



MOD-83-0000118-A

# USE OF FORCE

## THE POLICE USE OF FORCE IS TO ACHIEVE CONTROL

### CRITERIA FOR USE OF FORCE

The use of Force must be reasonable. It is possible to demonstrate the use of force was reasonable by two methods.

1. **JUSTIFICATION.** The level of force must be appropriate to the degree of resistance exhibited by the offender.
2. **PRECLUSION.** Other force options must have been attempted and failed, or have been considered and found to be inappropriate under the circumstances.

OFFENDER BEHAVIOUR: Compliance → Verbal resistance and Gestures → Passive resistance → Active resistance → Assaultive resistance → Serious resistance.

REASONABLE RESPONSE: Presence → Tactical comms → Primary control skills (arm-locks etc) → Secondary control skills → Defensive tactics (strikes) → Deadly force.

### OFFENDER SIGNALS

By learning these signals you will give yourself a significant advantage.

#### Warning signs

Direct prolonged eye contact	Facial colour darkens
Head is back	Subject stands tall to maximise height
Kicking the ground	Large movements close to officer esp hands
Breathing rate accelerates	Abruptly Stopping or starting some form of Behaviour

#### Danger signs

You must understand and recognise these signals, they are indicative of imminent attack.

Danger signs are more than warning signs. Aggressors begin to lose control physically. When this occurs their physical signals are significant and spontaneous.

Fists clenching/ unclenching	Facial colour pales
Lips tighten over teeth	Head drops forward to protect throat
Eyebrows drop to protect eyes	Hands rise above waist
Shoulders tense	Stance moves from square to sideways
Aggressor breaks stare and looks at intended body targets	
If they are out of reach the final signal of attack will be a lowering of the whole body before moving forward into attack	

### POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA

When offenders offer resistance to police officers there is always a risk of injury to both parties. Recent research indicated there is a phenomenon called Positional Asphyxia.

Positional Asphyxia is likely to occur when: **A subject is in a position that interferes with inhalation and/ or exhalation and cannot escape that position.**

This can occur extremely rapidly and is potentially **Fatal**. There are documented cases of this happening within 4 to 7 minutes.

In all cases where an offender is under control by mechanical restraints or otherwise, they must be moved from the prone position. Sitting, kneeling or standing the person up is acceptable. Prisoners **must not** be transported in a prone, face down position.

### EXCITED DELIRIUM

In simple terms this is when a person exhibits violent behaviour in a bizarre and manic way rather than just being simply violent.

Persons suffering from Excited Delirium can die suddenly during, or shortly after, a violent struggle – while at hospital or in custody.

A person with excited delirium will be abnormally strong, abnormally tolerant to pain, their skin may be hot to touch, or they may be hallucinating, hiding, running around or pulling their clothes off and they may suddenly become subdued or collapse after a bout of extreme violence. Remember they may continue to be extremely violent in spite of the use of handcuffs, sprays or batons.

Any person you believe may be suffering from excited delirium should be treated as a :

MEDICAL EMERGENCY  
and be medically examined immediately.

### EDGED WEAPONS

An edged weapon is anything which can be used to stab or slash, if faced by a person with an edged weapon of any type:

### **THINK**

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>C</b> Create distance | Increase your reactionary gap   |
| <b>U</b> Use cover       | Furniture, car, fence etc       |
| <b>T</b> Transmit        | Call for assistance immediately |