

	Force Continuum & Use of Force Policy and Procedure	
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1.0 Force Continuum and Use of Force Policy Objective.

It is the policy of Columbia Basin College to maintain a safe learning environment while treating all students, employees, volunteers and visitors with dignity and respect. CBC security officers are employed to help safeguard lives and the property of the College. The use of force is a serious responsibility and this policy provides security officers with guidelines on the reasonable use of force and their authority to act given certain circumstances. The force continuum is an evaluation by security officers as to the preferred means of using force from least to most severe application of force given the circumstances. For the purposes of Columbia Basin College, the use of force is appropriate where the security officer believes the action is in defense of another, including the security officer and the aggressor, from a potential or actual physically violent situation and to effectively bring the situation under control pending a response from local police agencies. This policy addresses use of force and the mechanism under which use may be applied on CBC’s campuses.

2.0 Definitions.

- 2.1 “Person” means any person on the CBC campus’ which includes, but is not limited to, employees, students, volunteers, and visitors.
- 2.2 “Security Officer” means an employed security officer, security guard and communication officer of the College trained and authorized to carry and use Tasers, chemical defensive spray and handcuffs under the authority of the Security Department and this Policy.
- 2.3 “Use of Force” means the application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical defensive spray or Tasers aimed at stopping a potential or actual physically violent situation.
- 2.4 “Necessary” means that no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appeared to exist and that the amount of force to be used is reasonable to accomplish the lawful purpose intended.
- 2.5 “Aggression” means a threat or overt act of an assault (through physical or verbal means), coupled with the present ability to carry out the threat or assault, which reasonably indicates that an assault or injury to any person is imminent.
- 2.6 “Aggressor” means a person who shows signs of aggression as defined in this policy.
- 2.7 “Force Continuum” means security officers respond with a level of force appropriate to the situation and provides guidelines and a series of actions a security officer may take to resolve a situation and how much force may be used against an aggressor in a given situation.

- 2.8 “Oleoresin capsicum” means a nonlethal aerosol chemical defensive spray made with the pepper derivative oleoresin capsicum, which is used to cause temporary blindness and incapacitate an aggressor. This is also referred to as chemical defensive spray in this policy.
- 2.9 “Electronic Control Devices” means an electronic control device that projects wired probes attached to the device that emit an electrical charge and is designed and primarily employed to incapacitate an aggressor. This is also referred to as a Taser in this policy.
- 2.10 “Resistance” means physically evasive movements to defeat a security officer’s attempt at de-escalation of a physical attack, including bracing, tensing, pushing, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being detained.
- 2.11 “Handcuffing” means the use of metal handcuffs, plastic ties, or other similar-type restraints, used to limit an aggressor’s freedom of movement, prevent attack and/or to effectively bring the situation under control pending a response from local police agencies.
- 2.12 “De-escalation” means the use of strategies to defuse an aggressor who is threatening or assaulting another, including the security officer.

3.0 Force Continuum.

- 3.1 Whenever possible and practical, the use of force continuum will be followed. CBC security officers will only use the degree of force necessary in defense of another including the security officer and the aggressor, from a physically violent situation and to effectively bring the situation under control pending a response from local police agencies. The preferred means of using force are set forth below in ascending order from least to most severe application of force, though the use becomes a judgement call by the security officer depending on the situation.

The generally accepted use of force continuum includes, in order:

- 3.1.1 Security officer presence;
 - 3.1.2 Verbal/nonverbal communication and attempt at de-escalation/defuse situation;
 - 3.1.3 Escorting interventions;
 - 3.1.4 Hand-to-hand techniques to prevent or redirect an attack;
 - 3.1.5 Handcuffing;
 - 3.1.6 Chemical defensive sprays or Taser.
- 3.2 Once the threat has diminished or is terminated, the physical force used by the security officer(s) must de-escalate accordingly. This does not preclude the security officer(s) from being prepared and taking actions in anticipation of the situation intensifying again.
 - 3.3 Force shall not be continued if a determination is made by the security officer(s) administering the force that the person is no longer at risk of causing imminent bodily injury to himself/herself or others, with the exception of handcuffing while awaiting arrival of local policy agency.
 - 3.4 Force shall be administered in such a way so as to prevent or minimize physical harm. If, at any time during the use of force the person demonstrates significant physical distress, the force shall be reduced immediately and, if necessary, security officers will take immediate steps to seek medical assistance, except as necessary to protect the security officer(s) and/or the person.

3.5 **Appropriate Use of Force.**

To successfully deal with situations requiring use of force, and minimize the risk to the public and the security officer(s) involved, chemical defensive spray, Taser and handcuffs are authorized for the use by the College's security officers. No other weapons are authorized.

