Custody Operations Directives

• 2026 Directives

• • 26-001 Video Review and Advisement RESCINDED 09.09.26

RESCINDED ON 09/09/26, SUPERSEDED BY CDM 7-07/005.00 VIDEO REVIEW AND ADVISEMENT 08.13.26

• • 26-002 Handling Non-Categorized Incidents

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

CUSTODY OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE

Custody Support Services

CUSTODY DIRECTIVE: 26-002 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 9, 2026

ISSUED FOR: CUSTODY OPERATIONS

HANDLING NON-CATEGORIZED INCIDENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish new procedures for low level use of force incidents where there is no injury or complaint of pain from the inmate. These types of incidents will be referred to as Non-Categorized Incidents (NCI).

OVERVIEW

An NCI is any of the following uses of force:

- Resisted hobble application;
- Resisted searching and handcuffing techniques;

- Resisted firm grip, control holds, come-alongs, or control techniques.
    - Examples include, but are not limited to, pushing/pulling a resistive inmate into a cell; pushing an advancing/hostile inmate away in order to create a safe distance; pushing/pulling an inmate who grabs onto a fixed object in order to avoid being handcuffed

When there is **NO** injury or complaint of pain from the inmate once the force incident has concluded, and there are no allegations of excessive force or misconduct.

PROCEDURES

Involved Employees' Responsibilities

- Follow current established use of force reporting procedures for notifications.
- At the handling sergeant's direction, only **one** of the involved employees shall write a force report documenting the incident, specifically identifying the inmate's actions and the actions (if observed) of **all** involved personnel. The report should be written on the current Custody Division Deputy's Use of Force Report Memorandum, unless an Incident Report (SH-R-49) is being written, which will document the actions of the involved employee(s) pertaining to the use of force.

Handling Sergeant's Responsibilities

- Ensure the inmate receives a documented medical evaluation as soon as practical.
- Conduct an inquiry into the incident (speak to involved personnel, witness inmates, and non-employee witnesses).
- Review recorded footage of the incident (if available).
- Notify the watch commander of the incident and obtain their approval to handle the incident as an NCI.
- Identify and direct an involved deputy or custody assistant to author a Deputy's Use of Force Memorandum, if no criminal Incident Report (SH-R-49) is being written, which would document the use of force and any de-escalation efforts.
- As only one involved employee shall be responsible for authoring a report, deputies and custody assistants should be advised to document the incident in their personal notebook. This documentation may assist in instances where the NCI is re-categorized and subsequent reports shall be required from all involved custody personnel.
- Record the involved inmate(s) and non-sworn witness interviews (such as medical personnel, maintenance workers, mental health personnel, inmates who witnessed, etc.).
- Complete the NCI Report (SH-J-438N).
- Complete a Force Tracking (e-FORCE) entry and Preliminary Data Entry (PDE) for the incident.

Statistical code 506 shall be used for all NCI incidents. NCIs requiring an Incident Report (SH-R-49) shall include the corresponding criminal statistical code as part of the Uniform Reporting Number (URN) and 506 as a supplemental statistical code.

The sergeant handling the incident shall upload the completed NCI Report (SH-J-438N), Incident Report (SH-R-49), if applicable, Deputy's Use of Force Memorandum, Use of Force Medical Report (SH-J-212F), and all related video documentation to the Division NCI Shared File (\\RSV-1TTCF-P1\TTCF_Sharedfiles). The hard copy of the NCI package should be submitted to the handling unit's operations for processing.

Sergeants who witness, plan, or direct the NCI use of force can conduct the inquiry and complete the NCI Report (SH-J-438N). In instances when a sergeant is an involved employee in the use of force, another sergeant shall be designated to complete the NCI Report (SH-J-438N) and package.

Refer to the *Supervisor's Non-Categorized Incident User's Guide* for further information on how to properly complete the form.

