



USE OF FORCE STANDARD CO002

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code 13601(a)(1): The CPOST shall develop, approve, and monitor standards for the selection and training of state correctional peace officer apprentices.

BACKGROUND

Correctional Peace Officers must be knowledgeable about California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Departmental Use of Force (UOF) policy, and relevant laws. The goal is to create an atmosphere within CDCR where staff operates with minimal reliance on the use of force. Reasonable force will be used by staff when necessary to maintain the security of institutions and safety of offenders and staff. The law and policy dictates what force can be used and the general conditions under which force can and cannot be used. All uses of force must be within the guidelines of law and policy.

STANDARD

Correctional Peace Officers shall receive comprehensive training in all aspects of the departmental use of force policy that is authorized within their scope of authority.

Basic academies will provide extensive training as to the laws and regulations governing the use of force as well as developing skill sets for force options and the practical application of those options. In addition, basic academies will provide extensive training in the recognition of potentially dangerous situations and the use of de-escalation techniques to minimize the reliance on the use of force.

Correctional Peace Officers will receive annual use of force training.

COMPONENTS OF STANDARD

1. Application of Force – The Correctional Peace Officer shall be proficient in the ability to apply reasonable force options in given circumstances and the appropriate documentation of those force options.
2. Problem Solving/Decision-Making (Authority) –The Correctional Peace Officer shall be knowledgeable and take appropriate authority, based on the types of threats, including describing imminent and potential, and be proficient in analyzing situations and making objectively reasonable decisions about the appropriate action to take based upon the totality of the circumstances.
3. Officer Safety – Correctional Peace Officers shall recognize their authority to take reasonable steps to protect themselves and others, as per CDCR policy and regulations
4. Communication – The Correctional Peace Officer will be knowledgeable and proficient/competent in the use of effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques in order to de-escalate potential threats before they become imminent, with minimal reliance on the use of force
5. Ethics – The Correctional Peace Officer shall abide by the code of ethics and accepted principles of conduct that govern decisions and actions based on professional values and expectations.

CITATIONS

- 1) California Code of Regulations Title 15, Article 1.5, Section 3268, Use of Force
- 2) Departmental Operations Manual Ch.5 Article 2, Policy 51021.1, Use of Force
- 3) State of California, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department Operations Manual, Article 2, Use of Force, Sections 51020.1–51020.24
- 4) State of California, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Restricted Department Operations Manual, Section 55050.31
- 5) California Penal Code, Sections: 196-198, 832, 835a (1), (2), (3), (4), (5); PC835a (b), PC835a (c) (1) (a),(b); PC835a (d)