

## Control Devices and Techniques

### 303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

### 303.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the San Diego County Probation Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy.

### 303.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by employees of this Department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee.

Only officers who have successfully completed Department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

When using control devices, officers should carefully consider potential impact areas in order to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

### 303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 303.4.1 UNIT SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Unit Supervisor may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or employees of specialized units who have successfully completed the required training.

#### 303.4.2 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Rangemaster or the designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

## *Control Devices and Techniques*

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### **303.4.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the officer's responsibility to conduct periodic inspections of all control devices to ensure they are functioning properly. All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Rangemaster for disposition. Damage to County property forms shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

### **303.5 IMPACT WEAPON GUIDELINES**

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

When carrying a baton, officers shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt.

Only those select officers who have completed specialized training are authorized to carry an alternative impact weapon such as the "sap." The sap is a compact leather covered impact weapon comprised of a weighted material, often lead. It is a striking weapon designed for very close quarters. Officers are trained to strike the same striking areas on the subject as they would with the baton unless exigent circumstances were present to necessitate lethal force. Generally, officers trained to perform extradition duties will be authorized to carry the sap.

### **303.6 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES**

As with other control devices, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in violent behavior. OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of officers or the public.

#### **303.6.1 OC SPRAY**

Uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

#### **303.6.2 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE**

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

### **303.7 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE**

Whenever OC has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, officers should provide the owners or available occupants with notice of the possible presence of residue that could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned.

## *Control Devices and Techniques*

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Such notice should include advisement that clean up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

### **303.8 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES**

The Training Supervisor shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
- (c) Officers who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If an officer cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy after remedial training, the officer will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to removal from their assignment.

### **303.9 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES**

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.