

VEHICLE STOPS, HIGH-RISK

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 20830 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 4 Hours

GOAL:

This course is designed to update students regarding high risk vehicle stops. Students will be taught techniques on how to safely execute a high risk stop. Topics discussed are: use of force, policies/legal issues, tactical considerations and decision making. The course also includes the minimum topic areas to satisfy the Category I (Firearms) perishable skills training requirement - POST Regulation 1005 (d)(4). This course provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835a.

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Moral obligations
- c. Use of Force considerations
- d. Policy and/or Legal Standards
- e. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
- f. Target Recognition and Analysis
- g. Weapons Clearing/Manipulations
- h. Live Fire Tactical/Marking Cartridges
- i. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision-Making Exercise(s)
- j. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Santa Clara County - Office of Sheriff's Use of Force/Firearms Policy.
2. Identify the tactical analysis key points related to tactical firearms as reported in POST Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Studies (1994 to Present).
3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of simulator weapon proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
 - A. Judgment and Decision Making
 - B. Firearms Safety
 - C. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
 - D. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
 - E. Threat Assessment/Identification
 - F. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
 - G. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
 - H. Malfunctions Clearing
 - I. Loading/Reloading

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Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique, and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

Performance Objectives:

Using group discussions and practical application the students will identify the legal liabilities, safety hazards, and proper procedure for conducting basic vehicle stops.

I. Introduction (15 minutes)

I. (a, h)

- a. Course Goals and Objectives
 - i. Refresh knowledge of and ensure all personnel conduct high risk vehicle stops utilizing accepted procedures
- b. Safety Guidelines and Orientation
 - i. No live weapons or ammunition
 - ii. Establish designated training area
 - iii. Self-check, partner check and instructor safety check
 - iv. Use of Simunition brand pistols and marking rounds inspected and issued by Training Safety Officer (TSO)
 - 1. Eye protection required during scenario training
 - 2. Full face, groin, neck and hand protection required when utilizing marking rounds

II. Policies and Legal Issues / Changes / SB230 (30 minutes) **I. (b, c, d)**

- a. Necessary Force PC 835a / AB392
 - i. Define necessary
 - ii. Define “imminent”
 - iii. When is deadly force authorized?
 - iv. Duty to warn
 - v. PC 196 amended
- b. De-Escalation
 - i. Tactical Communication
 - ii. Tactical Repositioning
 - 1. Use of time, distance, cover or concealment
 - 2. Does not mean losing control of the situation

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- iii. Additional Resources
 - 1. Crisis Intervention Trained Deputies
 - 2. Mobile Crisis
 - 3. Crisis Negotiation Team
 - 4. Less Lethal Options
- c. Rendering Medical Aid
 - i. Only when safe to do so
- d. Case Law and their Impact on reasonable force and deadly Force
 - i. Graham v. Connor
 - ii. Tennessee V. Garner
- e. Department Policy
 - i. Officers must know and follow their department policy.
 - ii. Failure to follow department policy can lead to civil and administrative liability
 - iii. Use of Force Considerations

III. High Risk Vehicle Stops (45 minutes)

I (c), (f), (i)

- a. FBI Leoka Statistics
 - i. Circumstances
 - ii. Weapons
 - iii. Body Armor
 - iv. Time
- b. Vehicle Ballistics
 - i. Points of Cover on Vehicles
 - ii. Glass
 - iii. Window Rake and Angle
 - iv. Porting/Offset
- c. Tactics For Conducting Stop
 - i. Factors for conducting high risk vehicle stop
 - 1. Reason to believe suspect is armed
 - 2. Reason to believe suspect has committed a felony
 - 3. Reason to believe suspect represents serious threat to officer or public
 - a. Moral obligations
 - ii. Considerations for location to initiate stop
 - 1. Availability of resources
 - 2. Terrain
 - 3. Lighting

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4. Traffic Conditions
5. Ratio of suspects to officers
6. Exigency
- iii. Vehicle Position/Tactics Upon Initial Stop
 1. Tactical seatbelt removal
 2. Distance
 3. Quick exit
 4. Cover
 5. Patrol Vehicle Lighting Equipment
 6. Defensive/Offensive weapons
 7. Put occupants in position of disadvantage
 - a. Alpha vs. Beta Commands
 - b. Clear and concise communication
- iv. Radio Traffic
 1. Location
 2. Conditions
 - a. Vehicle description
 - b. Number of suspects
 - c. Suspect description
 - d. Line of fire
 - e. Level of Compliance
 3. Actions
 4. Needs
 - a. Code 2 or Code 3 response?
 - b. Additional Resources
 - i. Helicopter
 - ii. K-9
 - iii. Less lethal
 - iv. Number of units
 - v. Traffic Control
- v. Fill Units
 1. Vehicle Positioning
 2. Creating a Workspace
 3. Roles and responsibilities
 - a. Lethal Coverage
 - b. Commands
 - c. Arrest Team
 - i. Hands on and lethal coverage

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- ii. Threat Assessment
 - 1. Hands, waistband, wingspan and intent
- iii. Officer safety debrief of occupants
- d. Team Leader
- e. Radio
- 4. Tempo
- 5. Utilization of cover for handcuffing
- vi. Searching the Vehicle
 - 1. Vehicle assault from the rear
 - 2. Vehicle assault from side
 - 3. Using a ballistic shield

IV. Simunitions Tactical Scenarios Overview (15 minutes) I (e, f, g, h)

- a. Weapon Safety
 - i. Handle all firearms as if they are loaded
 - ii. Never point your firearm at anything you do not intend to destroy
 - iii. Keep your finger indexed and outside the trigger guard until you have made the conscious decision to shoot
 - iv. Know your target, between and beyond
- b. Target Acquisition
 - i. Center of Mass
 - 1. Threat incapacitation (mechanical and mental)
 - ii. Responsible for all round down range (accuracy)
 - iii. Front sight focus (sight alignment)
 - iv. Trigger control
- c. Weapon and gear familiarization
 - i. Safety briefing
 - ii. Weapons Check
 - iii. Weapons Clearing
- d. Exercise Demonstration
 - i. Exercise participants responsibilities
 - ii. Students not participating locations and responsibilities
 - iii. Timing
 - iv. De-brief procedure

V. Student Evaluation and Decision Making Exercises (2 Hours) b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i)

I. (a,

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- a. In teams of 4-5, Students will participate in two or more exercise(s) below (one lethal and one non-lethal)
 - i. Armed ambush
 - ii. Armed suicidal subject (de-escalation)
 - iii. Armed compliant suspect
- b. In each exercise students should:
 - i. Identify and address threats accordingly
 - ii. Utilize proper tactical conduct
 1. Distance
 2. Cover
 3. Time
 4. Resources
 - iii. Justify, based on law and policies, the reasonableness of whichever force option was chosen.
 - iv. Render medical aid if appropriate
- c. Each scenario will conclude with an instructor led debrief

VI. Clean up and conclusion (15 minutes)

I (j)

- a. Clear all weapons of marking ammunition under TSO instruction/supervision
- b. Return Gear
- c. Clean any mess
- d. Debrief with any questions or concerns
- e. Complete course evaluation forms