

## Use of Force

### 300.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner (Government Code § 7286).

In addition to those methods, techniques, and tools set forth below, the guidelines for the reasonable application of force contained in this policy shall apply to all policies addressing the potential use of force, including but not limited to the Control Devices and Techniques and Conducted Energy Device policies.

Retaliation prohibitions for reporting suspected violations are addressed in the Anti-Retaliation Policy.

#### 300.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Active Resistance** – Imminent threat(s) through verbal statement(s) and/or physical action(s) by an individual who has the intent, means, opportunity, and ability to:

1) resist arrest/custody through violence and/or

2) flee from arrest/custody.

**Compliant Subject** - An individual who is cooperative, responsive to lawful commands, and offers no active resistance.

**Control Hold** - Any Department-approved method or hold, designed to control the movement of an individual by manually applying pressure to a particular part of their body (such as bent wrist control hold, twist lock, rear wrist lock, finger lock, etc.). A control hold can be applied without implementing pain.

**Control Techniques** - Movements/manipulation of an engaged individual by an officer which could include pushing, pulling, guiding, and/or the use of control holds.

**Deadly/Lethal Force** - Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including but not limited to the discharge of a firearm (Penal Code § 835a).

**De-escalation** - The process of using strategies and techniques intended to decrease the need to use force and/or reducing or ending the application of force.

**Disengagement** - A de-escalation tactic designed to avoid or minimize the need to use force, or otherwise unsafe outcomes for both the individual being contacted and/or the officer. Disengagement may be a viable option for individuals who pose no additional threats to others, there is no crime, or for individuals who may later be apprehended under safer conditions.

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**Emergency Medical Treatment** – Treatment for significant injuries where an individual requires life-saving intervention and/or treatment at a hospital.

**Exigent Circumstances** – Circumstances where a reasonable person would believe that certain action(s) and/or response(s) were necessary to prevent harm.

**Feasible** - Reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the arrest or lawful objective without increasing risk to the officer or another person (Government Code § 7286(a)).

**Force** - The application of physical techniques/tactics, chemical agents, or weapons upon another person to:

- (a) Defend against an assault, and/or
- (b) Overcome resistance to arrest/custody, and/or
- (c) Overcome flight from arrest/custody.

It is not a use of force when a person allows themselves to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained.

**Imminent Threat** - A threat which, based on the totality of the circumstances and clear articulable facts, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or injury to the officer or another person. An officer's subjective fear of future harm alone is insufficient as an imminent threat. Imminent threat is one that from appearances must be immediately addressed. (Penal Code 835a).

**Intercede**- Includes, but is not limited to, verbally and/or physically stopping the excessive use of force.

**Less-Lethal Force** - Any use of force, other than deadly force, which by design presents less potential for causing death or serious injury than conventional lethal force options.

**Medical Treatment** – Treatment for injuries not requiring lifesaving intervention. This includes first aid in the field or treatment at a medical facility.

**Necessary Force** - Force where objectively reasonable alternatives were not available and/or practical and the force used was reasonable based on the Department's policy and training to effect the lawful purpose intended.

**Objectively Reasonable** – An assessment of reasonableness based on a specific set of facts and a totality of circumstances where an officer's conduct is evaluated based on the reasonable officer standard. This evaluation is used to determine whether the officer's actions were justified given the situation they faced at that time.

**Pain Compliance Technique** - Involves either the manipulation of a person's joints or activating certain pressure points intended to create sufficient pain for the purpose of motivating a person to comply with verbal commands.

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**Passive Resistance** - Resistance where an individual does not follow the lawful verbal commands of an officer and does not engage in acts of violence and/or physical resistance in any way. Examples: A person who goes completely limp, sits down, and refuses to stand or walk, or who may stand with arms at their sides without attempting to strike at or physically resist officers.

**Personal Body Weapons** - An officer's use of his/her body part, including but not limited to hand, foot, knee, elbow, shoulder, hip, arm, leg, or head by means of kinetic energy transfer (impact) to gain control of a subject.

**Pre-Event Conduct** - The actions of police personnel, to include the process of gathering and assessing all of the information and resources available to officers prior to an event.

**Restrained Person** – A person who has fully been placed into any authorized restraint device such as handcuffs, leg restraints, or a WRAP Restraint Device.