Watch Commander's Responsibilities

- Determine if the incident meets the criteria of an NCI
- Interview the involved inmate using the same protocol outlined in Custody Division Manual (CDM) section 7-07/000.00, "Use of Force Review Procedures"
- As soon as practical, review the completed suspect interview video to ensure:
- The video recorder captured the interview
- The inmate's responses can be clearly heard
- The inmate does not appear to have any visible signs of injury
- The inmate has no complaint of pain
- There are no other risk management issues.
- In the event the inmate refuses to answer any questions regarding their injuries, an attempt shall be made to gain cooperation from him/her to video tape their head, upper torso, lower torso, extremities, and back to verify no injury occurred or exists.
- Approve the incident as an NCI and allow the handling sergeant to proceed with the NCI reporting procedures.
- If the watch commander believes the incident may pose any risk management issues related to the use of force, there is an allegation of misconduct, or the video reveals a material difference from custody personnel's verbal account of the incident, the incident should be investigated as a categorized force incident using the appropriate Custody Operations Supervisor's Report on Use of Force (SH-R-438CO) documentation.
- Document the incident in the Watch Commanders' Log

In the event the subject complains of pain or has a visible injury at a later date (via Inmate Request/Grievance, Doctor's Line, or any other methods of communication), the NCI may be upgraded to a categorized use of force. The appropriate Custody Operations Supervisor's Report on Use of Force (SH-R-438CO) documentation shall be completed. All previously obtained NCI documentation and video recordings shall be included with the categorized force investigation packet.

Unit Commander Responsibilities

The unit commander shall be responsible for maintaining a computerized shared folder for storing and tracking all documentation/~~videos~~ recordings related to an NCI occurring within their unit. The computerized shared folder should be organized by year, and calendar month to allow for efficient retrieval in the event the NCI becomes a categorized use of force.

At the completion of the unit level investigation, the unit commander shall ensure that the NCI documentation displays a "contents noted" stamp with their signature before sending it to the Discovery Unit.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to the Custody Training and Standards Bureau's (CTSB) Custody Force Response Team (CFRT) [REDACTED TEXT] or the "CTSB-CFRT Sergeants" e-mail group.

• 2025 Directives

• • 25-001 Collaboration Following Use of Force Incidents

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to ensure custody personnel author independent reports when documenting use of force incidents and refrain from collaborating with other involved personnel.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Department members who use or witness reportable force shall complete a separate and independent written report before going off-duty. To the extent practical, Department members shall be separated until they have completed their use of force reports and/or witness reports on use of force incidents.

Department members shall document all force reports based on their independent account, without referencing other involved personnel's reports and without assisting others in writing their accounts of the incident.

Watch commanders, supervising lieutenants, and unit commanders shall review the Department members' force reports to ensure they reflect each member's individual perceptions and recollections of the events and that they do not have common wording or phrasing that would suggest inappropriate collaboration on force reports.

Evidence of collaboration may include, but is not limited to, exact wording and substantially similar phrases or sentences apart from common verbiage (e.g., "The purpose of this report is…," "I reported the force I used…," etc.) common within police reports.

Refer to Custody Division Manual sections 7-06/000.00, "Use of Force Reporting Procedures" and 7-07/000.00, "Use of Force Review Procedures" for further information.

Any questions regarding this directive should be directed to the Custody Training and Standards Bureau at [REDACTED TEXT].

• 2024 Directives

• • 24-001 Firearm and Ammunition Storage for Non-Citizen Sworn Personnel

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
CUSTODY OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE
Custody Support Services

CUSTODY DIRECTIVE: 24-001
DATE: 02/27/24

ISSUED FOR: CUSTODY OPERATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to familiarize personnel with California State Senate Bill 960 and establish procedures for the security/storage of Department-issued firearms and ammunition for sworn personnel who have not obtained United States citizenship.

