

**STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**GENERAL ORDER**

**LEG RESTRAINTS**  
**SUBJECT**

**DATE:** March 1, 2005

**NO:** Q-1i

**FROM:** CHIEF ERIC JONES

**TO:** ALL PERSONNEL

**INDEX:** Leg Restraints  
The Safe Wrap  
Safe Wrap System

**I. POLICY**

- A. The policy of the Stockton Police Department is to use reasonable force to control subjects who have been taken into custody. The Stockton Police Department has approved the use of the Safe WRAP System as the only authorized device to restrain a person's legs.
- B. The Safe WRAP is designed as a temporary restraining device, which if properly used can increase officer safety and reduce the risk of liability due to injuries and in-custody deaths. The Safe WRAP immobilizes the lower torso of the body and restricts a subject's ability to kick or do harm to themselves or others. The Safe WRAP minimizes the time required to ensure a person is safely returned to an upright position in preparation for transport by police personnel.
- C. Personnel who have received official training on the Safe WRAP are the only officers authorized to deploy the system.

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. The Safe WRAP provides a safe and quick method of controlling and immobilizing a violent or potentially violent/combative subject who has been taken into custody and is handcuffed.

**III. FIELD USE**

- A. The Safe WRAP can be used prior to or after a violent or potentially violent/combative subject is controlled using approved department procedures. It should only be used on the subject's lower torso. Like other restraining devices, the Safe WRAP is not 100% escape proof.
  - 1. Once applied, **THE SUBJECT SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED.**
- B. The Safe WRAP may be used in the following situations:
  - 1. To immobilize a violent/combative subject.
  - 2. To limit violent/combative subjects from causing injury to themselves or others.
  - 3. To prevent violent/combative subjects from causing property damage by kicking.
  - 4. To restrain subjects after a chemical spray or taser has been used.
  - 5. When conventional methods of restraint are not effective.
  - 6. In transportation of violent/combative subjects.
  - 7. To assist with cell extraction of violent/combative subjects.
  - 8. Whenever a violent/combative behavior is anticipated.
- C. Once a subject is properly restrained in the Safe WRAP, they can be placed on their side or in a sitting position to increase the oxygen recovery rate, thus reducing the potential risk of Positional Asphyxia.
  - 1. If the restrained subject is placed in a sitting position, back support should be provided.

2. Failure to supply back support may adversely affect the recovery time of the subject.

#### **IV. APPLICATION**

- A. The Safe WRAP can be applied by one person on a passive subject.
- B. If a subject is violent or combative, three or more persons will most likely be needed to safely apply the WRAP.
- C. The Safe WRAP should be applied in the following manner:
  1. While controlling the subject face down and handcuffed behind the back, the ankle strap can be placed around the ankles to help secure the legs. The Safe WRAP should be placed on the ground adjacent to the subject's legs.
  2. Either roll, lift, or adjust the subject to allow the Safe WRAP to be slipped under the subject's legs.
  3. Attach and secure the leg bands first, starting with the lower band and then working your way up. Tighten straps sufficiently to stop movement of the legs.
  4. Once the leg bands have been secured, attach the shoulder harness. Ensure that the straps are snug, however, not so tight as to interfere with the subject's ability to breathe. The "D" ring should be to the rear of the subject and centered on the back.
  5. Attach the handcuffs to the "D" ring at the rear of the harness by inserting the chain between the cuffs into the "D" ring and securing the "D" ring locking mechanism. If hinge cuffs are used and they do not fit in the "D" ring, attach the cuffs to the "D" ring with a flex cuff or similar device.
  6. Once securely restrained in the Safe WRAP, the subject can be moved into an upright seated position. The tether on the harness of the Safe WRAP is then connected to the "D" ring at the base of the WRAP. Pull the tether towards the subject bringing the individual to an upright seated position. The subject is now secure for transportation.
  7. Movement of the subject can be accomplished in two ways depending on the cooperation of the subject. The subject can either be carried or allowed to shuffle walk to the police vehicle.
    - a. To carry the subject, it is recommended that at least two, but preferably three or more personnel be used depending on the size and weight of the subject. Lift the subject by the arms and ankles. A "log lift" carrying technique may be used when moving the subject. Officers should use proper lifting techniques to prevent injury.
    - b. As an option to lifting, the subject may be moved by means of a shuffle walk. If the subject has calmed down, the lower strap of the WRAP can be loosened to allow some leg movement below the knee without compromising security or safety. By loosening the tether on the shoulder harness, the subject can be brought to a standing position with the help of officers and then allowed to shuffle his/her legs in order to get to a vehicle or holding cell.
      - (1) If this method is used, officer shall provide appropriate support to the subject to prevent them from falling.
  8. Prior to vehicle transportation, re-check all belts to ensure that they are securely fastened. The seatbelt should be used, whenever possible, to limit the movement of the subject during transportation. Whenever possible, the subject should be transported by a two officer unit. The passenger officer should observe the subject to ensure all straps remain tight and the subject suffers no medical emergencies.

#### **V. PRECAUTIONS**

- A. The shoulder harness should never be tightened in such a manner that it interferes with the subject's ability to breathe.

- B. The leg bands and shoulder harness must be checked frequently for tightness and re-tightened or loosened as necessary until the Safe WRAP has been removed by authorized personnel. Personnel should make sure there are no obvious blood flow restrictions at the subject's wrists.
- C. If the restrained subject complains of or displays signs of breathing distress (shortness of breath, sudden calmness, a change in facial color, etc.), medical attention shall be immediately provided.
- D. A subject restrained in the Safe WRAP system should never be left unattended.
- E. Subjects should be placed in an upright sitting position or on their side as soon as possible after the Safe WRAP system has been applied.

**VI. TRAINING**

Training on the Safe WRAP will be provided by authorized instructors.

**VII. CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

The Safe WRAP should be inspected by the officer after each use for signs of wear and/or fatigue. All belts should be free from tears, fraying, worn or damaged fasteners, or damaged stitching. If cleaning is necessary after use, use a mild soapy solution or other approved disinfectant such as Cavicide or Envirocide. Thoroughly rinse all disinfectant from the equipment prior to drying. The WRAP should be allowed to thoroughly air dry in an area not exposed to direct sunlight. Do not dry clean or attempt to dry the WRAP with a heated device (i.e. clothes dryer). Store the WRAP in a dry place and avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

**VIII. STORAGE AND PREPARATION FOR USE**

- A. It is extremely important that the WRAP is immediately ready for use and prepared for storage in a way that prevents the loop fastening material on the straps from becoming dirty or entangled. Once properly folded, the WRAP can be quickly laid out next to a subject and applied without having to untangle the straps. The following steps shall be followed when securing the WRAP after use:
  - 1. Lay the WRAP on a flat surface with the leg band side up and detach the shoulder harness. Lay each of the leg bands out flat.
  - 2. Individually fold each of the leg straps back onto itself so that the fold of the strap protrudes about an inch from the edge of the WRAP body.
  - 3. Be sure the retaining "D" ring on the body of the WRAP and harness is open and ready for use.
  - 4. Keeping the straps inside, roll the WRAP tightly towards the buckle and secure with the ankle strap and place in the carrying bag.
  - 5. Fully extend the harness buckles and tether. Attach buckles to its counter part and roll the harness up and place it in the carrying bag compartment.