**Force** ~~The application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained.~~

**Serious Bodily Injury** - A serious impairment of physical condition, including but not limited to the following: loss of consciousness; concussion; bone fracture; protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ; a wound requiring extensive suturing; and serious disfigurement (Penal Code § 243(f)(4)).

**Tactical Repositioning** - A tactic considered when circumstances reasonably appear to be conducive and advantageous to physically move or change an officer's location. The intent is to seize opportunities to gain additional time, distance, and cover in a manner that supports safety for members of the community, officers, and the subject. When appropriate, the objective is to consider tactical repositioning as an option in support of de-escalation techniques and to increase an officer's reaction time and tactical options. Tactical repositioning is not considered a "retreat" as outlined in PC 835a(d) and should be included as another option for officers to consider when attempting an arrest.

**Takedown Technique** – A method designed to physically take a subject to the ground with the intent of gaining control of the subject.

**Totality of the Circumstances** - All facts known to the officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of force (Penal Code § 835a).

### **300.2 POLICY**

The Alameda Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the life, dignity, and liberty of all persons. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to protect and serve. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force. Officers must respect the sanctity of human life, act in all possible respects to preserve human life, and minimize the force that is used, while still protecting themselves and the public.

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In all cases where physical force is used and no other options were practical, officers shall use a minimum amount of force to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective that is objectively reasonable and proportional to effectively and safely overcome resistance.

The United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), held that, in order to comply with the U.S. Constitution, an officer's use of force must be objectively reasonable under the totality of circumstances known to the officer at the time. Additionally, Penal Code section 835(a) imposes further restrictions on an officer's use of force.

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Alameda Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.

#### 300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE

Any officer present and observing another law enforcement officer or an employee using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, shall, when in a position to do so, intercede (as defined by Government Code § 7286) to prevent the use of unreasonable force.

When observing force used by a law enforcement officer, each officer should take into account the totality of the circumstances and the possibility that other law enforcement officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by the subject (Government Code § 7286(b)).

#### 300.2.2 FAIR AND UNBIASED USE OF FORCE

Officers are expected to carry out their duties, including the use of force, in a manner that is fair and unbiased (Government Code § 7286(b)). Any application of force that is solely rooted in bias against a person's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or any other protected class/characteristic is strictly prohibited. Officers engaged in such action will be subject to termination. See the Bias-Based Policing Policy.

#### 300.2.3 DUTY TO REPORT EXCESSIVE FORCE

Any officer who observes a law enforcement officer or an employee use force that potentially exceeds what the officer reasonably believes to be necessary shall immediately report these observations to a supervisor (Government Code § 7286(b)).

As used in this subsection, "immediately" means as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

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### 300.2.4 FAILURE TO INTERCEDE

An officer who has received the required training on the duty to intercede and then fails to act to intercede when required by law, may be disciplined in the same manner as the officer who used force beyond that which is necessary (Government Code § 7286(b)).

### **300.3 USE OF FORCE**

Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose (Penal Code § 835a).

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter, officers are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident. Officers may only use a level of force that they reasonably believe is proportional to the seriousness of the suspected offense or the reasonably perceived level of actual or threatened resistance (Government Code § 7286(b)).

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the approved or authorized tools, weapons, or methods provided by the Alameda Police Department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be objectively reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force. [Officers should consider re-positioning or disengaging.](#)

#### 300.3.1 USE OF FORCE TO EFFECT AN ARREST

Any peace officer may use objectively reasonable force to effect an 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/her efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance on the part of the person being arrested; nor shall an officer be deemed the aggressor or lose his/her right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest, prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. Retreat does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation techniques (Penal Code § 835a).

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### 300.3.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit (Government Code § 7286(b)). These factors include but are not limited to:

- (a) The apparent immediacy and severity of the threat to officers or others (Penal Code § 835a).
- (b) The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time (Penal Code § 835a).
- (c) Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue, the number of officers available vs. subjects).
- (d) The conduct of the involved officer leading up to the use of force (Penal Code § 835a).
- (e) The effects of suspected drugs or alcohol.
- (f) The individual's apparent mental state or capacity (Penal Code § 835a).
- (g) The individual's apparent ability to understand and comply with officer commands (Penal Code § 835a).
- (h) Proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices.
- (i) The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.
- (j) The availability of other reasonable and feasible options and their possible effectiveness (Penal Code § 835a).
- (k) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual prior to and at the time force is used.
- (l) Training and experience of the officer.
- (m) Potential for injury to officers, suspects, bystanders, and others.
- (n) Whether the person appears to be resisting, attempting to evade arrest by flight, or is attacking the officer.
- (o) The risk and reasonably foreseeable consequences of escape.
- (p) The apparent need for immediate control of the subject or a prompt resolution of the situation.
- (q) Whether the conduct of the individual being confronted no longer reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the officer or others.
- (r) Prior contacts with the subject or awareness of any propensity for violence.
- (s) Any other exigent circumstances.

