

**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

<b>CHAPTER:</b>	3	Institutional Operations	<b>3. 1. 21</b>
<b>SECTION:</b>	1	Security and Control	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> <b>10 / 26 / 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	21	<b>Use of Force</b>	
<b>STANDARDS: ACA – 4 – ALDF: 6A-07 (M), 2B-01 (M), 2B-07, 2B-08 (M), 7B-16</b>			
<b>APPROVED:</b>  _____			<b>REVIEW DATE:</b> <b>10 / 26 / 20</b>
<b>Dale Glass</b> <b>COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS</b>			<b>REVISION DATE:</b> <b>10 / 28 / 20</b>
Rescind: 3.1.21 dated 3/27/17 Cancel:			

**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the St. Louis City Division of Corrections to maintain a policy which describes the circumstances and conditions under which staff may use force to restrain and control the behavior of inmates.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

All Correctional staff having daily contact with the inmates are responsible for adhering to the following procedures.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

**Active Resistance:** Any physical or confrontational act by an inmate that resists the order or directive of staff while inmate engages in combative stance, or refuses to surrender object that could be used as weapon, attempting to strike, or struggle with officers, fighting with other inmates; or any such behavior that will lead to injury.

**Anticipated or Planned Use of Force:** A condition in which staff is able to contemplate the use of force beforehand, based on nature of the incident, inmate past history of behavior, or current behavior exhibited by inmate.

**Appropriate Force:** All uses of force as prescribed in this procedure and work rule.

**Deadly Force:** Force which is reasonably and likely to result in the death of or serious physical injury to any person against whom it is applied. The following are specific

City of St. Louis Department of Public Safety/Division of Corrections  
**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

---

examples of deadly force: (1) the discharge of a firearm, (2) the use of any impact weapon against the unprotected head of any person.

**Excessive Force:** Force which exceeds “reasonable force,”

**Facility Administrator:** In this policy, the term “Facility Administrator” means the Detention Center Superintendent.

**Response Team:** Custody staff selected and assigned on a daily basis to function as a quick response team to an incident, provides back-up, and represents a “show of force” when such assistance is needed to manage the incident. The selected individuals also serve as Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) members when needed in that capacity.

**Passive Resistance:** A non-physical confrontational resistance of an order in which inmates verbally states what they will or will not do, under non-combative stance.

**De-escalation Dialogue:** Persuasive advice, warnings and commands given in a manner to control the behavior of inmate passively resisting directive from staff.

**Reasonable Force:** The amount of force necessary to achieve voluntary compliance or to gain control of a situation.

**Show of Force:** The presence of response team to suppress an incident

**Spontaneous Force:** Force that cannot be anticipated or planned.

**Use of Force:** Means any physical contact, or the deployment of chemical agents, Taser device, or such other security devices in instances of justifiable defense, protection of others, protection of property, or prevention of escapes. Physical force is used only as a last resort and in accordance with appropriate statutory authority.

#### **IV. PROCEDURES**

##### **A. General Information**

1. The Shift Supervisor/Area Supervisor may approve a use of force in situations in which force is necessary and/or anticipated.
2. The Shift Supervisor/ Area Supervisor is authorized to order the use of security devices in a use of force situation, and has the authority to activate the Special Response Team, (SRT) if necessary, to regain control and ensure order and safety. (See policy #3.1.27: Cell Extraction).
3. Correctional staff may use reasonable force on an inmate when it is necessary to:

City of St. Louis Department of Public Safety/Division of Corrections  
**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

---

- a. Prevent the commission of a felony, including escape,
  - b. Prevent an act which could result in death or serious bodily injury to self or another person,
  - c. Defend one's self or another against a physical assault,
  - d. prevents serious damage to property,
  - e. Prevent or control a riot or disturbance,
  - f. Move an inmate who has refused a proper order by an employee,
  - g. Apprehend an escaping inmate,
  - h. Conduct the search of an inmate who has refused a proper order by an employee to submit to said search,
  - i. Preserve the overall order and security of the institution,
  - j. Preserve the safety of any employee, inmate, or visitor.
4. The use of chemical agents, firearms, and the restraint chair, or physically grasping an inmate to re-gain control are all considered to be uses of force.
5. For physical contact between staff and inmate to qualify as use of force, the physical contact must be deliberate as oppose to accidental and, the contact is employed to control the inmate's behavior.
6. Inmates are not subjected to personal abuse, corporal punishment, personal injury, disease, property damage or harassment.
7. Employees are prohibited from the following act of use of force:
- a. Use or permit the use of excessive force,
  - b. Use or permit the use of force as punishment or discipline,
  - c. Strike or permit to strike an object or blunt object on inmate's head.
  - d. Choke or permit to choke inmate as a restraint measure.
8. Custody staff will not use any form of security device or restraint method for which they have not received training. Shift Supervisor may authorize use of security device if emergency situation requires same.

