



# FIELD ORDERS

Chapter

## USE of FORCE

Subject

### Deadly Physical Force

#### DEFINITION

**Deadly Physical Force:** Force that is used with the purpose of causing death or serious physical injury or in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of creating a substantial risk of causing death or serious physical injury. ([ARS 13-105.14/Definitions](#)).

- Discharging a firearm at another, techniques that restrict oxygen intake, and strikes to the head, neck, or throat with a hard object are considered deadly physical force.

**ARS 13-410/JUSTIFICATION:  
USE of DEADLY PHYSICAL  
FORCE in LAW  
ENFORCEMENT**

The **USE of DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE** by a peace officer against another is justified\*:

1. Only when the peace officer reasonably believes it is necessary:
  - a. To defend himself or a third person from what the peace officer reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force.
  - b. To effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom the peace officer reasonably believes:
    - 1) Has committed, attempted to commit, is committing, or is attempting to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon.
    - 2) Is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon.
    - 3) Through past or present conduct of the person which is known by the peace officer that the person is likely to endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury to another unless apprehended without delay.
    - 4) Is necessary to lawfully suppress a riot if the person or another person participating in the riot is armed with a deadly weapon.
2. **AND** all the following exist\*\*:
  - a. A reasonable person would believe that such force is immediately necessary to effect the arrest or detention or prevent the escape.\*\*\*

- b. Such person makes known the purpose of the arrest or detention or reasonably believes that it is otherwise known or cannot reasonably be made known to the person to be arrested or detained.\*\*\*
- c. A reasonable person would believe the arrest or detention to be lawful.\*\*\*

\*See ARS [13-410/Justification; Use of Deadly Physical Force in Law Enforcement](#).

\*\*See ARS [13-409/Justification; Use of Physical Force in Law Enforcement](#).

\*\*\*Also includes when necessary to defend the life of the officer or a third person.

## **VERBAL WARNINGS**

If a verbal warning is feasible under the circumstances and does not increase the risk to you or another, first identify yourself as a law enforcement officer and give a verbal warning to the person before using deadly physical force.

## **WARNING SHOTS**

Do not fire warning shots under any circumstances.

## **MOTOR VEHICLES**

- 1. Do not shoot at moving motor vehicles when all or part of the vehicle is the primary target.
- 2. Only shoot at occupants of moving motor vehicles when justified in using deadly physical force against the targeted occupant.
- 3. Do not place yourself in front of a moving vehicle simply to justify using deadly physical force.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Immediately notify a supervisor after using deadly physical force.

## **TRAINING**

Personnel authorized to carry lethal weapons receive in-service training on department use of deadly physical force policies and demonstrate proficiency with all approved lethal weapons at least annually.