### 300.3.3 PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES

Pain compliance techniques may be effective in controlling a physically or actively resisting individual. Officers may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which they have

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successfully completed department-approved training. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider:

- (a) The degree to which the application of the technique may be controlled given the level of resistance.
- (b) Whether the person can comply with the direction or orders of the officer.
- (c) Whether the person has been given sufficient opportunity to comply.

The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.

#### 300.3.4 USE OF FORCE TO SEIZE EVIDENCE

In general, officers may use reasonable force to lawfully seize evidence and to prevent the destruction of evidence. However, officers are discouraged from using force solely to prevent a person from swallowing evidence or contraband. In the instance when force is used, officers should not intentionally use any technique that restricts blood flow to the head, restricts respiration or which creates a reasonable likelihood that blood flow to the head or respiration would be restricted. Officers are encouraged to use techniques and methods taught by the Alameda Police Department for this specific purpose.

#### 300.3.5 ALTERNATIVE TACTICS - DE-ESCALATION

**De-escalation and Force Minimization:** Every officer's goal, throughout an encounter with a member of the public, shall be to de-escalate, wherever possible, and resolve the encounter without resorting to the use of force. Wherever possible, officers shall employ de-escalation techniques to increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance with law enforcement requests or directives and, thereby, decrease the likelihood that a use of force will become necessary during an incident. Further, in any encounters that do call for applying force, officers must always use a minimal amount of force that is objectively reasonable to safely achieve their legitimate law enforcement objective.

**Proportionality:** When determining the appropriate level of force, officers shall balance the severity of the offense committed and the level of resistance based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time. It is particularly important that officers apply proportionality and critical decision making when encountering a subject who is unarmed or armed with a weapon other than a firearm.

**Minimizing the Use of Deadly Force:** Deadly force may only be used when it is objectively reasonable that such action is necessary to protect the officer or another person from imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm. Officers shall not use deadly force if it is objectively reasonable that alternative techniques will eliminate the imminent danger and ultimately achieve the law enforcement purpose with less risk of harm to the officer or to other persons.

**Vulnerable Populations:** Officers should be particularly sensitive when considering the use of force against vulnerable populations, including children, elderly persons, pregnant women, people with

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physical and mental disabilities, people experiencing mental health crises, and people with limited English proficiency.

**Foster Strong Community Relationships:** The Alameda Police Department understands that uses of force, even if lawful and proper, can have a damaging effect on the public's perception of the Department and the Department's relationship with the community. The Department is committed to fostering strong community relations by building on its historic tradition of progressive policing, ensuring accountability and transparency, and striving to increase trust with our community.

De-escalation tactics and techniques are actions used by officers which seek to minimize the need to use force during an incident. Such tactics and techniques may increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance when employed and shall be used when it is safe to do so. De-escalation tactics emphasize slowing down an incident to allow time, distance, and flexibility for the situation to resolve. Officers shall continually assess the dynamics of a situation and modulate their response and actions appropriately. Officers may be justified in using force at one moment, but not justified in using force the next due to a change in dynamics. The application of these tactics is intended to increase the potential for resolution with a minimal reliance on the use of force, or without using force at all.

As time and circumstances reasonably permit, and when community and officer safety would not be compromised, officers should consider actions that may increase officer safety and may decrease the need for using force:

- (a) Summoning additional resources that are able to respond in a reasonably timely manner.
- (b) Formulating a plan with responding officers before entering an unstable situation that does not reasonably appear to require immediate intervention.
- (c) Employing other tactics that do not unreasonably increase officer jeopardy.

In addition, when reasonable, officers should evaluate the totality of circumstances presented at the time in each situation and, when feasible, consider and utilize reasonably available alternative tactics and techniques that may persuade an individual to voluntarily comply or may mitigate the need to use a higher level of force to resolve the situation before applying force (Government Code § 7286(b)). Such alternatives may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Attempts to de-escalate a situation.
- (b) If reasonably available, the use of crisis intervention techniques by properly trained personnel.
- (c) Maintaining a safe distance.
- (d) Using available cover and concealment and identifying escape routes.
- (e) Staging other relevant emergency personnel such as the Alameda Fire Department.
- (f) Controlling vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- (g) Establishing communication, preferably with one officer.