BACKGROUND

In September 2022, California State Senate Bill 960 amended Government Code section 1031 to eliminate the United States citizenship or legal residency requirements for peace officers. Government Code section 1031 now provides that peace officers must "be legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law." Pursuant to 18 USC 922(g)(5)(A), it is unlawful for a person who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States to possess any firearm or ammunition. However, pursuant to 18 USC 925(a)(1), this prohibition does not apply to the possession of firearms or ammunition issued for the use of the County through the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and used exclusively for its purposes.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

In order to comply with federal law, the following policy and procedures shall apply to sworn personnel who have not obtained United States citizenship.

The possession and use of Department-issued firearms (i.e., handgun, patrol shotgun, and patrol rifle [when trained and within policy limitations]) and ammunition is restricted to while on-duty and performing official duties as a Deputy Sheriff. While off-duty and not in the performance of official duties, personnel shall not be authorized to possess, transport, and/or purchase any firearm or ammunition.

Personnel shall be responsible for storing and securing their Department-issued firearms and ammunition at their unit of assignment at the end of their shift. Unit commanders shall ensure facilities develop unit orders addressing the storage and security of such weapons and ammunition (e.g., individually issued gun lockers, personal locker, unit safe, etc.).

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to Custody Support Services Bureau at [REDACTED TEXT].

• • 24-002 Documentation of Grievances Against Staff in the Custody Inmate Grievance Application (CIGA)

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
CUSTODY OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE
Custody Support Services

CUSTODY DIRECTIVE: 24-002 DATE: 04-10-24

ISSUED FOR: CUSTODY OPERATIONS

DOCUMENTATION OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST STAFF IN THE CUSTODY INMATE GRIEVANCE APPLICATION (CIGA)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to update procedures for the documentation of grievances against staff in the Custody Inmate Grievance Application (CIGA) to ensure accurate data is being reported on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis, and to ensure an accurate reflection of each respective unit's workload.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

In accordance with Custody Division Manual (CDM) sections 4-01/025.05, "Electronic Line Operations Tracking System (e-LOTS)" and 8-03/040.00, "Grievances Against Staff," all custody facilities shall use the Electronic Line Operations Tracking System (e-LOTS) to record and track their Use of Force packages, prevented uses of force, alleged use of force investigations, extended inquiries resulting from inmate grievances against staff, and compassionate releases of inmates.

On June 1, 2023, CIGA replaced the Custody Automated Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) grievance application which resulted in the following procedural changes:

All grievances against staff, including those which result in an administrative investigation, shall be tracked in CIGA only. The administrative investigation resulting from the grievance shall be tracked in e-LOTS under Project Type "Admin Investigation." The e-LOTS number associated with the administrative investigation shall be added to the "Identifiers" section of the corresponding grievance in CIGA. At the conclusion of the investigation, the final disposition shall be updated to the corresponding grievance to reflect "closed" in CIGA.

Any grievances entered into the CARTS grievance application which remained unresolved after the CIGA

implementation on June 1, 2023, shall be entered and updated in CIGA with all relevant information from e-LOTS. The e-LOTS number shall be added to the “Identifiers” section of the concerned grievance.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to Custody Support Services Bureau at (213) 893-5102.

• 2023 Directives

• • 23-001 Prohibition of Disciplinary Diet

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

CUSTODY OPERATIONS

Custody Support Services

Custody Directive: 23-001 Date: March 9, 2023

Issued For: Custody Operations

PROHIBITION OF DISCIPLINARY DIET

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to inform Custody Services Division personnel of changes in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 15, that prohibit the use of disciplinary diets within custody facilities.

ORDER

On January 1, 2023, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) adopted changes to Title 15 that effectively prohibits the use of disciplinary diets in custody facilities (rescission of section 1247 – Disciplinary Separation Diet, and revisions to sections 1082 – Forms of Discipline and 1106 – Disciplinary Procedures).

In accordance with these changes to the law, the use of disciplinary diets within Custody Services Division facilities is prohibited, effective immediately. All inmates, including those in disciplinary housing, shall receive all required meals in accordance with Title 15 sections 1240 – Frequency of Serving and 1241 – Minimum Diet.

