

## I. PURPOSE

This chapter comprises major policy statements that apply to those members of the Pima County Sheriff's Department designated within each subsection.

## II. USE OF FORCE

Each use-of-force situation is unique and shall be evaluated on the circumstances faced by the member at the time force is applied. Members shall use only that amount of force reasonably necessary to make an arrest or gain control of a situation.

### A. Force Options

The following options provide various types of force or responses available to the member. This is not a comprehensive list. The nature of the situation will dictate the force necessary.

- Officer Presence
- Verbal Communications
- Soft Empty Hand Control
- Pain Compliance
- Chemical or Inflammatory Agents
- Taser
- Hard Empty Hand Control
- Impact Weapons
- Deadly Force

### B. Deadly Force

1. Definition: Deadly force is the execution of any calculated action that is likely to cause death to the person against whom the action is directed.

2. Deputies or on-duty Correction Officers, in the performance of their official duties, are authorized to use deadly force when it reasonably appears necessary to do the following:
  - a. Protect themselves or others from immediate threat of death
  - b. Prevent a crime in which the suspect's actions place persons in jeopardy of death
  - c. Apprehend a fleeing felon who has used deadly force in the commission of a crime and where there is substantial risk the fleeing felon will cause death, or injury likely to cause death, to others if apprehension is delayed
3. Under circumstances that permit the use of deadly force and prior to employing the use of deadly force, the officer employing that force must:
  - a. Establish personal recognition of the person against whom the deadly force will be used, or
  - b. Establish the knowledge that the person against whom the deadly force will be used is the one against whom the force is justified, and
  - c. Warn the suspect about the use of deadly force if circumstances allow.
4. Warning shots are prohibited unless deadly force is justified.

#### C. Carotid Control Hold

1. Use of the carotid control hold, or similar tactic causing the restricting of the carotid artery, is generally prohibited.
2. The use of such holds or tactics shall be considered deadly force and is authorized only under those circumstances designated under "Deadly Force," Section B above.

#### D. Review Process

The Sheriff's Department will review use of force incidents, involving:

- Pain Compliance
- Chemical or Inflammatory Agents
- Taser
- Hard Empty Hand Control
- Impact Weapons
- Deadly Force

With the exception of deadly force, the process is as follows:

1. Prior to the end of their shift, the deputy or corrections officer who used the force shall complete the Use of Force (UOF) Summary and submit it to their immediate supervisor.
2. The supervisor shall review the UOF Summary and comment appropriately.
3. The supervisor shall submit the UOF Summary to his/her commander when completed.
4. The Commander shall review the UOF Summary, make appropriate recommendations and comments, and forward to his/her Division Commander.
5. The Division Commander shall review the UOF Summary, and make a decision regarding action to be taken, i.e., no further action, new and/or additional training, further investigation required, or disciplinary action.
6. The Division Commander will forward the UOF Summary to the Special Operations Section office support staff who shall be responsible for the data entry of the incident into a Use of Force Database.

7. A Department Use of Force Committee will convene on a quarterly basis, or as needed, to review use of force data and make recommendations regarding training and policy issues.
  - a. The Use of Force Committee will be comprised of the Patrol Division Commander, who will chair the committee; the Support Operations Division Commander, who will co-chair; the Administrative Services Division Commander; the Corrections Security Operations Division Commander; one (1) Patrol Division Section/District Commander to be selected by the Patrol Division Commander; one (1) Support Operations Division Section Commander to be selected by the Support Operations Division Commander; the Training Section Commander; one (1) Corrections Bureau Section Commander selected by the Corrections Security Operations Division Commander; the Department's Training Section Supervisors and Lead Firearms Instructor; a certified defensive tactics instructor; and a certified Taser instructor when appropriate. Other Department members may be asked to participate on the committee due to subject matter and the member's expertise or certifications relevant to the subject matter.

### III. HIGH-RISK STOP

- A. The intent of this section is to offer a recommended guideline to assist an officer in making the appropriate decision for a high-risk stop. This section is not intended to limit the discretion or safety of the officer but to assist in making the appropriate decision.
- B. The stopping of a vehicle when the officer has advanced knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle contains a potentially dangerous suspect is considered a high-risk stop. Reasonable cause may be based on personal observation, knowledge of an outstanding felony warrant or want, information received via the police radio, or other means upon which the officer may reasonably rely.

Because judgment calls and decisions are made daily based on information obtained by the officer, this information must clearly justify the actions taken.

**IV. PURSUITS**

A. The purpose of this Section is to establish a policy that will enable commissioned members to safely and effectively pursue suspects.

1. Members shall comply with provisions of Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 28, when involved in pursuits.
2. During pursuits, the safety of bystanders, the violator, and the member shall be given a higher priority than the apprehension of the violator(s)/suspect(s).

B. Definitions

1. **AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE:** A departmental vehicle equipped with operable emergency lights and siren as authorized by law.
2. **FULLY MARKED UNIT:** A departmental patrol vehicle that is marked with Department insignias, safety striping, and equipped with a functioning overhead light bar and siren.
3. **PURSUIT:** An active attempt by law enforcement, in authorized emergency vehicles, to capture suspects who by means of speed or other evasive actions, are attempting to avoid apprehension.
4. **ROAD SPIKES SYSTEM:** A Department authorized device designed to be placed physically across a roadway directly in the path of a vehicle in order to deflate its tires and stop the vehicle in a controlled manner.

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V. National Incident Management System

In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 and the Pima County Board of Supervisors' resolution 2005-179, the Pima County Sheriff's Department will employ the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for all major incidents.