



COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL PEACE OFFICER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER 002

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USE OF FORCE

STANDARD

Correctional Peace Officers shall receive comprehensive training in all aspects of the departmental Use of Force (UOF) policy that is authorized within their scope of authority.

The Basic Correctional Officer Academy (BCOA) will provide extensive training as to the laws and regulations governing the UOF as well as developing skill sets for force options and the practical application of those options. In addition, the BCOA will provide extensive training in the recognition of potentially dangerous situations and the use of de-escalation techniques to minimize the reliance on the UOF. Correctional Peace Officers will receive annual UOF training.

COMPONENTS

The components of this standard are as follows:

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 regarding their legal 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, per CDCR policy and regulations
4. Communication – The Correctional Peace Officer will be knowledgeable and proficient in the use of effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques to de-escalate potential threats before they become imminent, with minimal reliance on the UOF.
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.

Commission Approved: (02/21/2020)

Revisions: (02/2023)

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code 13601 (a)(1)

California Penal Code 13601 (d)

BACKGROUND

Correctional Peace Officers must be knowledgeable concerning CDCR's UOF policy, and relevant laws. The goal is to create an atmosphere within CDCR where staff operates with minimal reliance on the UOF. Reasonable force will be used by staff when necessary to maintain the security of institutions and safety of incarcerated persons 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 UOF must be within the guidelines of law and policy.

REFERENCES AND CITATIONS

California Code of Regulations Title 15, Article 1.5, Section 3268, Use of Force

Departmental Operations Manual Ch.5 Article 2, Policy 51021.1, Use of Force

State of California, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department Operations Manual, Article 2, Use of Force, Sections 51020.1–51020.24

State of California, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Restricted Department Operations Manual, Section 55050.31

California Penal Code Sections: 196-198; 832; 835 (a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5); 835 (b); 835 (c)(1); and 835 (d)