

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Metropolitan Division**  
**Stakeouts**  
**T258 LAPD ONLY**

**Instructional Goal:** To provide the student with the skills necessary to perform Stakeouts immediately upon assignment to a field platoon

**Performance Objectives:** Using field training exercises and learning activities the student will:

- Demonstrate the working knowledge necessary in performing a successful Stakeout
- Know the principles used in the planning phase of a Stakeout
- Demonstrate the working knowledge needed for interior team deployment
- Demonstrate the working knowledge needed for deployment as a chase unit
- Review Use of Force guidelines, Department policies and directives, Tactical De-Escalation
- Demonstrate an understanding of how our Department's guiding value of Reverence for Human Life is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, and officer safety
- By the conclusion of the training, students will understand how the application of this training is in keeping with our Department's UOF policy, philosophy, and tactical planning

**This course provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835(a)**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**(30mins)**

A. Introduction of instructor(s)

1. Name, assignment
2. Experience

B. Overview block of training

1. Bank Stakeout overview
2. Practical application: Field exercise
3. Debrief of field exercise

C. Safety Overview, Illness, and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP)

1. **DISTRIBUTE:** and discuss safety guidelines handout
2. IIPP safety guidelines apply to all training given by the Department. These guidelines ensure that staff and participants are aware of potentially hazardous situations and how to avoid them
3. All personnel should be instructed that a copy of the IIPP is located in the training supervisor's office at that particular training site
4. Anyone participating in the training, whether student, observer, or instructor, has the authority to STOP the exercise if they observe an unsafe act or condition that may cause imminent injury or death and/or damage to the facilities
5. Protective eyewear and hearing protection (American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved) shall be worn if blanks or live-fire rounds are used during a practical application or during any demonstration using the same

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6. Students shall immediately notify an instructor, or the training staff of any injury sustained during training, and use the following steps in the event of a serious injury
  - a. Render first aid and obtain appropriate medical assistance. Notify the Fire Department rescue ambulance (213-485-6185) via telephone, cellular phone, or police radio. Give specific directions to the location of the incident
  - b. In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed
  - c. At each training location, there is a notebook located in the training unit's office also containing the emergency plan that is in place
  - d. The supervisor will ensure that the necessary worker compensation forms (PDAS-43) and other reports (Employee Notification Form 15.7) are completed in a timely manner
  - e. Transport to the local hospital for a minor injury

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1) Granada Hills Facility: | Providence Holy Cross Medical Center<br>15031 Rinaldi Street<br>Mission Hills, CA 91345<br>Tel. # (818) 365-8051 |
| 2) Elysian Park Facility:  | Glendale Adventist Medical Center<br>1530 E. Chevy Chase Drive<br>Glendale, CA 91206<br>Tel. # (818) 409-8000    |
| 3) Harbor Range Facility:  | San Pedro Peninsula Hospital<br>1300 West 7 <sup>th</sup> St<br>San Pedro, CA 90732<br>Tel. # (310) 832-3311     |

**II. STAKEOUT OVERVIEW**

**(2.5 Hrs)**

**LEARNING ACTIVITY:** Bank Stakeout Overview  
**Procedures:** Large group activity

A. Utilize lecture and discussion

1. Debrief past Stakeouts that have occurred regarding:
  - a. Lessons learned
  - b. Areas to improve

2. Specific incidents

**(117e)**

- a. North Hollywood shootout
- b. Ventura Blvd incident
- c. Stamps/Fleming shooting
- d. Maldonado/Capra shootout

B. Advance Planning

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1. Meet with RHD detective
  - a. Obtain reports
  - b. Determine pattern
  - c. Number of suspects
  - d. Types of weapons
  - e. Type of vehicle
  - f. Type of clothing
  
2. Site survey
  - a. Meet with bank manager or vice president
  - b. Draw diagram of location
  - c. Determine possible location for the inside Observation Post (O/P)
  - d. Determine tactical advantage
  
3. Aerial photos
  - a. Escape routes
  - b. Freeway access
  - c. Best location for outside O/Ps
  
4. Deployment
  - a. Number of officers inside
  - b. Number of chase cars
  - c. Number of outside O/Ps
  
5. Tactical plan
  - a. Every member of the team must know the plan
  - b. Chase Units direction of travel to the bank
  - c. Best location for a take down
  - d. If possible: separate the chase units
  - e. Know where the nearest trauma hospital is and how to get there
  - f. How the inside team will enter and exit the bank