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- (h) Creating an emergency plan and a deliberate plan with contingencies.
- (i) Making a tactical approach to the scene.
- (j) Gathering intelligence concerning the incident and/or the involved person(s) from available sources.
- (k) Evaluating if the person has any of the following conditions which may prevent or delay effective de-escalation:
  - 1. Physical disability
  - 2. Mental health disability
  - 3. Developmental disability
  - 4. Intellectual disability
  - 5. Under the influence of drugs (prescribed or otherwise) or alcohol, or both
- (l) [Using available cover and concealment, as appropriate.](#)
- (m) Utilizing distance and space to maximize non-confrontational contact and dialogue.
- (n) Communicating with the person in a calm, slow, non-threatening manner and tone:
  - 1. Provide clear, concise directions or commands
  - 2. Allow person(s) to express themselves verbally; allow the person to "vent"
  - 3. Ask open-ended questions
  - 4. Recognize the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication being in sync
- (o) Deploying less-lethal resources.
- (p) Tactical repositioning of resources and personnel.
- (q) Disengagement.

#### 300.3.6 RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF A CHOKE HOLD

Officers of this department are not authorized to use a choke hold. A choke hold means any defensive tactic or force option in which direct pressure is applied to a person's trachea or windpipe (Government Code § 7286.5).

#### 300.3.7 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Officers are not authorized to use any restraint or transportation method which would create substantial risk of positional asphyxia as defined by Government Code § 7286.5 and/or unreasonably impair an individual's breathing or respiratory capacity. Once controlled, the individual shall ~~not~~ be placed into a recovery position (e.g., supine or seated) and monitored for signs of medical distress (Government Code § 7286.5). [When an individual has been placed under any circumstances that may result in airway compression, reduction of breathing, and/or pressure or body weight against neck, torso, or back or in a prone position, and handcuffed, the individual shall immediately be placed into a recovery position and monitored for signs of medical distress.](#)

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#### 300.4 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS

Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify **themselves him/herself** as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts (Penal Code 835a).

If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers shall evaluate and use other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force. To the extent that it is reasonably practical, officers should consider their surroundings and any potential risks to bystanders prior to discharging a firearm (Government Code § 7286(b)).

The use of deadly force is only justified when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary in the following circumstances (Penal Code § 835a):

- (a) An officer may use deadly force to protect **themselves him/herself** or others from what **they he/she** reasonably believes is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.
- (b) An officer may use deadly force to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

Officers shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to **them him/herself**, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person (Penal Code § 835a).

An “imminent” threat of death or serious bodily injury exists when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. An officer’s subjective fear of future harm alone is insufficient as an imminent threat. An imminent threat is one that from appearances is reasonably believed to require instant attention (Penal Code § 835a).

##### 300.4.1 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective and may involve additional considerations and risks. When feasible, officers should take reasonable steps to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the imminent threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others (Government Code § 7286(b)).

Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.

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### 300.4.2 DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS

Given that individuals might perceive the display of a firearm as a potential application of force, officers should carefully evaluate each tactical situation and use sound discretion when drawing a firearm in public by considering the following guidelines (Government Code § 7286(b)):

- (a) If the officer does not initially perceive a threat but reasonably believes that the potential for such threat exists, firearms should generally be kept in the low-ready or other position not directed toward an individual.
- (b) If the officer reasonably believes that a threat exists based on the totality of circumstances presented at the time (e.g., high-risk stop, tactical entry, armed encounter), firearms may be directed toward such threat until the officer no longer perceives such threat.

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, officers should carefully secure all firearms.

### 300.5 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why they he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis and related purposes, the Alameda Police Department may require the completion of additional report forms, as specified in department policy, procedure or law.

