

2.3 USE OF FORCE

2.301 TYPES OF FORCE DEFINITIONS

PHYSICAL PRESENCE: School safety personnel arrive at scene.

VERBAL COMMANDS: Use of words.

PHYSICAL CONTROL MOVES: Members' role in physical force is essentially defensive and they are permitted to use ONLY that degree of force necessary to overcome resistance, to protect self or another against assault or to complete a school safety task. Malicious assaults or batteries committed by members constitute unlawful conduct.

CHEMICAL AGENTS: Mace/Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) may be used, when feasible, in lieu of other methods of force (i.e., firearm, baton, or other authorized police restraint equipment) of subduing a subject when a situation develops where it is probable that either an arrested person or officer may be injured. A 2.5 oz canister has 16 shots and the 3 oz. can has 19 to 20 shots. The shelf life of pepper spray is 2 years from date of manufacture.

IMPACT WEAPONS: Use of the baton is proper in lawful situations requiring a degree of force greater than that readily provided by weaponless control techniques, but less than that provided by resorting to the use of deadly force. The baton is a defensive weapon, and its use against a suspect should not be treated lightly. The baton is primarily used in the protection of life and property. The officer has the burden to justify the use of a baton by the totality of circumstances, and it should be documented in all reports. Officers must complete training and earn a certificate for each type of baton they carry.

LETHAL FORCE: All armed school safety officers must be aware of the legal and moral aspects governing the use of deadly weapons.

Officers may at any time be faced with a situation in which they must make decisions regarding the right to discharge a firearm. Even though the discharging of the firearm may be legally justified, there are moral considerations and other factors an officer must evaluate before shooting. The immediate situation, the nature of the offense, personal safety and the safety of others will generally indicate what action is warranted.

The policy governing the display and discharge of firearms affirms that officers have the duty to use firearms only in:

- Self-defense
- Defense of others to prevent death or great bodily injury.

It shall be the responsibility of the individual officer to use firearms only when reasonably necessary and justified under the circumstances.

Firearms **SHALL NOT** be discharged under the following circumstances:

- Officers *shall not* fire warning shots.
- Officers *shall not* fire at a fleeing person.
- Officers *shall not* fire at a moving vehicle.
- Officers *shall not* fire through a vehicle window unless circumstances clearly warrant the use of a firearm as a final means of defense.

Officers *may not* use their weapon to bluff a suspect.

2.302 REPORT USE OF FORCE

Any discharge or display of a firearm by a staff member of the School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Division for whatever reason, except as part of an authorized training exercise or recreational shooting, shall be reported and documented by the involved employee in compliance with the existing reporting policy.

Officers must document any incident when a firearm is drawn for officer safety in writing or as directed by their supervisor.

Whenever a member is required to use physical force against another person, or use of force results in injury to any subject, he/she shall immediately call a supervisor to the scene, or if this is not practicable, as soon as circumstances permit following the incident. Procedure is as follows:

1. Immediately notify supervisor.
2. Document use of force and justification for use in the Arrest Report and/or Incident Report. Include a detailed account of the circumstances leading up to and including the use of force.
3. If OC is used, complete Department of Justice forms BCIA-1014, "Department of Justice, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Application Report," and submit with reports.

2.303 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors shall assess the use of force and review the Incident Report.

If a member is injured to the extent that hospitalization is necessary, it shall be the supervisor's responsibility to ensure the Arrest Report and/or Incident Report is submitted prior to the end of the shift.

Supervisors shall report the incident and his/her actions in the supervisor's log.

Each incident involving the discharge of a firearm by a member of the School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Division, with the exception of training, qualification and recreation, shall be thoroughly reviewed by division management.