**C. Inside team**

1. Contact the bank manager or vice president
  - a. Confirm his/her safety
  - b. Advise him/her of the plan
  
2. Brief the other bank employees
  - a. Confirm their safety
  - b. Advise them on the signal they will need to recognize
  - c. Advise them that the operation's focus is bank robberies only
  - d. Incoming phone call procedure for the inside team
  
3. Determine a location for the O/P
  - Request recommendation from the site survey team
  
4. Communications
  - a. Radio frequency should be code yellow or red

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- b. Communicate the suspects' descriptions and actions to the chase units
- c. Advise chase units of weapons seen

5. Secure the location after a robbery

- a. Do not allow suspect(s) to reenter the bank
- b. Protect the crime scene
- c. Locate witnesses

D. Chase Units and Take Down team

1. Officers should be familiar with the exterior of the bank and surrounding areas

2. Locate freeway access points and probable get-away routes

3. Hidden and fast response

- a. Arrival should be made using right turns only, if possible
- b. Avoid crossing traffic and major intersections

4. Avoid crossfire

- Officers should know how all other chase units will be arriving and where they are deployed

5. Officers should be observing for get-away drivers and lay-off suspects

6. The goal is to take down all suspects at the same time

E. Use of Force Discussed

1. California Penal Code Section 835(a)<sup>1</sup>

- 1) Updated pursuant to Assembly Bill 392 that was signed into law on August 19, 2019 and effective as of January 1, 2020.
- 2) Any peace officer who has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use objectively reasonable force to:
  - (1) Effect the arrest,
  - (2) Prevent escape, or
  - (3) Overcome resistance.
- 3) The authority to use physical force, conferred on peace officers by this section, is a serious responsibility that shall be exercised judiciously and with respect for human rights and dignity and for the sanctity of every human life.
- 4) A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from their efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested. A peace officer shall not be deemed an aggressor or lose the right to self-defense by the use of objectively reasonable force in compliance with

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<sup>1</sup> California Penal Code Section 835a

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subdivisions (b) and (c) to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. For the purposes of this subdivision, "retreat" does not mean tactical repositioning or other de-escalation tactics.

2. Department Use of Force policy states that force must be "objectively reasonable" to:
- a. Defend themselves
  - b. Defend others
  - c. Effect an arrest or detention
  - d. Prevent escape
  - e. Overcome resistance
  - f. Use of force policy does not change in crowd control situations
  - g. Department Tactical De-Escalation Techniques In circumstances not involving imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, officers should consider tactics and techniques that may persuade the suspect/s to voluntarily comply or that may mitigate the need to use a higher level of force to resolve the situation safely.
  - h. Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromise their safety or increase the risk of physical harm to the public.
    - 1) Guided by the principal of reverence for human life.
    - 2) The use of techniques to:
      - a) Reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect; and,
      - b) Enable an officer to have additional options to gain voluntary compliance; or,
      - c) Mitigate the need to use a higher level of force.
      - d) All while maintaining control of the situation.
  - i. De-escalation techniques (PATROL) should only be used when safe to do so:
    - 1) Planning- Arrive and Coordinate
    - 2) Assessment- Change tactics as needed
    - 3) Time- Distance + Cover= Time for planning and communicating
    - 4) Redeployment and/or Containment- Maintain control and buy time
    - 5) Other Resources- Request additional resources and/or specialized personnel
    - 6) Lines of Communication- Helps to improve decision-making
  - j. Deadly Force can only be used when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:
    - (1) To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person; or,*
    - (2) To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.*

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Note: In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation considering the circumstances of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible.

- 1) "Deadly force" means any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, the discharge of a firearm.
- 2) "Totality of the circumstances" means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force.
- 3) A threat of death or serious bodily injury is "imminent" when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear and no matter how great the likelihood of the harm, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed.
- 4) A peace officer shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to themselves, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or to another person.

Note: The Department will analyze an officer's use of deadly force by evaluating the totality of the circumstances of each case consistent with California Penal Code Section 835(a) as well as the factors articulated in *Graham v. Conner*.

