

	LETB UNIFORM STATEWIDE POLICY	Agency Policy/General Order Number:
Subject: Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program		
Effective: January 1, 2025	Revised: December 16, 2024	

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 trained 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. 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 Indiana’s law enforcement officers are skilled in defensive tactics.

- A. The Training Program contains the following mandatory categories of techniques that will be trained and correctly performed according to the guidelines detailed 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 of the mandatory defensive tactics in-service training for officers who are on limited duty status, as reflected in ACADIS. Waiver will only be available to officers whose limited duty status will continue for the remainder of the calendar

year. The waiver must be requested by the chief executive officer or training coordinator of the law enforcement agency, office, or department. The officer receiving a waiver must demonstrate all 14 categories in the year following a return to full duty.

- G. Law enforcement officers shall actively demonstrate a clear understanding of each technique for successful completion of the in-service requirement. Defensive Tactics Instructors shall certify that each officer demonstrated a clear understanding or provide remedial training until the officer correctly demonstrates the technique. An officer who fails to successfully complete the training by the end of the calendar year will lose law enforcement authority until the training is successfully completed.
- 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 and receive a certificate as a Defensive Tactics Instructor. This training shall be completed prior to providing any certified defensive tactics instruction under the listed categories.
- B. Defensive Tactics instructors may only train the approved technique(s) for which they hold current certification.
- C. 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.
- D. Psychomotor skill instructors who are not certified to instruct all the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction by December 31, 2024, may not instruct until certification has been completed and a Defensive Tactics certification has been issued.
- E. 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.
- F. Certified instructors are responsible for accurately documenting the defensive tactics training to maintain the instructor certificate.
- G. The re-issuance of instructor certificates will not affect the Term of Certification under 250 IAC 2-10-6.