisor's opinion as to whether the UOF was consistent with Department policy.
 - (3) In cases where a firearm has been discharged or the UOF results in death, do not initiate a BT entry. IA/PSU will initiate a BT entry after the administrative review of the incident has been conducted.



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(4) Attach all pertinent documents to the BT entry.

(5) If the UOF was captured on video, a copy of the video shall be forwarded to PSU.

D. USE OF FORCE DEPLOYED BY SUPERVISORS

1. In the event a sergeant uses force or gives an officer a direct order to deploy force that triggers the reporting requirements set forth in this order, the watch commander will be responsible for identifying the person responsible for complying with section C.2. (Supervisor's Responsibilities).
2. In the event the watch commander, another lieutenant, or a captain uses force or gives an officer a direct order to deploy force that triggers the reporting requirements set forth in this order, the division captain or deputy chief shall be notified immediately. The division captain or the employee's deputy chief will be responsible for identifying the person responsible for complying with section C.2. (Supervisor's Responsibilities).