

Los Angeles Police Department
TACTICAL ENTRY TOOLS FOR PATROL
CUR CODE: T251

Course Time:

(4 Hours)

Instructional Goal: To provide students with the knowledge, skills and techniques to successfully breach a door and window.

Performance Objectives: Using group discussion, learning activities and practical application the students will:

- Discuss laws and department policies concerning the Use of Deadly Force
- Discuss laws and department policies concerning exigent circumstances and gaining entry into a location.
- Discuss the difference between exigent circumstances, officer rapid deployment and a barricaded suspect.
- Demonstrate the ability to use breaching tools and perform a building entry.
- Discuss techniques and tools for breaching doors and windows
- Demonstrate the ability to use breaching tools and perform a building entry using “slow methodical” (surround and callout warrants)
- 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.

References: Instructors, facilitators and training supervisors shall ensure that current references are utilized

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

I. BREACHING TACTICS OVERVIEW (CLASSROOM LECTURE)

(1 HOUR)

A. Introduction

1. Instructor (s)
 - a. Name, Assignment
 - b. Experience
 - c. Distribute POST roster
2. Brief overview of the training schedule
 - a. Summary of Hour 1 (Classroom)
 - 1) Lecture
 - 2) Discussion
 - b. Summary of Hour 2-3 (Practical Application)
 - 1) Entry techniques
 - 2) Officer down rescue
 - 3) Breaching techniques
3. Safety Plan Briefing¹
 - a. Illness and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP)
 - 1) Full duty personnel only
 - b. NO LIVE WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION ALLOWED DURING PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS
 - c. All participants in training have 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 facility

¹ T251 Safety Plan (Tactical Entry Tools for Patrol),

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- d. The following protective equipment is mandatory during the breaching practical application:
 - 1) Eye Protection
 - 2) Ear Protection
 - 3) Gloves
 - 4) Sturdy shoes or boots, no sandals or open toed footwear
 - 5) Helmet

- e. Students shall immediately notify an instructor(s) or the training staff of any injury sustained during training and use the following steps in the event of a serious injury
 - 1) 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. If outside the city of Los Angeles, contact appropriate fire entity.
 - a) Assign Pathfinders, and designated routes to emergency location.
 - 2) In case of a serious injury, all IIPP notifications and protocol shall be followed.
 - 3) 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.
 - 4) Transport to the local hospital for a minor injury

B. Definitions

- 1. Review of LAPD Use of Force Policy²
 - a. Department policy on the Use of Force
 - b. Tactical De-Escalation (Directive 16)³
 - c. 835(a) PC – Force can be used to⁴
 - 1) Effect and arrest
 - 2) Prevent escape; and
 - 3) Overcome resistance
 - 4) 835(a) PC is consistent with and in support of the Fourth Amendment
 - 5) Only reasonable force may be used to effect an arrest, prevent escape or overcome resistance.
 - 6) You have reasonable suspicion to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense.
- 2. Active Shooter
 - a. An armed person who has used deadly physical force on other persons or is inflicting Serious Bodily Injury (SBI) and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims
- 3. Barricaded Suspect
 - a. The suspect is probably armed; and
 - b. The suspect is believed to have been involved in a criminal act or is a significant threat to the lives and safety of citizens and/or police; and
 - c. In a position of advantage, affording cover and concealment; or is contained in an open area and the presence or approach of police officers could precipitate an adverse reaction by the suspect; and

² Department Manual, 1/556.10, Policy on the Use of Force

³ Use of Force – Tactics Directive 16, Tactical De-Escalation Techniques

⁴ California Penal Code Section 835(a)

