

Prone Restraint

428.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of the prone position and prone restraint by Department of Revenue investigators. The intent is to ensure that individuals restrained in a prone position are transitioned to a recovery position as soon as practicable to minimize the risk of positional asphyxia and ensure timely medical intervention when necessary. This policy supplements the guidelines found in Policy 300: Use of Force, Policy 303: Control Devices and Techniques, and Policy 426: Medical Aid and Response.

428.2 DEFINITIONS

- **Mechanical Restraint:** A physical device used to involuntarily restrict the movement of a person or the movement or normal function of a portion of a person's body.
- **Prone Position:** A position in which a person is lying on a solid surface with the person's chest and abdomen positioned downward, even if the person's face is turned to the side or the person has one shoulder lifted.
- **Prone Restraint:** A use of physical force, including, but not limited to, the use of a mechanical restraint, in which the person who is being restrained is in a prone position.
- **Recovery Position:** A position other than a prone position that allows the person to breathe normally.

428.3 USE OF PRONE RESTRAINT

Investigators may only use physical force and prone restraint when non-violent means are ineffective to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or prevent an imminent threat of injury. The use of prone restraint must be objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances.

Standard of Reasonableness

Judged from the perspective of a reasonable investigator on-scene.

Control Devices

Use of OC spray or batons prior to or during restraint must follow

Prohibited Actions

Use of chokeholds is strictly prohibited during any restraint.

428.4 TRANSITION TO RECOVERY POSITION

As soon as practicable after an individual has been placed in a prone position or subjected to prone restraint, investigators shall:

Prone Restraint

- (a) **Transition the Individual:** Move the person into a recovery position that allows for normal breathing.
- (b) **Monitor Breathing:** Continuously monitor the individual for signs of physical distress until they can be medically assessed.
- (c) **Avoid Extended Prone Stays:** Individuals shall not be placed on their stomachs for extended periods, as this can impair their ability to breathe.

428.5 MEDICAL AID AND CLEARANCE

In accordance with [Colorado Department of Revenue Peace Officer Policy Manual: 426.7 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE](#), medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress or was rendered unconscious during prone restraint. Additional reference [Colorado Department of Revenue Peace Officer Policy Manual: 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS](#)

428.5.1 REQUESTING MEDICAL AID

Investigators shall contact the Dispatch Center and request Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response when prone restraint results in injury, complaint of injury, or signs of a medical emergency. When requesting EMS, provide the person's condition and whether they are showing signs of extreme agitation or unresponsiveness to pain.

428.5.2 RENDERING INITIAL AID

Within the scope of their training and current certification, members should provide initial medical aid (e.g., CPR, AED) when it is safe to do so. Follow universal precautions as outlined in [Colorado Department of Revenue Peace Officer Policy Manual: 426.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES](#).

428.5.3 MEDICAL CLEARANCE

Medical clearance must be obtained prior to booking if an individual subjected to prone restraint:

- Has sustained a visible injury.
- Expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain.
- Was subjected to an intermediate weapon (e.g., OC spray or baton) per [Colorado Department of Revenue Peace Officer Policy Manual: 303.7.2 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE](#).

428.6 REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION

Any application of prone restraint is a use of force and must be documented promptly and accurately.

Prone Restraint

- **BlueTeam Report:** All prone restraint incidents shall be entered into the BlueTeam system.
- **Supervisor Notification:** Investigators must notify a supervisor as soon as practicable after applying prone restraint.
- **Required Details:** Documentation must include the duration of the prone restraint, the timing of the transition to a recovery position, and any medical aid requested or rendered.

428.7 TRAINING

The Office of Professional Standards and Training (OPS) shall ensure that all investigators receive training on the provisions of this policy, including the safe transition to a recovery position and the requirements of HB24-1372. This training shall be integrated into the annual Use of Force training required by the [Colorado Department of Revenue Peace Officer Policy Manual: 300.8 TRAINING](#).