



# USE OF FORCE MATRIX

## ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Use of Force - Levels of Resistance

Resistance Levels	1	2	3	4	5	6			
6 Aggravated Physical	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
5 Aggressive Physical	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
4 Active Physical	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3 Passive Physical	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2 Verbal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
1 Presence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Presence	Interview Stance Dialogue	Verbal Direction Touch	Restraint Devices Chemical Agent	Transporters Take Downs Pain Compliance REACT	Counter Moves Weapons/ECD Incapacitation Intermediate	Deadly		
	<i>Communicative Presence</i>	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Physical Control</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

Checked areas represent suggested, acceptable, beginning response levels. Any response in an unchecked area required explanation. Refer to the definitions for each level of resistance, response and the determining factors when articulating the explanation.

### Response Levels

Response Levels	Use of Defensive Tactics/K-9/Firearm Form	Incident Report
1 Presence	No	
2 Field Interview Stance	No	
2 Dialogue	No	
2 Verbal Direction	No	
2 Touch	No	
3 Transporters	No (Yes: If injuries - known or suspect)	Yes
3 Pain Compliance	No (Yes: If injuries - known or suspect)	Yes
3 Take Downs	No (Yes: If injuries - known or suspect)	Yes
3 Restraint Devices	No (Yes: If injuries - known or suspect)	Yes
3 Counter Moves	No (Yes: If injuries - known or suspect)	Yes
3 Chemical Agent/IPD	Yes	Yes
3 REACT	Yes	Yes
4 Intermediate Weapons/ECD	Yes	Yes
5 Incapacitation	Yes	Yes
6 DEADLY FORCE	Yes	Yes

*The Use of Force Matrix is comprised of Subject Resistance Levels and Officer Response Levels which incorporate the following:*

### **Subject Resistance Levels**

*Presence* - no physical harm: A subject is there, on the scene, with accompanying suspicious activity.

*Verbal Resistance* - no physical harm: A subject may verbally refuse to comply with a deputy's requests or attempts to control the situation. The subject may threaten the deputy with further resistance. Or, the subject may not verbally respond to the deputy.

*Passive Physical Resistance* - slight physical harm: A subject physically refuses to comply or respond to a deputy's command. He/she does not make any attempt to physically defeat the actions of the deputy but forces the deputy to employ physical maneuvers or the chemical agent to establish control.

*Active Physical Resistance* - slight to moderate physical harm: A subject makes physically evasive movements to defeat a deputy's attempt at control. This may be in the form of bracing or tensing, attempts to push/pull away or not allowing the deputy to get close to him/her.

*Aggressive Physical Resistance* - moderate physical harm: A subject makes overt, hostile, attacking movements which may cause injury, but are not likely to cause death or great bodily harm to the deputy or others.

*Aggravated Physical Resistance* - great bodily harm: A subject makes overt, hostile, attacking movements with or without a weapon with the apparent ability to cause death or great bodily harm to the deputy or others.

### **Officer Response Levels**

*Command Presence* - no potential for physical harm

*Presence*: The deputy is there, on the scene, with the subject. This includes proper voice and/or other identification, body language, and awareness by the subject that he/she is dealing with a deputy.

*Field Interview Stance*: The deputy adopts a stance outside of his/her danger zone that provides appropriate protection and forms the basis of an effective physical response if attacked. In such a stance, the firearm or strong side leg is back; the non-firearm or weak side leg is forward; the feet are about shoulder width apart; knees slightly bent giving balance, control and a lower body center of gravity; equally distributed body weight, and the hands are up for guarding the upper body.

*Communication* - no potential for physical harm

*Dialogue*: A two-way, controlled, nonemotional communication between the deputy and subject, aimed at problem identification and/or resolution.

*Verbal Direction*: A deputy tells or commands a subject to engage in or refrain from a specific action or nonaction.

*Touch*: A touch used to comfort or console a distraught individual. A deputy may use a soft assisting touch when guiding, directing or obtaining the attention of a subject, or a firm, strong touch prior to escalating to a higher level of force.

*Physical Control* - slight potential for physical harm

*Restraint Devices*: Mechanical tools used to restrict a subject's movement and facilitate searching, such as handcuffs, flex cuffs, leg irons, belly chains, optional nylon restraining devices, etc.

*Chemical Agent Individual Protection Device*: Aerosol spray agent used to subdue a subject.

*Transporters*: Techniques used to control and/or move a subject from point A to point B with minimum effort by the deputy in order to gain and retain control over the subject.

*Take Downs*: Techniques that redirect, in a controlled manner, a subject to the ground in order to limit his/her physical resistance and to facilitate the application of a restraint device.

*Pain Compliance*: Techniques that force a subject to comply with a deputy as a result of the deputy inflicting controlled pain upon specific joints in the subject's body, such as pressure point techniques.

*REACT*: A device that is designed to deliver a controlled amount of electrical current to subdue a subject. Examples of these devices include the R.E.A.C.T. belt.

*Counter Moves*: Techniques that impede a subject's movement, such as blocking, striking, distracting, kicking, parrying, dodging, weaving, re-directing, or avoiding, followed by appropriate controlling techniques.

*Intermediate Weapons/ECD* - slight to moderate potential for physical harm

*Impact Weapons* that are primarily used to control a subject such as an expandable baton or side handle baton, flashlight, clipboard or any other item used as a weapon of opportunity.

*Incapacitation* - moderate potential for physical harm

Techniques that are intended to stun or render a subject temporarily unconscious or unable to resist. These techniques may be delivered with or without an impact weapon, such as a strike to a major nerve area.

*Deadly Force* - high potential for great bodily harm or death

Techniques that may result in death, great bodily injury, permanent disability or permanent disfigurement, such as impact weapon strikes to the head, or use of firearms as defined in F.S.S. 776.06. Deadly force techniques are a last resort.

*Additional factors that must be considered when making use of force decisions include:*

#### **Subject Factors -**

1. Seriousness of crime committed by subject.
2. Size, age and weight of subject.
3. Apparent physical ability of subject.
4. Number of suspects present who are involved, or who may become involved.
5. Weapons possessed by or available to the subject.
6. Known history of violence by subject.
7. Presence of innocent or potential victims in the area.
8. Whether the subject can be recaptured at a later time.
9. Whether evidence is likely to be destroyed.

#### **Deputy Factors -**

1. Size, physical ability, and defensive tactics expertise of the deputy.
2. Number of deputies present or available.
3. Immediate reaction in the case of sudden attack.
4. Weapons or restraint devices available to the deputy.
5. Legal requirements.
6. Agency policy.
7. Environment.

The above listed subject and deputy factors are not at all inclusive. Any and all determining factors must be properly articulated by the deputy(ies) employing physical force.