This directive shall remain in effect pending the revision of related Custody Division Manual sections and shall supersede any existing invalid sections or orders.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to Custody Support Services Bureau[REDACTED TEXT].

• • 23-002 Video Review and Advisement *RESCINDED 03/18/26*

RESCINDED ON 03/18/26. REPLACED WITH COD 26-001 VIDEO REVIEW AND ADVISEMENT.

• • 23-003 Custody Force Investigations Team



CUSTODY DIRECTIVE: 23-003
DATE: 12/14/23

ISSUED FOR: CUSTODY OPERATIONS

CUSTODY FORCE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to establish procedures for the completion of designated Use of Force Investigations following incidents that occur in Custody Division facilities.

ORDER

The Custody Force Investigations Team is comprised of sergeants designated to complete the Use of Force Investigations for the following incidents:

- Any incidents requested by executive staff to be investigated by the Custody Force Investigations Team
- All Category 2 Use of Force incidents including, but not limited to:
  - Any head strikes
  - Any use of personal weapons
  - Taser applications

  - Major and minor inmate disturbances
  - Inmates struck by special weapons (i.e. pepperball, FN-303, Arwen)
  - Significant injury to an inmate as a result of force
- Any use of O.C. spray on a restrained inmate
- Significant injury to staff (regardless of category)
- Force on a pregnant inmate (regardless of category)

Responsibilities of the Initiating Facility

The initiating facility will be responsible for completing the following within 24 hours of the use of force incident:

- Drawing the uniform reporting number (URN), reference number, and the Electronic Line Operations Tracking System (e-LOTS) data entry
- Authoring and disseminating the Incident Alert
- Collecting, correcting, and approving the following:
  - Incident Report (SH-R-49)
  - Use of Force Memorandum (if no SH-R-49 was submitted)
  - Supplemental Report
  - Use of Force Medical Report (SH-J-212F)
  - WRAP Restraint Security Check Log (SH-J-480), if applicable
  - Inmate Safety Chair Security Check Log (SH-R-637), if applicable
  - Watch Commander's Inmate Extraction Checklist (SH-J-456), if applicable
- Completing the first four pages of the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force (SH-R-438P)
- Downloading the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and handheld recordings of the incident
- Photographing injuries of all involved parties
- Conducting the Watch Commander's Post Force interview
- Conducting witness interviews
- Providing a signed copy of the in-service roster
- Providing the inmate inventory by permanent housing location (purge)

Responsibilities of the Custody Force Investigations Team

The Custody Force Investigations Team will be responsible for the following:

- Completing the Supervisor's Report on Use of Force (SH-R-438S)
- Coordinating with the initiating facility for corrections or video admonishments as needed
- Submitting the Use of Force Package to the watch commander for review
- Attending the weekly Chief's Force Review meetings
- Attending Complex Case Committee meetings

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to Custody Operations Administration, Lieutenant [REDACTED TEXT] Gonzalez, at [REDACTED TEXT].

• 2022 Directives

• • 22-004 Suspension of Video and Audio Retention Policies

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
CUSTODY OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE
Custody Support Services

Custody Directive: 22-004 Date: May 9, 2022

Issued For: Custody Operations

SUSPENSION OF VIDEO AND AUDIO RETENTION POLICIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to suspend Department and Division video and audio retention policies and order all Custody Operations personnel to preserve all video and/or audio recordings until the suspension of retention policies is lifted.

ORDER

The State of California Attorney General has directed the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. This investigation triggers important legal obligations, including preserving all potentially relevant materials in response to this investigation and/or reasonably anticipated litigation.

Accordingly, to avoid any spoliation of potential evidence, Custody Operations personnel **shall** retain all video and audio recordings presently in their possession. Until further notice, all normal policies regarding video and/or audio retention or destruction shall be suspended. Personnel shall not alter, remove, or modify any video or audio recordings in their possession.