- k. Proportionality<sup>2</sup>
- l. Rendering Aid. After any use of force, officers shall immediately request a rescue ambulance for any person injured. In addition, officers shall promptly provide basic and emergency medical assistance to all members of the community, including victims, witnesses, subjects, suspects, persons in custody, subjects of a use of force and fellow officers:
  - a) To the extent of the officer's training and experience in first aid/CPR/AED; and
  - b) To the level of equipment available to an officer at the time assistance is needed.
- m. Requirement to Intercede when Excessive force is observed
- n. Requirement to report potential excessive force
- o. Vulnerable Populations - include, but are not limited, children, elderly persons, people who are pregnant, and people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.
  - a) Age is not a legal consideration
  - b) The Department has always utilized extreme caution with respect to the use of deadly force against youthful offenders

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<sup>2</sup> Department Manual, 1/556.10, Policy on Use of Force

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- c) Nothing in the use of force policy is intended to reduce the degree of care required in such cases
  - p. Command and Control<sup>3</sup>
    - a) The use of active leadership to direct others while using available resources to coordinate a response, accomplish tasks and minimize risk.
    - b) Initial responsibility to begin the process to develop a plan of action falls upon the senior officer, or any officer on-scene who has gained sufficient situational awareness.
- Ensure reasonable numbers of Designated Cover Officers (DCO) for both lethal and less-lethal cover.
- Reduce over-response or over-deployment to specific duties and responsibilities. Maintain officer safety through personnel location and assignment

**III. BANK STAKEOUT FIELD EXERCISE**

**(5 Hrs)**

**A. PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** Field Exercise  
**Procedures:** Small group activity

1. Officers from Metropolitan Division will be role players and evaluators
2. Enrichment scenarios may utilize simunitions
  - Simunitions equipment
    - 1) Personal protective devices
    - 2) Simunition weapons
3. The class will be split into teams
4. Each team will have an inside team and chase units
5. The teams will be shown photographs and diagrams the stakeout location/s
6. Each team will develop a tactical plan
  - a. The inside team will locate an O/P and brief the employees if needed
  - b. The chase units will determine where they will be deployed
  - c. The outside teams must be hidden, and each unit will know where the other is deployed
  - d. After the teams have developed their plans the bank will open for business and the exercise will begin
  - e. The suspects will initiate at some point, present themselves
  - f. The exercise will continue until the suspects are apprehended
7. The teams will rotate and be given another scenario
8. The scenarios may differ in content (crime committed, suspect action, etc.)

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<sup>3</sup> LAPD Training Bulletin, Volume XLVII Issue 4, COMMAND AND CONTROL

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9. As the students' skill level increases the scenarios will become more complicated

**B. Debrief**

1. Ensure to cover the following points
  - a. Location of the inside O/P
  - b. Briefing of employees
  - c. Chase units' tactical plans
  - d. The take down
  - e. Any other problems observed by the evaluators
  - f. What are the moral obligations and ethical dilemmas in this situation? **(117f)**
  - g. What tactical concerns should the officers have as they respond to the area?
    - 1) Where does the situation fall within the situational use of force? And what options are available?
    - 2) What considerations are there in compliance with LAPD policy and legal requirements?
    - 3) What are the moral obligations and ethical dilemmas in this situation? **(117f)**
  - h. Advise the groups to analyze the situation and prepare to report findings
    - 1) Articulate the actions/behavior of the suspect/s in the situation
    - 2) Articulate the actions/behavior of an officer in the situation
  - i. Upon completion of the scenario, remind participants that it is equally important for them to know:
    - 1) Proper and safe weapon manipulation
    - 2) Marksmanship and target acquisition when shooting
      - (a) Be sure of target
      - (b) Foreground and background
    - 3) Proper decision making when shooting
  - j. Policy/legal issues **(117e)**
    - 1) Drawing of the firearm<sup>4</sup>
      - a) Based on the tactical situation and the officer's reasonable belief that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified
      - b) Once the risk no longer presents itself the officer shall, as soon as practical, holster or secure the firearm
      - c) The student should use their own judgement to determine when to reload and what type of reload to utilize during the drill in order to keep their pistol loaded and capable of reacting to the next threat

2. Discuss any questions regarding the Learning Activity

**C. CLOSING: Reinforce key learning points**

1. Conducting advance planning is vital to the success of a Stakeout

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<sup>4</sup> 2005 LAPD Manual 1/556.80, Drawing and Exhibiting Firearms.



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2. The proper positioning of the inside O/P and the chase units is crucial to both apprehending the suspects and protecting civilians
3. Communication principals and assigned duties must be adhered to for a successful Bank Stakeout