

	<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b> <small>State Form 39870 (R/S-06)</small>	<small>Reference Number</small> <b>TRA-012</b>
	<small>Subject</small> <b>Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program</b>	
	<small>Special Instructions</small> <b>Replaces TRA-012 dated August 18, 2023</b>	<small>Effective Date</small> <b>December 28, 2023</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

In accordance with IC 5-2-1-1, the Law Enforcement Training Board (“LETB”) hereby establishes this Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Policy in order to ensure the public safety and general welfare of the people of the state of Indiana and to promote equity for all segments of society. This policy may not be added to, modified, or altered in any way by any Indiana law enforcement agency, office, or department.

**II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the LETB to value and preserve the sanctity of human life. To ensure the safety of law enforcement officers and others, it is essential that officers are educated, trained, and proficient in defensive tactics techniques to ensure the officer uses only objectively reasonable force to enforce the law, to effect a lawful arrest, and/or to prevent the escape of the person from custody.

The defensive tactics techniques documented in the Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program have been approved by the LETB and shall be trained within a two (2) year training cycle by law enforcement officers to ensure proficiency. The statewide defensive tactics training program may not be added to, modified, or altered in any way by any Indiana law enforcement agency, office, or department.

**III. UNIFORM STATEWIDE DEFENSIVE TACTICS TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program (“Training Program”) contains the approved defensive tactics techniques that will be trained within a two (2) year training cycle to ensure proficiency of Indiana’s law enforcement officers in the area of defensive tactics.

A. The Training Program contains the following mandatory categories of techniques that will be trained with demonstrated proficiency, as defined in the Training Program:

1. Positioning;
2. Strikes;
3. Kicks;
4. Blocks;
5. Handcuffing;
6. Takedowns;
7. Offensive Ground Fighting;
8. Defensive Ground Fighting;
9. Subject Control/Displacement/Transition Techniques;
10. Basic Self-Defense Escapes;
11. Intermediate Weapons;

- 12. Weapon Defense/Retention;
- 13. Scenario-Based Training; and
- 14. Vascular Neck Restraint.

B. Defensive Tactics Instructors must train a minimum of one (1) approved technique listed in the Training Program in each of the mandatory categories listed above within a two (2) year training cycle.

C. All law enforcement officers subject to the mandatory in-service training requirement adopted by the LETB, must attend training course(s) that train a minimum of one (1) approved technique listed in the Training Program in each of the mandatory categories listed above, within a two (2) year training cycle, to fulfill the mandatory defensive tactics in-service training requirement.

D. Law enforcement officers who are issued intermediate weapons, to include: conducted energy weapon (“CEW”), chemical designed to temporarily incapacitate a person, and/or another device designed to temporarily incapacitate a person, shall be trained on those issued intermediate weapons, as specified by the manufacturer’s training requirement. At this time, this policy and Training Program does not include less-lethal projectiles, and these weapons may be independently trained as directed by law enforcement agencies.

E. All law enforcement officers subject to the mandatory in-service training requirement adopted by the LETB, shall annually complete a minimum of four (4) hours of active hands-on participation in defensive tactics training to fulfill the requirement.

F. The LETB, through the Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, may waive the active participation requirement, and physical demonstration of proficiency, of the mandatory defensive tactics in-service training for officers on limited duty status, if a waiver is requested by the chief executive officer or training coordinator of the law enforcement agency, office, or department.

G. Law enforcement officers shall demonstrate proficiency, as defined in the Training Program, in each trained technique for successful completion of the in-service requirement. Defensive Tactics Instructors shall certify the proficiency of each officer trained or provide remedial training until proficiency is demonstrated.

H. The mandatory category, Vascular Neck Restraint, is a control technique characterized by vascular body compression, applying pressure to the vascular structures of the neck, with no compression of the respiratory structures of the throat, such as the trachea or the windpipe. The Vascular Neck Restraint, when properly applied by a trained law enforcement officer, is not a chokehold as defined in IC 35-41-3-3.

#### **IV. CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS**

A. Psychomotor skill instructors certified in physical tactics, hereby known as defensive tactics, (hereinafter referred to as “psychomotor skill instructors”) must complete a LETB-approved instructor course or courses that provides instructor-level training under each of the categories of mandatory defensive tactics instruction. This training shall be completed prior to providing any

certified defensive tactics instruction under those categories.

B. Psychomotor skill instructors who are not currently certified to instruct each of the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction, may only train the categories for which they hold current certification.

C. Psychomotor skill instructors may only train the approved technique(s) for which they hold current certification.

D. Psychomotor skill instructors previously certified to instruct all the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction will be re-issued a certificate as a Defensive Tactics Instructor.

E. Psychomotor skill instructors who are not currently certified to instruct all the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction, shall have one (1) year from the effective date of this policy to obtain the training under subsection A, and submit a request for a re-issued certificate as a Defensive Tactics Instructor, or they forfeit instructor certification.

F. Defensive tactics instructors shall document the approved technique or techniques, and the defensive tactics category or categories, trained for each defensive tactics course. This information will be documented on an Indiana Law Enforcement Academy's Defensive Tactics In-Service Training form, and a copy maintained on file with the hiring or appointing law enforcement agency.

G. Certified instructors are responsible for accurately documenting the defensive tactics training to maintain the instructor certificate.

H. The re-issuance of instructor certificates will not affect the Term of Certification under 250 IAC 2-10-6.

I. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.