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- d. The suspect refuses to submit to arrest
- 4. 4 C's: Contain, Control, Communicate, Coordinate
 - a. Contain
 - 1) Immediate containment is essential to prevent suspect(s) escape
 - 2) Proper cover is mandatory for officer safety
 - 3) Field commander must evaluate need for additional personnel
 - 4) Command post should be established at strategic location, out of line of fire/sight of suspect(s) location
 - b. Control
 - 1) Suspect(s) must be isolated from any outside contact
 - 2) Area must be cleared of all foot and vehicular traffic-MFF may be needed for crowd control
 - 3) Adjoining building/rooms should be evacuated
 - c. Communicate
 - 1) Communicate what you have
 - 2) Request a clear tactical frequency
 - 3) Use phones when possible to request Tactical Team
 - 4) When appropriate, communicate with suspect(s) to encourage surrender via phone or loudspeaker
 - 5) Secondary responders when able gather information on suspect(s); prepare a floor plan of the building or area, etc
 - d. Coordinate
 - 1) With responding units
 - 2) With IC
 - 3) With additional resources
 - (a) Air support
 - (b) Tactical Team Response
 - (c) Bomb Squad Response
 - (d) HAZMAT
 - (e) LAFD (Rescue Task Force)/TEMS (Tactical Emergency Medical Services)
- 5. Exigent Circumstances
 - a. Graham V. Connor⁵: "Police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving"
 - b. When officers reasonably believe they are facing a life-and-death emergency, they must disregard all the other rules and do whatever is necessary to save people. Thus, the following is still the most widely-quoted passage in the law of exigent circumstances:
 - 1) "But the business of policemen and firemen is to act, not to speculate or meditate. People could well die in emergencies if police tried to act with the calm deliberation associated with the judicial process"
 - c. The United States Supreme Court ruled that the legality of an entry or search based on exigent circumstances depends, not on some artificial standard of proof, but simply on whether it was objectively reasonable under the circumstances. It also ruled that a police action will be deemed objectively reasonable if the need for it outweighed its intrusiveness
 - d. AB 392 – Reasonable and necessary
 - e. Brigham City v. Stuart the United States Supreme Court ruled that "law enforcement officers may enter a home without a warrant to render

⁵ US Supreme Court, Graham v Connor 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

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emergency assistance to an injured occupant or to protect an occupant from imminent injury

Using PowerPoint display and discuss use of tools. Students will have an opportunity to use tools during the practical application phase.

Learning Activity Video: Various uses of the Halligan tool⁶

1. Active Patrol Breaching Kit Characteristics
 - a. Lite Kit Bag
 - a) Heavy Duty nylon zippered bag
 - b) Equipped with quick release sling
 - b. MultiSledge
 - a) Multifunctional tool, lightweight tubular steel.
 - b) Able to be used as lightweight ram, sledge hammer, saw equipped break and rake tool, pry bar end.
 - c) Can be used to open simple secured doors.
 - d) Can be used in conjunction with MultiPry tool
 - c. MultiPry
 - a) Pry tool used in conjunction with MultiSledge to open traditional security doors as well as inward opening doors.
 - b) Has serrated pry blade and pry bar end.
 - d. 24 inch Bolt cutter (Included in LAPD Active Patrol Breaching Kit)
2. Halligan characteristics
 - a. Shaft
 - b. Pick/ Spike
 - c. Blade/ Wedge/Adze
 - d. Claw/ Fork
 - e. 8-12 pounds
 - f. 24-42 inches
 - a) Verbal commands are "Set, Hit, Breach"
3. Ram is used on inward opening doors and to set the pry tool. Can be used by one or two operators.
 - a. Characteristics:
 - a. Body
 - b. Handles
 - c. Strike Face
 - d. Can weigh between 20 – 40 lbs.
4. Sledge Hammer is used to ram and assist in setting the Halligan.
 - a) Characteristics
 - a. Shaft
 - b. Handle
 - c. Head
 - d. 4-20 pounds
 - e. 8-36 inches
 - b) Verbal Commands are "Set, Breach"

Learning Activity Video: Window breaching⁷

⁶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0pH08pITz0&list=PL89A0A6A2B738DDBE>

⁷ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFFZ0gqhpBc&list=PL77D787EC8BB8A08D>

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5. Break and rake tool is used to break windows, clear glass and remove curtains or blinds
 - a. Characteristics
 - a) Shaft
 - b) Handle
 - c) Spike/ Pike
 - d) Hook
 - b. Protective equipment
 - a) Long gloves (glass protection)
 - b) Helmet
 - c) Eye protection
 - c. Verbal commands “Initiate Break and Rake”, “Break and Rake Complete.”
6. Bolt Cutters are used to bypass locks and chains.
 - a) Characteristics
 - a. Blades/ Teeth
 - b. Handle
 - c. Adjustment bolt
7. Breaching Team cover officers
 - a. Breachers will have a limited ability to defend themselves
 - b. A Designated Cover Officer (DCO) shall be assigned to provide protection for the breaching team. Once entry has been made, one of the breachers shall maintain control of the breaching tool for possible future use.

Instruct the students to meet at designated practical application training location. All trainees shall bring their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Note: Instructors shall ensure there are no live weapons or live ammo in the training area.

(Break in instruction) Facilitate movement to practical training area.