This mandate also extends to, but is not limited to, any video or audio recordings on any County and/or Department issued computer, laptop, or handheld electronic device. It also extends to video and/or audio recordings from any device, including personal devices, used in the scope of employment.

The existence of copies elsewhere or identical copies in possession of third parties (i.e. contract attorneys) will not excuse any destruction of video or audio recordings.

Additionally, if any employees leave the Sheriff's Department's employment during this investigation, unit

commanders shall take the necessary steps to protect and preserve the evidence retained by that employee.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to Custody Support Services Bureau[REDACTED TEXT].

• • 22-005 Updated Procedures for the Use of the Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
CUSTODY OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE
Custody Support Services

CUSTODY DIRECTIVE: 22-005 DATE: January 2, 2024

ISSUED FOR: CUSTODY OPERATIONS

UPDATED PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF THE CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON (CEW)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive (COD) is to update Custody Services Division use of force procedures delineated in Custody Division Manual (CDM) section 7-08/030.00, "Electronic Immobilization Device (TASER) Procedures," pertaining to use of the Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), previously referred to as the electronic immobilization device (TASER).

Department personnel assigned to and/or working in any Custody Services Division facility, Sheriff's Department station jail, or Court Services Division courthouse lock-up shall adhere to the procedures below.

ORDER

CEWs are designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject from a safer distance than other force options, while reducing the likelihood of death or serious injury. Any use of force, however, including the use of a CEW, involves risks that a subject may be injured or die due to the effects of the CEW, physical incapacitation, physical exertion, unforeseen circumstances, or individual susceptibilities.

As with all use of force, a Department member's activation of a CEW against a person must be objectively reasonable. The CEW shall only be used to facilitate a safe and effective response to situations which jeopardize the safety of personnel, inmates, the public, and/or the security and operations of custody facilities, station jails, or courthouse lockup areas.

The CEW shall not be used in a manner that contradicts the manufacturer's recommendations or Department training.

When time and circumstances permit, the inmate's medical records and mental health records shall be checked before a CEW is used against the inmate. A CEW shall not be used if it is contra-indicated in the inmate's medical records unless it is necessary to prevent imminent loss of life or serious bodily injury.

Personnel discharging a CEW in a custody facility shall, when feasible, request the response of a sergeant. Personnel discharging a CEW in a Sheriff's Department station jail or Court Services Division courthouse lock-up shall, when feasible, request the response of a sergeant or designated supervisor.

DEFINITIONS

Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW): A device that uses propelled probes and wires or direct contact to conduct electrical energy to affect the sensory and motor functions of the nervous system.

Probe Mode: Utilizes a combination of processes to propel two probes on wires from a cartridge. The CEW sends a measured electrical charge to the subject via these small wires and probes.

Drive Stun Mode: The front electrodes on the CEW, or the electrodes on an expended cartridge attached to the front of the CEW, are brought into direct contact (bare skin or over clothing) with a subject's body to deliver a localized electrical charge. Drive stun mode by itself may only affect the sensory nerves and may not produce neuromuscular incapacitation as when probe mode or a three-point drive stun are employed.

Three-Point Drive Stun: Using a CEW in drive stun mode, to complete or supplement a closed circuit created by a CEW used in probe mode. When one of the probes has missed the subject, the drive stun mode can be employed to create the second point of contact. When both probes have made contact, the follow-up drive stun allows a third point of contact that can provide a wider separation between contact points thus increasing the effectiveness of the CEW application.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR USE

Department members assigned to Custody Services Division facilities, Sheriff's station jails, or Court Services Division courthouse lockups should attempt to de-escalate situations before using a CEW, consistent with CDM section 7-01/010.00, "Force Prevention Principles."

