

POPE SECURITY & INVESTIGATIONS, LLC-PSI

TITLE	:	Use of Force Continuum
GENERAL ORDER NUMBER	:	007
ISSUE DATE	:	06/07/12
AREA OF CONTROL	:	Security Officers.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines, policy and procedure for Use of Force Continuum in PSI operations.

II. BACKGROUND

General Policy. This Use of Force Continuum is the *base guideline* for all use of force incidents involving any PSI employee. All questions regarding this Use of Force Continuum are to be directed to the Director. This policy will not be discussed with any of PSI clients by anyone other than the Director. This policy was developed, in part, based on T.C.A.'s 39-11-611 – Self Defense; 39-11-612 – Defense of a Third Person; 39-11-614 – Protection of Property; 39-11-615 – Protection of a Third Person's Property; and 39-11-616 – Use of Device to Protect Property.

This Use of Force Continuum will be considered in the aftermath of any incident to determine if it has been followed appropriately and that all aspects of any level have been exhausted before moving to the next level. The levels outlined in this policy are progressive and will be maintained only long enough for the officer to gain control of a specific situation. As soon as control is gained or regained, the officer must drop to the lowest level of this Use of Force Continuum that will allow the officer to maintain control of the situation. Any officer progressing to Level Three is required to write a specific and detailed incident report and complete the Use of Force Form. The incident report and the Use of Force Form are due to the Director not later than the close of business on the next business day. Any Officer who must progress to Level Four, Level Five, or Level Six is required to contact the Director *immediately* following the incident. The Director will immediately respond to the scene of the incident.

III. POLICY

Level One – Officer Presence. Remain visible at all times; conspicuity is your objective. You are a deterrent simply by being seen and without speaking or issuing commands. The use of body language or hand gestures adds to your level of deterrence. Your body language and/or hand gestures must be non-threatening and kept on a professional level.

Your image must be professional, authoritative and above reproach – meaning your uniform must be clean, neat, and present a professional appearance and your personal appearance must be impeccable.

Level Two – Verbal Communication. (To be used in conjunction with Level One – Officer Presence.) Depending upon the situation your commands can be as quiet as a whisper, spoken in an even toned and controlled voice, or shouted if necessary. The correct combination of your professional and authoritative presence along with good communication can defuse a tense situation and prevent the need for use of force escalation. Good communication means knowing what to say, when to say it, and how to say it. Choosing your words correctly, choosing the exact moment to deliver those words, and choosing exactly how to deliver them will let the person they are directed to know that you are in control of the situation.

Level Three – Chemical Agents/TASER. Chemical agent or TASER carry and use is only authorized for security officers who have been certified by a State Certified Trainer and a copy of the training certificate must be on file with PSI. Chemical agents and TASER are deployed when the subject or situation becomes violent or threatening, but is still non-deadly. Use of chemical agents will be kept to an absolute minimum. It is important to remember that not all subjects are affected the same way; some will become immediately compliant and others will become even more aggressive and threatening. When you deploy a chemical agent *you* are responsible for decontaminating the subject and the area.

Level Four – Open Hand Control. You *must* exhaust all aspects of Levels One, Two and Three before escalating to this level. Using this level means using your *bare* hands to guide an individual in the proper direction, hold an individual to prevent physical altercation or damage to property, or restrain (including the use of any restraining equipment) an individual to prevent escape or affect an arrest. This does not include offensive moves such as punching, tackling or choking. Pain compliance holds could apply here, but only after ordinary holds fail to control on aggressive subject.

Level Five – Temporary Incapacitation. Escalation to this level means the situation has become extremely violent and demands immediate action to prevent further destruction. This level can start at open or “empty” hand defense, but can go even further to include the use of a baton or asp as an impact weapon. Baton or asp carry

and use is only authorized for Security Officers who have been certified by a State Certified Trainer and a copy of the training certificate must be on file with PSI. Officers are not authorized to carry any style flashlight over six (6) inches in length unless they have been trained by a state certified trainer in the use of impact weapons. Choke or carotid neck holds may only be used in very extreme situations. Impact weapon blows to the neck and head are never used at this level as they may be deadly.

Level Six – Lethal or Deadly Force. The use of lethal or deadly force means that you are in immediate fear of death or great bodily harm to yourself or those you are protecting; this does not include any type of property damage. Basically there are no set rules to using deadly force other than it *must be fully justified beyond any reasonable doubt*. Lethal or deadly force can come from your hands, the use of an impact weapon, or a firearm. Firearm carry and use is only authorized for Security Officers who have been trained by a State Certified Trainer and a copy of the training certificate and weapon information must be on file with PSI. PSI only authorizes the carry and use of handguns in the caliber accepted by the Commissioner of the Private Protective Services Board in Nashville, TN per Rules of Department of Commerce and Insurance Division of Regulatory Boards, Chapter 0780-5-2 Private Protective Services. Under no circumstances will any officer employed by PSI carry, display, and/or deploy any high-powered rifle or shotgun while on duty at any client. Armed officers will not wear any type of duty gear that may lead a client, client's employees, or client's customers to think or assume that the officer is part of a SWAT or "tactical team" unless he or she is assigned to one by the Director and is acting in that capacity at that time.

IV. REVIEW OF PROCESS

1. The Command Staff conduct a periodic review of this Order to determine if it should be revised, cancelled or continued in its present form.
2. This order shall remain in effect until revoked or superseded by competent authority.