

The Wrap Restraint

I. Policy *

It is Department policy to use objectively reasonable force and authority when making an arrest, preventing an escape of the offender or overcoming resistance.

The Department has approved the use of the Wrap within the guidelines provided.

II. Purpose

The Wrap provides a safe and quick method of controlling and immobilizing a violent or potentially violent/combatative subject who has been taken into custody. This policy is intended to familiarize Department personnel with the Wrap and procedural guidelines for its use.

III. Description

The Wrap, manufactured by Safe Restraints, Inc., was designed as a temporary restraining device. Used properly it can increase officer safety and reduce risk of liability due to injuries and in-custody deaths. The Wrap immobilizes the body and restricts a subject's ability to kick or do harm to oneself and others. The Wrap minimizes the time required to secure a person safely, restrains the subject in an upright position, and has the subject prepared for transport or movement.

IV. Field Use

The Wrap can be used prior to or after a violent or potentially violent/combatative subject is controlled using approved departmental methods. Like any restraint device, do not assume the Wrap is escape-proof. Once applied, *THE SUBJECT SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED*.

The Wrap should be considered for use under the following situations:

- A. Whenever you anticipate possible violent/combatative behavior.
- B. To immobilize a violent/combatative subject.
- C. To limit violent/combatative subjects from causing injury to themselves or others.
- D. To prevent violent/combatative subjects from causing property damage by kicking.
- E. To restrain subjects after a chemical spray or stunning device is used.

- F. When conventional methods of restraint are not effective.
- G. In transportation of violent/combatative subjects.
- H. To assist with cell extraction of violent/combatative subjects.

Once the subject is properly restrained in the Wrap, they can be placed on their side or in a sitting position. This will increase the oxygen recovery rate and reduce the incidence of respiratory fatigue or positional asphyxia often caused by a subject being restrained in the prone position.

V. Application

The Wrap can be applied by one person if the subject is passive, but for violent/combatative subjects, three or more people should be used. Only qualified personnel who have received training in the use of the Wrap should use this restraining device. Refer to the training manual for application guidelines.

VI. Transportation

Movement of the subject can be accomplished in two ways depending on their cooperation.

The subject can either be carried or allowed to stand and shuffle step to the destination.

1. To carry the subject, it is recommended that between 2 to 4 personnel be used depending on the size and weight of the subject. Lift the subject by the arms and the ankles. A “log lift” carrying technique may be used when moving the subject. Proper lifting techniques should be followed to prevent unnecessary injury.
2. As an option to lifting, the subject may be moved by means of a shuffle. If the subject has calmed down and is cooperative, the lower Wrap leg band can be loosened to allow some leg movement below the knees without compromising security or safety concerns. By loosening the tether to the shoulder harness, the subject can be brought to a standing position with the help of officers and then allowed to shuffle to or from a vehicle or holding cell. If this method is used, appropriate support must be given to the subject to prevent possible injury.

Prior to vehicle transportation, re-check all belts to ensure that they are securely fastened. The use of a seat belt is recommended to limit movement and reduce the risk of injury to the subject.

Whenever possible, one person should ride as an observer with the subject to ensure all straps remain tight and the subject has no medical problems. Re-checking the security of the Wrap and keeping the subject under constant observation should apply to any movement of the subject.

VII. Precautions

- A. The shoulder harness should never be tightened to the point that it interferes with the subject's ability to breathe.
- B. The leg bands and shoulder harness must be checked frequently for tightness and re-tightened or loosened as necessary until the Wrap is removed.
- C. If the restrained subject complains of or show signs of breathing distress (shortness of breath, sudden calmness, a change in facial color, etc.), medical attention should be provided immediately.
- D. THE SUBJECT SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED.
- E. Subjects should be placed in an upright sitting position or on their side as soon as possible to allow for respiratory recovery.
- F. The Wrap is a temporary restraining device and is not escape-proof.
- G. The Wrap is to be used by "trained personnel only".

VIII. Training

Only qualified personnel who have successfully completed the Departments' training in the use of the Wrap should use this restraining device.

IX. Care and Maintenance

The Wrap should be inspected after each use for signs of wear or damage. If any damage is discovered, forward the Wrap to appropriate personnel for repair or replacement.

If cleaning is necessary after use, use a mild soapy solution or disinfectant approved for use on vinyl and nylon materials. If blood is absorbed into any part of the Wrap that part should be replaced. Thoroughly rinse all disinfectant from the unit prior to drying. After cleaning the Wrap, allow it to thoroughly air dry before being returned to its carrying bag.

X. Storage and Preparation for Re-Use

It is important that the Wrap is immediately ready for use and prepared for storage in a way that prevents the loop fastening material on the bands from becoming dirty or entangled. This allows the Wrap to be quickly laid out next to the subject and applied without the confusion of having to untangle the bands. To properly prepare the Wrap for storage in the carrying bag;

1. Lay the Wrap on a flat surface with the leg band side up and detach the shoulder harness. Extend each of the leg bands out flat.
2. Individually fold each of the leg bands back onto itself so that the fold of the band protrudes an inch or two from the edge of the Wrap body.
3. Be sure the retaining “D” ring on the body of the Wrap and harness is open and ready for use.
4. Keeping the bands inside, roll the Wrap tightly towards the buckle and secure with the ankle strap and place in carrying bag.
5. Fully extend the harness buckles and tether. Attach buckles to its counterpart and roll the harness up and place it in the carrying bag compartment.

Remember, like all tools of the trade, training is essential and the Wrap must be kept in good condition. It is also critical to have the Wrap available for use when needed to minimize the time the subject is restrained in a prone position.

* Adapted from a sample policy of Safe Restraints, Inc., www.saferestraints.com