Personnel shall adhere to the below additional requirements and guidance for the use of a CEW:

- Personnel shall only use a Department-approved CEW.
- Personnel must successfully complete the Department's CEW training program presented under the direction of the Custody Training and Standards Bureau (CTSB).
- Personnel are required to maintain current certification for use of a CEW.
- Custody assistants assigned to a Custody Services Division facility may not use a CEW, even if previously trained on the weapon by another division within the Department.
- Custody assistants assigned to either a station jail (Patrol Operations Divisions) or a court lock-up (Court Services Division) may use a CEW as permitted by policies for those divisions.

- Personnel issued or assigned to carry a CEW, shall carry the CEW on their person while on-duty.
- Confusing a handgun with a CEW could result in death or serious injury. Department personnel should not hold both a firearm and a CEW at the same time.
- Personnel shall carry the CEW in a Department-approved CEW holster on the non-gun side in a manner forcing a cross draw or off-hand draw, as specified in the Department-approved CEW training program.
- Personnel authorized to wear a tactical vest may carry the CEW within the vest, to be worn opposite the side of the firearm.
- The investigating supervisor is responsible for ensuring the information from the CEWs that were used, are downloaded and the download printouts are submitted with the Supervisor's Use of Force Report (SH-AD 438).

PERSONALLY OWNED CEW

Department personnel who purchase a CEW shall only carry Department-authorized CEWs whether on or off-duty. Department personnel shall only use personally owned CEWs in accordance with this COD.

Personnel may carry personally owned CEWs after approval of their unit commander and after inspection by CTSB.

Personally owned CEWs shall be numerically identifiable and available for computer download upon the request of a supervisor or during regular download intervals as defined in CDM section 7-08/030.05, "TASER Download Procedures."

Department personnel shall record all personally owned Department-authorized CEWs (carried on-duty and off-duty) with the Personnel Administration Bureau when the devices are purchased, obtained, sold, disposed of, lost, or stolen.

SHIFT PREPARATION AND SPARK TEST

All CEWs shall be marked to differentiate them from firearms and any other device as prescribed by the Department's Weapons Training Unit.

Personnel shall maintain their assigned or personally owned CEW in good working order:

- At the beginning of every shift, personnel shall remove the cartridge (if applicable) and conduct a spark test (display the electrical arc) to test the function of the CEW. Personnel shall complete this spark test in a safe manner and outside the presence of inmates. Completing a spark test in a safe manner means pointing the device in a safe direction and, if applicable, removing the cartridge and setting it down at least two inches from the device before starting the spark test.
- Personnel shall log the time of the spark test, the estimated remaining battery life, and the name of the employee conducting the spark test within the "Additional Information" section of the e-UDAL/UDAL.
- Personnel shall log any additional discharges of the CEW during the shift in the e-UDAL/UDAL and state the reason for the discharge (e.g., CEW successfully tested by Dep. Smith (#601010) at 1114 hours in the staff station re: new battery).

VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

Unless it would compromise the safety of personnel or is impractical under the totality of the circumstances, personnel shall give a verbal warning of the intended use of the CEW before activating the device in either probe or drive stun mode in order to:

- Provide the inmate with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply; and
- Provide other personnel and individuals with a warning that a CEW may be activated.

In addition to a verbal warning, and if it appears both reasonable and practical under the circumstances, personnel may display the electrical arc (spark test) as a visual warning in a further attempt to gain compliance. If the CEW is used in this manner, and the CEW is not later used upon an inmate, personnel shall verbally notify their immediate supervisor of the permanent rank of sergeant (or higher). That supervisor will determine whether the verbal or visual warning prevented a use of force and will document that prevention per CDM section 7-01/010.05, "Reporting Prevented Uses of Force."

Personnel shall document whether they did or did not give a verbal warning in any related reports. Clear articulation about why personnel did not give a verbal warning is required. Merely using phrases such as, “element of surprise was needed” or “for deputy safety” will not be considered sufficient articulation.

USING A CEW AGAINST AN INMATE

Personnel may only use a CEW on an inmate who is posing an immediate threat to themselves or others when the circumstances perceived by personnel at the time indicate the CEW application is objectively reasonable to control the inmate. It may be appropriate to use a CEW when an inmate:

- is violent; and/or
- has demonstrated, by words or actions, an intention to be violent, and reasonably appears presently capable of causing physical harm to themselves, Department personnel who approach within contact range, or others.

