

200 Response to Resistance

200.3 RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

While the type and extent of force may vary, it is the policy of this department that officers use only that amount of objectively reasonable force which appears necessary under the circumstances to successfully accomplish the legitimate law enforcement purpose in accordance with this order.

- (a) Assessment shall be ongoing – As the circumstances of a situation change, the force necessary to affect a detention, arrest, search, or transportation of a subject or to protect officer or other persons from imminent harm may also change. Officers will therefore need to re-evaluate their determination of the appropriate response to resistance as circumstances change.
- (b) Officer Discretion - Understanding that no order can realistically predict every situation an officer might encounter, it is recognized that each officer must be entrusted with well-reasoned discretion in determining the objectively reasonable response to resistance in each incident.
- (c) Vascular Neck Restraints, Carotid Neck Restraints, and strangleholds are prohibited in all cases except where deadly force would be authorized. Unless engaged in a lethal force encounter, officers will not:
 - 1. Apply direct or indirect pressure by any means to an individual's throat, windpipe, or airway in a manner that is reasonably likely to prevent, reduce, or hinder the intake of air (e.g., apply a chokehold); or
 - 2. Apply direct or indirect pressure to an individual's neck in a manner that is reasonably likely or intended to prevent, reduce, or hinder the blood flow within the carotid arteries.
- ~~(e)~~(d) Improvising Permitted - Circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impracticable or ineffective to use a standard tool, weapon, or method provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or practicable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must still be objectively reasonable and used only to the extent which reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
- ~~(d)~~(e) Injury to Officer Not Required - While it is the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter to minimize injury to everyone involved, nothing in this order requires an officer to actually sustain physical injury before applying objectively reasonable force.
- ~~(e)~~(f) Reporting Required - Any complaint by a subject that an officer caused pain or injury shall be treated as a response to resistance force incident, except complaints of minor discomfort from unresisted handcuffing.