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II. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(1 HOUR)

A. Breaching Techniques

1. Students will practice breaching techniques using the following
 - a. Ram
 - b. Multiple tool breaching kit
 - c. Brake and Rake Tool
 - d. Bolt Cutters

B. Discussion points during practical application phase

1. Area of Responsibility
 - a. Officer Down rescue
 - 1) If an "Officer Down Rescue" situation occurs; immediate and aggressive action must be taken
 - b. The acronym "**RESCUE**" has been developed to assist accomplishing the task of rescuing an officer
 - 1) **Return Fire**
 - a) The officer nearest to the downed / injured officer should immediately return fire
 - b) Cover Fire Defined; Cover fire is defined as, "Controlled and deliberate fire directed at a life endangering threat where the officer reasonable believes the threat to be located"
 - 2) **Extract**
 - a) The officers in close proximity to the downed/injured officer should immediately extract the officer from the line of fire
 - 3) **Safe Area**
 - a) The downed/injured officer needs to be taken to a safe area.
 - 4) **Control Team**
 - a) Control of the team is critical. If possible, hold areas breached. If overwhelmed by suspect/s gunfire attempt to exit location if practical or safe. Account for all entry team members
 - 5) **Urgency of Care**
 - a) Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic determines the urgency of care
 - 6) **Evacuate**
 - a) If the injury to the officer is life threatening and the response of medical personnel too lengthy, evacuation of the officer via police vehicle may be necessary

Experience has shown that evacuation by medically trained personnel is the best option if practicable and time to treatment is not an issue

III. SCENARIO ROTATIONS

(1 HOUR)

A. Breaching Techniques

1. BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO BREACH A DOOR CHECK TO SEE IF THE DOOR IS UNLOCKED!
2. All students must have eye protection and gloves when utilizing the breaching tools.

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3. Gather the students around the breaching door and window breaching simulators. Demonstrate the proper use of the breaching tools. Review the organization of a breaching team including a cover officer and the roles of each team member. Discuss safety concerns, verbal commands and usage of the following:
 - a. Multiple tool breaching kit
 - b. Break and Rake Tool
 - c. Bolt cutters
 - d. Ram
- B. Breaching tool familiarization drills
1. Have each student practice the recommended use of the each breaching tool on the door and window simulators
 2. Instructors will be available for assistance with any of the techniques
 - a. Multiple breaching tool drills. The students will work as a unit to simulate a door breaching situation
 - 1) Have the breaching team utilize the multiple breaching tools to open the breaching door simulator
 - 2) Have the breaching team utilize the ram breaching door simulator.
- C. Breaching tool drills
1. Form the students into contact teams
 - a. Designated cover officer (point position), Team Leader (flank position), Assistant Team Leader (rear guard), and Contact Officer (flank position)
 - b. Allow the students to develop a tactical plan to approach the door and utilize the breaching tools that would best accommodate the scenario
 2. Active shooter scenario
 - a. Students will respond to call of a shooting in progress at a crowded location (school, mall, theater, concert, etc.). In the scenario, the shooter has entered the location and has shot numerous victims. Students will receive information that people inside the location called 9-1-1 via cell phone and stated that the suspect is armed with a machine gun and is shooting at them
 - b. Students will form a contact team, formulate a plan and begin to enter the location to neutralize the threat
 - c. Students will encounter a gate, locked with a chain as they approach. Students will have to cut the chain with bolt cutters
 - d. Students will encounter a metal door which they will breach and make contact with the shooter
 3. Barricaded suspect scenario
 - a. One group of students will participate in the final scenario. They will form a contact team of 4-7 officers. The other students will not participate in this scenario and will only observe
 - 1) The contact team will respond to a call of a 415 man with a gun. The contact team will receive information that numerous shots have been heard coming from the area where the suspect is hiding
 - 2) Additional information is given that the suspect has a history of mental illness
 - 3) The suspect will present himself to officers, armed with a handgun which will be pointed in the air. The suspect will then quickly enter the location and yell out, "I'm not coming out!"
 - 4) The contact team will receive reliable and corroborated information that no additional persons are with the suspect

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- 5) The suspect will refuse to obey repeated orders to submit to arrest
- b. The team leader will evaluate the situation and make a decision to enter the location or wait for additional resources.
- c. Scenario Debrief

D. CLOSING

- 1. Reinforce key learning points from the entire training
 - a. Understanding of the legal requirements, policies and procedures related exigent circumstances, officer rapid deployment and barricaded suspect.
 - b. An understanding of the Department's Use of Force policy
 - c. An understanding of the legal requirements involved with Tactical Entry