The use of a CEW on inmates in certain situations should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to Department personnel, the inmate, or others, and the Department member reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. These situations include:

- Handcuffed inmates or inmates otherwise restrained unless the inmate is assaultive and presents an immediate threat of injury to a Department member or another person, and unless there are no other more reasonable means to control the inmate.
- Inmates detained in a police vehicle.
- Inmates in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
- Inmates near flammable or combustible materials or fumes.
- Inmates near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
- Inmates believed to have a cardiac pacemaker.
- Inmates on an elevated platform (e.g., bunk, staircase, ladder, wall, roof, ledge, walkway, balcony, etc.).
- Inmates believed to be pregnant, unless deadly force is justified.
- Inmates who appear infirm or with obviously low body mass; and/or

- Inmates with known medical conditions, which may be aggravated or affected by the use of a CEW.

Each individual activation of the CEW must be in response to an immediate threat posed by the inmate. A subsequent activation may not be justified even seconds later if the immediate threat giving rise to the initial use of force has been eliminated and no other immediate threat is identified.

Depending on the placement of the probes, an inmate may not be able to physically respond to further instructions. A mere failure to respond to instructions is not sufficient justification for additional CEW discharges.

CEW exposure causes certain effects, including physiologic and metabolic changes, stress, and pain. According to the manufacturer, in some individuals the risk of death or serious injury may increase with cumulative CEW exposure. Repeated, prolonged, or continuous CEW applications may contribute to cumulative exhaustion, stress, cardiac, physiologic, metabolic, respiratory, and associated medical risks, which could increase the risk of death or serious injury.

Personnel should minimize repeated, continuous, or simultaneous exposures. Unless it would compromise the safety of personnel or is impractical under the totality of the circumstances, personnel must give the inmate a reasonable amount of time to recover from any application before activating it on the inmate again. The goal is to provide the inmate with a reasonable opportunity to consider the consequences of a refusal to comply with commands and allow for voluntary compliance.

If the CEW is not achieving its intended goal, other control techniques may be more appropriate as determined by the inmate’s actions and/or threat level. In these cases, personnel are encouraged to transition to a different force option or tactic that may have better results.

When possible, personnel should avoid targeting the frontal chest area near the heart to reduce the risk of potential serious injury or death. According to the manufacturer, the preferred target areas on a subject's front are lower center mass (below the chest) and the preferred target areas on a subject's back are below the neck area. When feasible, back shots are preferable to front shots. Department members should make reasonable efforts to avoid hitting other sensitive areas (i.e., face, eyes, head, throat, breast, groin, genitals, or areas with a known pre-existing injury).

The CEW shall not be used in any mode as a means of pain compliance upon an inmate who is only passively resisting. An inmate is passively resisting when they offer no physical or mechanical resistance to low-level physical contact but refuse to act or respond to verbal directions to stand up or move.

Merely running away from a pursuing Department member, absent any additional circumstances or factors, is not a justified reason for the use of a CEW to apprehend the inmate.

Personnel who have discharged a CEW on an inmate shall request the response of a supervisor if a supervisor has not been previously requested or is not already on-scene.

MEDICAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT

Personnel shall provide immediate first aid care, if needed, to an inmate who has been subjected to an application of CEW.

Personnel shall monitor the inmate subjected to an application of a CEW and immediately summon paramedics or other qualified medical personnel if:

- The inmate is exhibiting signs of distress or otherwise appears to be in need of medical attention.
- The inmate was exposed to prolonged and/or multiple applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds for a prolonged application and any length of time for multiple applications);
- The inmate is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- The inmate is believed to be pregnant.
- The CEW device probes are lodged in a sensitive area, (e.g., eye, groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- The inmate requests medical treatment.
- The inmate exhibits extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, imperviousness to pain, or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple personnel to gain control.
    - NOTE: When possible, medical personnel shall be summoned prior to the application of the CEW any time an inmate exhibits the above signs and symptoms.