City of St. Louis Department of Public Safety/Division of Corrections  
**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

---

9. Chemical Agents may be used by trained staff and only when all other minimal options and procedures prescribed have been exhausted. (See policy #3.2.15: Use of Chemical Agents).
10. Firearms may be used by trained and certified staff only, and only when a clear and present threat of loss of life or serious physical injury is present. (See Policy #3.1.22: Firearm Control).
11. Force and restraint devices are only used as a control measure. Correctional Staff will use the least amount of force necessary to overcome resistance. All use of force will stop once staff regains control.
12. Due to the potential consequences of the use of force, strict compliance with procedures and work rule by staff must be maintained to minimize the potential of serious injury to staff and inmates.
13. In situations involving spontaneous use of force, the inmate must show active resistance above and beyond mere non-compliance with verbal command.
14. When attempting to gain control of a situation, the Correctional Staff will not use threatening language, or take action that would escalate aggressive behavior or physical violence.
15. Correctional Staff are prohibited from lifting up inmate by grasping and pulling the inmate on the applied restraints.
16. Restraint device and tactics used during an incident involving force may not be used in the following manners:
  - a. As a method of punishment,
  - b. Around the inmate's face, head, or neck,
  - c. In any way that restricts the blood circulation or obstructs the inmate's airways,
  - d. In any way that causes unnecessary or extreme physical pain,
  - e. To secure the inmate to a fixed object (does not apply to cuff bars made for such restraint), such as a cell door, chair, etc., and
17. Only approved Divisional issued security devices will be use in any instances involving the use of force. The use of personal restraint devices or weapons is strictly prohibited and/or not allowed on site.

**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

---

18. Custody staff will be designated at the beginning of each shift by the Shift /Area Supervisor to compose response teams. There will be team A and team B, with each team comprising of five members.
19. Response Team - A serves as the “Show of Force” team and will respond to situations when activated by the Area Supervisor. The A-Team main goal is to act as a buffer to crisis and mitigate the escalation of incidents through the application of Inter Personal Communication Skills (IPC skill), to the extent that circumstances permit.
20. Response Team - B will be activated when effort by team A has failed to resolve the situation. The Special Response Team (SRT) will respond when both Teams A and B fail to resolve the situation.
21. The Division investigates all incidence of use of force. A de-briefing will be conducted by the Shift Supervisor in any use of force situation which inmate and/or staff was injured.

**B. Medical Treatment**

1. All persons (inmate and employee) injured in a use of force incident will be given an opportunity by the Area Supervisor to receive immediate medical attention and treatment as needed. (See Policy #3.2.14: Emergency Medical Response; 1.3.20: Light Duty...).
2. Employees refusing medical treatment after a use of force incident must submit a signed written statement to the Area Supervisor declining treatment. The signed statement will be attached to the Injury Report and is included in the Incident Report package that will be forwarded to the Chief of Security.
3. Inmates refusing medical treatment after a use of force incident must sign a Medical Refusal Form issued by the Divisional contracted medical provider. The medical staff issuing the Form will forward a signed copy to the Area Supervisor in charge of the incident or the Shift Supervisor and will also file the refusal statement in the inmate medical record file.

**C. Use of Force General Reporting Requirement**

1. The Shift Supervisor/Area Supervisor will have all staff involved in a use of force incident to fill out their appropriate sections of Use of Force Report packet and submit it along with all other related reports to the Shift Supervisor. The report will include information, as applicable:
  - a. Use of a chemical agent to control inmates.
  - b. Use of physical force to control inmates.

- c. Discharge of a firearm.
  - d. Physical assault on staff.
2. The original copy of all incident reports compiled as a result of the incident will be forwarded to the Chief of Security by the Shift Supervisor.

**D. Use of Force Injury Category and Reporting Requirements**

1. Force A: Means a use of force resulting in an injury to an inmate that requires treatment beyond first aid or requires hospitalization.
2. Force B: Means a use of force resulting in an injury to an inmate that requires no hospitalization, but minor first aid.
3. Force C: Mean a use of force resulting in no injury to an inmate.

**E. Use of Force De-Briefing**

1. The Shift Supervisor/Area Supervisor will conduct Use of Force de-briefing after all reports have been submitted following any incident in which “force” was used, and no later than one business day after the incident.
2. The investigator of use of force incident will not participate in the Use of Force de-briefing to avoid conflict of interest.
3. A use of force de-briefing report will include information on lessons learned and may recommend policy changes as a result of lesson(s) learned.
4. The Shift Supervisor/Area Supervisor will submit the report to the Chief of Security and will ensure that the de-briefing summary report is submitted with other related reports no later than the end of tour of duty.