3.5.1 The application of chemical defensive spray, Taser and/or handcuffing shall be solely designed to stop a potential or actual violent or aggressive person in an attack against another including the security officer. The amount and degree of force which may be employed will be determined by the following circumstances including, but not limited to:

3.5.1.1 The nature of the offense.

3.5.1.2 The behavior of the person on who force is to be used.

3.5.1.3 Actions of third parties who may be present.

3.5.1.4 Physical odds against the security officer.

3.5.1.5 The feasibility or availability of alternative actions.

3.5.1.6 Whether or not the person is armed.

3.5.1.7 The presence of other security officers to assist.

3.5.1.8 Any variables listed above in the "Use of Force Continuum."

A security officer acting alone may be required to resort to a greater degree of force than would be necessary if another security officer were present; therefore, when possible, a security officer should call for and await assistance.

3.5.2 Handcuffing. Security officers are issued handcuffs for the performance of their duties. Handcuffing is appropriate under the force continuum pending arrival of local law enforcement agencies. When feasible, security officers will pat down outer clothing of detained person for dangerous weapons.

3.5.3 Chemical Defensive Spray. Trained security officers and temporary hourly security officers may be issued chemical defensive spray for the performance of their duties.

3.5.3.1 Any person sprayed with chemical defensive spray should be informed not to rub the eyes, as this can heighten the effect. While incapacitated by chemical defensive spray, security officers shall handcuff and pat down the subject for weapons to prevent harm.

3.5.4 Taser. Trained security officers may be issued Tasers for the performance of their duties. Deployment of a Taser should be avoided in the following circumstances:

3.5.4.1 Avoidance of Use.

3.5.4.1.1 If the discharge may ignite flammable liquids/fumes which could result in secondary injuries/burns;

3.5.4.1.2 On a person who is in, or on, an elevated position or under circumstances where a fall resulting from the deployment may reasonably and be foreseeable cause substantial injury;

- 3.5.4.1.3 On a person operating moving vehicle or machinery or running;
- 3.5.4.1.4 Against a person armed with a firearm;
- 3.5.4.1.5 Obviously pregnant females;
- 3.5.4.1.6 An animal, unless it is threatening to or attacking a person including security officers;
- 3.5.4.1.7 On a handcuffed or otherwise restrained person, unless the person is actively engaged in behavior that creates a substantial risk of injury to the person, security officers, or others, and no other reasonable force options are available.
- 3.5.4.1.8 Person who no longer poses a threat, and
- 3.5.4.1.9 Children or the elderly.

3.5.4.2 Rendering Aid after Use of Force. When a security officer uses force, which results in injury, or complaint of injury, the security officer is required to request emergency medical aid for the injured person. For Taser related injury, expended Taser darts shall be removed by emergency medical personnel, rather than the security officer and shall be handled as a biohazard and properly maintained as evidence.

3.5.4.3 Photographs. When lawful and appropriate to do so, photographs should be taken of probe impact sites and any other related injuries as soon as reasonable to do so. It is important to preserve evidence of the Taser use; however, it is also important to not violate any medical HIPPA, or privacy statutes or other legal restrictions.

3.6 **Inappropriate Use of Force.**

- 3.6.1 Physical force, handcuffing, tasing or chemical defensive spray will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment, horseplay or in an unprofessional manner, to experiment on a person or allow a person to experience being tased by a Taser or sprayed by chemical defensive spray;
- 3.6.2 Physical force, handcuffing, tasing or chemical defensive spray will not be used as an initial response to destruction of property, school disruption, refusal of the person to comply with College rules, or a staff directive; or a verbal threat that does not constitute a threat of imminent bodily injury;
- 3.6.3 Physical force, handcuffing, tasing or chemical defensive spray should not be used as an intervention, if the security officer knows that the person has a health condition or physical problem and the condition or problem would be exacerbated by the use of force.

4.0 **Reporting & Records.**

- 4.1 Reporting. Whenever a member of the College's security department uses any physical force in Sections 3.1.4 – 3.1.6 on another person, or a Taser is accidentally discharged, a security officer's written report is required. This written report will detail the full circumstances of the incident in the Use of Physical Force Form. For Taser use, additional reporting is required under the Security Department's Procedure. The Security Supervisor or the Vice President for Administration will complete as a supplement to the reporting of the incident in the Use of Physical Force Form. Where the Security Supervisor is directly involved in the incident, the Vice President for Administration will complete the Use of Physical Force Form.

- 4.1.1 Police Report: A police report for Pasco or Richland jurisdiction will be completed following any deployment, excluding accident/non-injury discharge.
- 4.1.2 Annual Review of Use of Force: The Security Supervisor will conduct an annual review of the Use of Physical Force Report(s) and the report will be utilized to reveal patterns or trends that could indicate training needs and/or policy modification. A written report on the review will be provided to the Vice President for Administration.

5.0 Training & Certification.

All CBC employees in the Security Department who carry and/or use chemical defensive spray or Taser must first successfully complete a department approved and mandated program, to include written and practical tests related to the application of the College's Force Continuum & Use of Force policy, proper use of the weapon, physical competency and appropriate safety measures to be authorized to carry non-lethal weapons. Retraining or refresher training in chemical defensive spray or Taser will be done annually or as deemed necessary by the Security Supervisor. The Security Supervisor is responsible for the procurement, maintenance, and issuance of the Taser and cartridges and the training, certification, and recertification of security officers in the use of the Taser.