Any inmate subjected to an application of a CEW, in either the probe or drive stun mode, shall be medically evaluated and/or treated at an appropriate medical facility and medically cleared for housing.

Personnel transporting or accompanying an inmate to an outside medical facility shall inform those providing medical care that the inmate has been subjected to an application of a CEW.

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove CEW probes from an inmate’s body. Personnel shall treat used CEW probes as a "sharps" biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and use universal precautions when handling them.

Personnel shall document it in any related reports if they witness the refusal of medical attention by a person subjected to an application of a CEW.

EVIDENCE COLLECTION

In all cases where personnel have used a CEW in probe mode, personnel shall collect and submit into evidence the expended cartridge, along with both probes (after medical removal) and wire. Personnel shall collect these items whether or not the probes hit the person. In all such cases, personnel should cover the sharp end of the probe with cardboard or some other rigid material to prevent the probe from puncturing the evidence package, and clearly label the package with the word “SHARP” and "BIOHAZARD" (if the probes made contact with a person's skin or bodily fluids).

If practical, personnel shall photograph any embedded probes prior to medical removal. After medical removal of any probes, personnel shall take photographs of the probe strike locations and/or any marks resulting from a drive stun.

Personnel shall photograph any probes lodged in clothing or inanimate objects as well as any deflection/ricochet marks.

Personnel shall note the serial number in their reports of any cartridges booked into evidence.

Personnel should handle misfired cartridges (where the probes have not deployed after activation) with care and package them in a rigid container to prevent an accidental discharge.

CONTENT OF REPORTS

The following information shall be included in the incident report (SH-AD-49) and/or related reports:

- Date, time, and location of incident.
- The number of activations, the duration of each cycle, and the duration between activations.
- The estimated distance between the inmate and Department personnel when the CEW was activated, and where the inmate ended up after activation.
- The type of mode (probe or drive stun).
- Location of any probe impact.
- Location or area of the body where personnel applied the drive stun mode.
- Description of where missed probes went, if applicable.
- A description of the medical evaluation and/or treatment.
- Whether the inmate sustained any injuries.
- Whether any Department personnel sustained any injuries.
- Date, time, and identity of the person who downloaded the data from the CEW; and
- Efforts made to de-escalate prior to use of the CEW.

The policies and procedures outlined in this directive shall remain in effect until the concerned CDM section is revised and/or this directive is rescinded.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to Custody Support Services Bureau at [REDACTED TEXT].

• 2021 Directives

• • 21-005 Reporting Inmate Requests to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

CUSTODY OPERATIONS

Custody Support Services

Custody Directive: 21-005 Date: December 8, 2021

Issued For: Custody Operations

REPORTING INMATE REQUESTS TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Custody Operations Directive is to familiarize custody personnel with the procedure for notifying Correctional Health Services (CHS) personnel regarding an inmate's request to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

ORDER

As part of Custody Operations' response to COVID-19, inmates are afforded multiple opportunities to request the COVID-19 vaccine, including written requests utilizing the medical request form, the inmate request form, and verbal requests to any health care personnel inmates may encounter. In addition, inmates may make a request to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to custody personnel.

When an inmate requests the vaccine from custody personnel, custody personnel shall immediately notify the Medical Command Center (MCC) via telephone by calling [REDACTED TEXT]. They shall inform MCC personnel of the request, and provide them with the inmate's name, booking number, and housing location, and any other information MCC personnel may request. Custody personnel shall log the notification in the medical events section of the electronic Uniform Daily Activity Log (e-UDAL), and record the inmate's information and the name and employee number of the MCC personnel notified.

This procedure shall remain in effect for the duration of the Department's response to COVID-19.

Questions regarding this directive should be directed to the Access to Care Bureau at [REDACTED TEXT].