

Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act – Rules

FIRST DRAFT

Violence De-Escalation, Mental Health, and First Aid Training

- 1) For the purposes of this section violence de-escalation means tactics, action, and communication methods used by officers to achieve the following objectives:
 - a. Manage the pace of an interaction
 - b. Increase the distance between the officer and person involved
 - c. Create shielding to protect the officer and others from an imminent threat, and
 - d. Engage in communication to gain cooperation to increase options for resolving the incident and reduce the likelihood of injury to all parties involved.
- 2) Beginning Dec. 7, 2019 all new general authority peace officers must complete a minimum of 200 hours of initial violence de-escalation and mental health training in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) within fifteen months of commencing employment. Violence de-escalation and mental health training will include the following topics:
 - a. Patrol tactics, actions and communication methods that:
 1. increase the distance between the officer and the person who is creating a threat
 2. create shielding to protect the officer and others from that threat
 3. manage the pace of volatile interactions
 - b. Recognizing and managing the impact of stress on the officer's perceptions and reactions
 - c. Understanding emotional intelligence and self-awareness
 - d. Understanding the psychology and foundational principles of procedural justice to build trust and rapport
 - e. Recognizing and mitigating the impact of implicit bias on the officer's perceptions and reactions
 - f. Recognizing patterns of behavior in individuals that may be caused by mental or behavioral health issue or other disability, per 43.101.427 (5)
 - g. Use of techniques and communication strategies to calm persons who appear to be agitated or threatening due to a mental or behavioral health issue or other disability, per 43.101.427 (5)
 - h. Proper use of non-lethal defensive tactics to gain physical control when necessary
 - i. Use of a decision making simulator ("shoot don't shoot") and cognitive exercises to improve accurate recognition of threats and proper level of force response
 - j. Understand the new "good faith" standard (9A.16.040) for the use of deadly force and how it advances violence de-escalation goals
 - k. Overview of the historical intersection of race and policing and how it impacts the criminal justice system
 - l. Understanding cultural competency and how it impacts interactions between police and the public
 - m. Examining alternatives to jail, booking, and arrest and the unintended impacts on members of the community.
 - n. First Aid training focused on:
 1. Critical life-saving skills
 2. Understanding the paramount duty to preserve life at the earliest opportunity

3. Understanding best practices for securing a scene to facilitate the safe, swift, and effective provisions for first aid to anyone injured at a scene controlled by law enforcement or as a result of law enforcement action
- 3) All peace officers certified in WA before Dec. 7, 2019, and lateral peace officers certified in WA after Dec. 7, 2019, must complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing de-escalation and mental health training every three years beginning the third year after receiving their initial peace officer certification. These incumbent peace officers must complete their first cycle of continuing de-escalation and mental health training by Jan. 1, 2028. Continuing mental health and violence de-escalation training must include the following topics:
 - a. Patrol tactics, actions and communication methods that:
 1. increase the distance between the officer and the person who is creating a threat
 2. create shielding to protect the officer and others from that threat
 3. manage the pace of volatile interactions
 - b. Recognizing and managing the impact of stress on the officer's perceptions and reactions
 - c. Understanding emotional intelligence and self-awareness
 - d. Understanding the psychology and foundational principles of procedural justice to build trust and rapport
 - e. Recognizing and mitigating impact of implicit bias on the officer's perceptions and reactions
 - f. Recognizing patterns of behavior in individuals that may be caused by mental or behavioral health issue or other disability, per 43.101.427 (5)
 - g. Use of techniques and communication strategies to calm persons who appear to be agitated or threatening due to a mental or behavioral health issue or other disability, per 43.101.427 (5)
 - h. Proper use of non-lethal defensive tactics to gain physical control when necessary
 - i. Use of a decision making simulator ("shoot don't shoot") and cognitive exercises to improve accurate recognition of threats and proper level of force response
 - j. Understand the new "good faith" standard (9A.16.040) for the use of deadly force and how it advances violence de-escalation goals
 - k. Overview of the historical intersection of race and policing and how it impacts the criminal justice system
 - l. Understanding cultural competency and how it impacts interactions between police and the public
 - m. Examining alternatives to jail, booking, and arrest and the unintended impacts on members of the community.
 - n. First Aid training focused on:
 1. Critical life-saving skills
 2. Understanding the paramount duty to preserve life at the earliest opportunity
 3. Understanding best practices for securing a scene to facilitate the safe, swift, and effective provisions for first aid to anyone injured at a scene controlled by law enforcement or as a result of law enforcement action
- 4) All curricula will be reviewed and approved consistent with Commission policies and procedures.
- 5) All training and student performance will be assessed consistent with current Commission policies and procedures.
- 6) Continuing training will be developed by Commission staff in partnership with subject matter experts from across the state and across various related disciplines. The training will be

delivered in a variety of local/regional venues, including but not limited to classrooms, gymnasiums, simulators, ranges, online platforms, and community settings. A variety of educational methods will be employed including classroom lectures, mock scenarios, and physical skill development practice. The training will be delivered by a cadre comprised of Commission certified instructors who have completed an 80 hour, "train the trainer" course and other trainers with unique qualifications from outside of the law enforcement profession.

- 7) Law enforcement agencies may submit documentation demonstrating that officers of that agency have completed training that is substantially similar to and meets the requirements for continuing training identified in (3) of this section. The Commission will develop and publish a policy and procedures for submission and approval of such requests.
- 8) All incumbent peace officers are required to complete 40 hours of violence de-escalation and mental health training once every three years, in lieu of the annual 24 hour in-service requirement under WAC 139-05-300.
- 9) Beginning January 2020, the Commission will retain records submitted by law enforcement agencies demonstrating compliance with WAC 139.08.xxx in accordance with state records retention schedules.