

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT
SUBJECT

DATE: August 12, 2016

NO: Q-11

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: Physical Restraint
Carotid Restraint

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Stockton Police Department to allow its employees to use physical/carotid restraint as a defensive or control technique in those instances where a Department member is confronted with active resistance that threatens the safety of an officer or other persons when other control techniques have failed or are inappropriate and the use of deadly force may become necessary if the carotid restraint is not used.

II. PROCEDURE

1. Use of the Carotid Restraint

A. Only the carotid restraint, in which pressure is applied to the sides of a person's neck compressing the carotid arteries, is authorized. The following methods of applying a carotid restraint are expressly prohibited, unless deadly force is justified.

(1) A "Bar Arm" restraint in which pressure is applied to the front of the person's throat with the forearm.

(2) A "C-Clamp" restraint in which pressure is applied by grasping the other person's throat by the hand and squeezing.

(3) Any restraint applied by using a baton or any other object against a person's throat.

B. After resistance is overcome with the carotid restraint, the person will be handcuffed to prevent further violence. The Safe Wrap may be applied as necessary.

C. Photographs of any alleged or visible injuries shall be taken.

D. The officer's supervisor shall be notified immediately, or as soon as possible, that the carotid restraint was used.

2. Providing First-Aid After Use of the Carotid Restraint

A. If it reasonably appears a person was rendered unconscious, regardless of how briefly, as a result of the carotid restraint, the following steps shall be taken to ensure the safety of the person.

(1) Check the person's breathing and heartbeat at the scene.

(2) If required, administer first-aid or request medical personnel respond to the scene.

(3) Officers will ensure the arrestee is placed under constant observation for at least one hour after the application of the carotid restraint. The observation period shall be conducted in a controlled environment (i.e., hospital emergency room, or the Police Department Holding Facilities). A Department member or hospital staff member shall at all times remain in the immediate presence of the arrestee. This is necessary because complications may result from internal bleeding or swelling and may not be immediately apparent.

- (4) Department members will obtain a medical clearance from San Joaquin General Hospital, unless emergency circumstances dictate using another hospital, for an arrestee on whom the carotid restraint was applied and the person became unconscious, regardless of how briefly.
 - B. If the arrestee stops resisting before pressure is applied, no medical clearance is required.
 - C. Officers shall inform the County Jail Booking Staff that the arrestee was rendered unconscious by use of the carotid restraint.
3. Officers shall specifically report their use of the carotid restraint in the appropriate report.