#### 300.5.1 NOTIFICATION TO SUPERVISORS

Any use of force by an officer shall be reported immediately to a supervisor, including but not limited to the following circumstances (Penal Code § 832.13):

- (a) The application caused a visible injury.
- (b) The application would lead a reasonable officer to conclude that the individual may have experienced more than momentary discomfort.
- (c) The individual subjected to the force complained of injury or continuing pain.
- (d) The individual indicates intent to pursue litigation.
- (e) Any application of a CED or control device.
- (f) Any application of a restraint device other than handcuffs, shackles, or belly chains.
- (g) The individual subjected to the force was rendered unconscious.
- (h) An individual was struck or kicked.
- (i) An individual alleges unreasonable force was used or that any of the above has occurred.

As used in this subsection, "immediately" means as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

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### 300.5.2 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Statistical data regarding all officer-involved shootings and incidents involving use of force resulting in serious bodily injury is to be reported to the California Department of Justice as required by Government Code § 12525.2. See the Records Division Policy.

### **300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, properly trained officers should promptly provide or procure medical assistance for any person injured or claiming to have been injured in a use of force incident (Government Code § 7286(b)).

Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, who has sustained visible injury, expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or who was rendered unconscious. Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter should be continuously monitored until the individual can be medically assessed.

Based upon the officer's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff, or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practicable, should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included in the recording, if possible.

The on-scene supervisor or, if the on-scene supervisor is not available, the primary handling officer shall ensure that any person providing medical care or receiving custody of a person following any use of force is informed that the person was subjected to force. This notification shall include a description of the force used and any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the subject (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics and imperviousness to pain, or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death. Calls involving these persons should be considered medical emergencies. Officers who reasonably suspect a medical emergency should request medical assistance as soon as practicable and have medical personnel stage away if appropriate.

See the Medical Aid and Response Policy for additional guidelines.

### **300.7 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY**

A supervisor should respond to any reported use of force, if reasonably available. The responding supervisor is expected to (Government Code § 7286(b)):

- (a) Obtain the basic facts from the involved officers. Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.
- (b) Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated.

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- (c) When possible, separately obtain a recorded interview with the subject upon whom force was applied. If this interview is conducted without the person having voluntarily waived his/her *Miranda* rights, the following shall apply:
  - 1. The content of the interview should not be summarized or included in any related criminal charges.
  - 2. The fact that a recorded interview was conducted should be documented in a property or other report.
  - 3. The recording of the interview should be distinctly marked for retention until all potential for civil litigation has expired.
- (d) Once any initial medical assessment has been completed or first aid has been rendered, ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain, as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas. These photographs should be retained until all potential for civil litigation has expired.
- (e) Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.
- (f) Review and approve all related reports.
- (g) Determine if there is any indication that the subject may pursue civil litigation.
  - 1. If there is an indication of potential civil litigation, the supervisor should complete and route a notification of a potential claim through the appropriate channels.
- (h) Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the incident and initiate an administrative investigation if there is a question of policy non-compliance or if for any reason further investigation may be appropriate.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

#### 300.7.1 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

The Watch Commander shall review each use of force by any personnel within his/her command to ensure compliance with this policy and to address any training issues.

#### 300.8 TRAINING

Officers, investigators, and supervisors will receive periodic training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding (Government Code § 7286(b)).

Subject to available resources, the Training Sergeant should ensure that officers receive periodic training on de-escalation tactics, including alternatives to force.

Training should also include (Government Code § 7286(b)):

- (a) Guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, elderly persons, pregnant individuals, and individuals with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.
- (b) Training courses required by and consistent with POST guidelines set forth in Penal Code § 13519.10.

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See the Training Policy for restrictions relating to officers who are the subject of a sustained use of force complaint.

#### **300.9 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS**

At least annually, the Field Services Bureau Commander should prepare an analysis report on use of force incidents. The report should be submitted to the Chief of Police. The report should not contain the names of officers, suspects or case numbers, and should include:

- (a) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members.
- (b) Training needs recommendations.
- (c) Equipment needs recommendations.
- (d) Policy revision recommendations.

#### **300.10 USE OF FORCE COMPLAINTS**

The receipt, processing, and investigation of civilian complaints involving use of force incidents should be handled in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy (Government Code § 7286(b)).

#### **300.11 POLICY REVIEW**

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should regularly review and update this policy to reflect developing practices and procedures (Government Code § 7286(b)).

#### **300.12 POLICY AVAILABILITY**

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should ensure this policy is accessible to the public (Government Code § 7286(c)).

#### **300.13 PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS**

Requests for public records involving an officer's personnel records shall be processed in accordance with Penal Code § 832.7 and the Personnel Records and Records Maintenance and Release policies (Government Code § 7286(b)).