

Section 5: Security

Subject: Use of Force

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03 (10)(a)(b)(c)(d)

Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011, 09/2015

Authorized: _____ Effective date: _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

Use of force shall be limited to instances of justifiable self-defense, prevention of self-inflicted harm, protection of others, prevention of riot, discharge of firearm or other weapon, escape or other crime and controlling or subduing an inmate who refuses to obey a staff command or order and shall be limited to the amount of force necessary to control a given situation and shall include a continuum of escalating force levels. In no event is physical force used as punishment. An examination and/or treatment by qualified health care personnel shall be provided to inmates or staff involved in a use of force incident when there is obvious physical injury or there is a complaint of injury or request for medical attention. All use of force incidents shall be documented and reviewed by the Jail Administrator or designee.

PROCEDURE

A. Use of Force (Action Response) Continuum

Inmate Actions

Uncooperative Inmate

- Refuses to enter/exit cell or search / frisk
- Passive Resistance

o Officer-Subject Factors

- Age, Sex
- Size
- Skill Level
- Multiple Subjects/Officers
- Relative Strength

Attacking Inmate

- Inmate Attacks or attempts to attack another

o Special Circumstances

- Closeness of a weapon
- Injury or exhaustion
- Being on the ground
- Distance from Subject
- Special Knowledge
- Availability of other options
- Environmental condition
- Subjected restrained

Officer Responses

1. **Verbal persuasion** – attempts to convince inmate cooperate.
2. **Verbal Warning** – Warn inmate of consequences of not cooperating.
3. **Show of Force** – call for back up officers. Attempt verbal persuasion after back up officers arrive, EMD Pepper Ball / OC Spray introduction.
4. **Control Holds** – use of control holds to gain control of inmate.

1. **Back up** – call for back up.
2. **Block** – punches, kicks.
3. **Take-downs** – techniques designed to take controls of the prisoner
4. **Blows, kicks** – to muscle groups used if takedowns techniques are not effective or possible
5. **Escalated blows** – blows kicks to head/face, kicks to groin area, blows or gouges to the eyes should be used as a last resort and only after the above techniques have been ineffective and failed.

Section 5: Security

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B. Retreat

- a. An officer or officers may retreat from an area if the possibility of death or serious bodily injury to the officer(s) is apparent.

C. Reporting

- a. Each staff member involved in a Use of Force (Action Response) situation is required to submit a detailed incident report in the Jail Record Management System (JMS) as soon as possible after the incident.

D. Medical Care

- a. When the use of force results in obvious physical injuries and/or when person involved request medical assistance or indicated they have been injured, the person involved, whether inmate or staff, shall receive medical attention.
- b. Treatment, if needed, shall be provided either by jail medical staff or by outside emergency medical services as appropriate to the situation.
- c. Inmates who were involved in any use of force (action response) incident requiring any physical action, shall be scheduled to see the nursing staff as soon as possible.
 - i. The Shift Supervisor will place a Medical Request (MDRQ) Event in the jail shift log in the JMS, attaching the involved inmate.
- d. Staff members who are injured in an action response incident are required to receive medical attention and submit a "Record of Occupational Accident, Illness or Injury Report".
- e. The jail administrator will be immediately notified upon the occurrence of any action response incident that results in injuries that warrant medical attention.

E. Reporting

- a. All officers involved in any use of force (action response) incident must write an incident report in the JMS as soon as possible after the incident
- b. These reports should then be reviewed and signed off by a non-involved supervisor or higher ranking personnel.

F. Jail Administrator Review

- a. All use of force (action response) incidents shall be reviewed for policy compliance by the Jail Administrator or designee.
 - i. This will be accomplished by reading and reviewing all reports and watch sheets of the incident.
 - ii. The date and time of review will be placed in the Administrator Review field on the incident report screen in the JMS.