

Departmental Policy

San Ramon Police Department

Leg Restraint Device

306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The proper use and application of a leg restraint device can reduce the potential of injury and damage to property when dealing with violent or potentially violent persons. This section provides guidelines, policy and procedures for the proper use of these devices.

306.2 POLICY

When an officer deems it reasonable to restrain the legs of a violent or potentially violent person during the course of detention, arrest and/or transportation, only restraint devices approved by the Department shall be used, and only in the departmentally approved manner for such temporary immobilization of the legs.

306.3 AUTHORIZED RESTRAINT

The WRAP Restraint manufactured by Safe Restraints, Inc. Park City, Utah is the only restraint authorized by this department. Officers shall only use the WRAP Restraint supplied by the Department.

306.4 USE GUIDELINES

In determining whether to use the restraint, officers should consider the following:

- (a) Is the officer and/or others subject to harm due to the assaultive behavior of a violent, resisting and/or attacking suspect;
- (b) Whether officers anticipate possible violent or combative behavior,
- (c) If it is reasonable to protect the suspect from his or her own actions which would place him/her in danger (e.g., hitting his or her head against the interior of the patrol unit, running away from the arresting officer while handcuffed, kicking at objects or officers).
- (d) The restraint shall be used only after a person has been handcuffed.

The restraint device is designed to reduce the likelihood of injury to the restrained person or others and to reduce the likelihood of property damage caused by the restrained person by preventing them from using his/her legs in a manner likely to result in injury or damage. The restraint will only be used to bind and immobilize a person's legs. Only those officers trained in the use of the restraint are authorized to employ it on any person. The following guidelines shall be used when applying the restraint device:

- (a) If practical, officer(s) should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the restraint. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practical after the application of the restraint.
- (b) The WRAP can be applied by one person if the subject is passive, but for violent/combatative subjects, three or more people should be used.
- (c) Only qualified officers who have received training in the use of the WRAP should apply this restraining device, refer to the training manual for application guidelines.
- (d) Once secured, the suspect shall be placed on their side or in a seated position. This will increase the oxygen recovery rate and reduce the incidence of respiratory fatigue or positional asphyxia often caused by a subject being restrained in the prone position.
- (e) The shoulder harness should never be tightened to the point that it interferes with the subject's ability to breathe.
- (f) Absent a medical emergency, the person being restrained shall remain restrained until the officer arrives at the jail or other facility or the person no longer poses a threat.
- (g) The suspect should be constantly watched by an officer while in the restraint, the subject should never be left unattended.
- (h) The officer shall look for signs of labored breathing. If the restrained subject complains of or displays signs of breathing distress (shortness of breath, sudden calmness, a change of facial color, etc), medical attention should be provided immediately.
- (i) The WRAP is a temporary restraining device and is not escape proof. The leg bands and shoulder harness must be checked frequently for tightness and re-tightened or loosened as necessary until the WRAP is removed.

306.61

TRANSPORTING RESTRAINED SUSPECTS

When transporting a suspect(s) who has been restrained, officers shall observe the following procedures:

- (a) To carry the restrained person, two to four personnel should be used depending on the size and weight of the subject. Proper lifting techniques should be used to prevent injury to officers.
- (b) As an alternative to lifting, the subject may be moved by means of a shuffle. If the subject is cooperative, the lower WRAP leg band can be loosened to allow some leg movement below the knees without compromising security or safety. By loosening the tether to the shoulder harness, the subject can be brought to a standing position with the help of officers and then allowed to shuffle to or from a vehicle or holding cell. If this method is used, appropriate support must be given to the subject to prevent possible injury by falling.
- (c) Restrained suspects may be transported in a patrol unit. Prior to transportation, re-check all belts to ensure that they are securely fastened. The subject shall be seated in an upright position and secured by a seat belt. When the suspect cannot be transported in a seated position he/she shall be taken by ambulance/paramedic unit.
- (d) When taken by ambulance/paramedic unit, the suspect shall be accompanied by an officer.
- (e) Officers shall inform the jail staff that the arrestee was subjected to being restrained by use of a restraint device prior to arrival at the jail.

306.6

DOCUMENTATION

Any time the restraint device is used, the circumstances requiring its use shall be documented in the related report(s). The officer should include the following in the report:

- (a) The amount of time the suspect was restrained.
- (b) How the suspect was transported and the position of the suspect.
- (c) Observations of the suspect's physical and physiological actions.
- (d) Any known or suspected drug use or other medical problems.
- (e) The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the "Force" box is marked on the "A" page and the type of force is indicated,

and shall ensure that the Operations Bureau Commander is made aware of the incident.

306.7 STORAGE AND PREPARATION FOR RE-USE

It is important that the WRAP is immediately ready for use and prepared for storage in a way that prevents the loop fastening material on the bands from becoming dirty or entangled. This allows the WRAP to be quickly laid out next to the subject and applied without the confusion of having to untangle the bands. The WRAP shall be kept in the provided storage bag as follows:

- (a) The WRAP shall be inspected after each use for signs of wear or damage. If cleaning is necessary, a mild soapy solution may be used. If blood or other bodily fluids must be cleaned from the WRAP, follow the procedures per Policy Manual sec. 1016.36. Allow the WRAP to thoroughly air dry prior to storage.
- (b) Lay the WRAP on a flat surface with the leg band side up and detach the shoulder harness. Extend each of the leg bands out flat.
- (c) Individually fold each of the leg bands back onto itself so that the fold of the band protrudes an inch or two from the edge of the WRAP body.
- (d) Be sure the retaining "D" ring on the body of the WRAP and harness is open and ready for use.
- (e) Keeping the bands inside, roll the WRAP tightly towards the buckle and secure with the ankle strap and place in the storage bag.
- (f) Fully extend the harness buckles and tether. Attach buckles to its counterpart and roll the harness up and place it in the storage bag compartment.