



Protective Marking	Not Protectively Marked
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Title	Officer Safety Training in the Metropolitan Police Service
Version	2
Summary	The aim of this policy is to provide personal safety advice and guidance to the Metropolitan Police Service personnel
Branch / OCU	Public Order Strategic Committee
Author	CO11 Officer Safety Policy Unit
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Introduction

In recent years, there have been a number of significant developments in relation to Officer Safety and these have resulted in various notices and other publications.

This Policy supersedes all previous notices in relation to Officer Safety policy, training and equipment.

Application

This SOP applies with immediate effect. All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to the MPA must be aware of, and comply with, all relevant MPS policies and associated procedures. However, this Policy applies in particular to officers and staff in the following roles:

- All Police Officers
- All Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary
- All Police Community Support Officers
- All Designated Detention Officers
- All Police Staff identified at risk through appropriate risk assessment

Purpose

By virtue of the Police (Health and Safety) Act 1997, police officers are regarded as “employees” for the purposes of the Health and Safety Act 1974. Officer Safety policies and procedures form a significant part of the control measures required under this legislation that help to ensure safe working practices for police staff, particularly when facing violent or potentially violent situations. Individuals are under a legal obligation to co-operate with their managers in this respect. Therefore, any failure to comply with instructions relating to these policies may result in disciplinary, civil or criminal proceedings.

Scope

The Officer Safety Manual reflects the current needs of MPS staff. As changes to tactics and training occur, amendments and additional sections will be introduced and managed by the Officer Safety Unit. This is to ensure that all staff have access to the latest training material, advice and guidance.

OCU Officer Safety trainers will adhere to the content of Officer Safety Manual and will not introduce additional material without prior agreement of the Officer Safety Unit.

Policy Statement

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has seen considerable developments in Officer Safety Training in recent times. Advancement in technology, medical knowledge and legal advice have helped shape an Officer Safety Training package designed to meet the complex and ever-increasing demands of policing London in the 21st Century.

Since such advancements have often been in reaction to human tragedy or following the introduction of new equipment, it is understandable that the initial emphasis has centred upon the training of physical tactics. However, the MPS must continue to recognise that talking and listening is equally important as the use of force. Proper and effective communication is an option that can often reduce hostility and resolve conflict. Managing conflict through tactical communication is a central theme of this policy.

The MPS Officer Safety Manual contains instructions and guidance, which reflect the national position of personal safety. It has been designed for the guidance of MPS staff and forms the basis for MPS Officer Safety Training. The techniques included in the manual are not exhaustive. Rather, they represent a range of tactical options, selected to accommodate individuals of varying physical abilities, which are effective and relatively simple to use. If individuals employ techniques that are not covered, then, as with all uses of force, they may need to account for their actions in order to show that what they did was proportionate, legal and necessary in the circumstances.

Benefits

Frequent and structured Officer Safety Training is vital in order to keep MPS staff informed of changes and to ensure their competence in the use of equipment and techniques. Officer Safety Training and polices continue to provide MPS staff with excellent support and guidance to provide continued professionalism, competence and confidence in serving the people of London.

Responsibilities

The policy is owned by the Public Order Strategic Committee

The responsibility for the implementation of this policy is with OCU commanders and all supervisors.

The policy is to be monitored and reviewed by the Officer Safety Policy Unit.

Associated Documents and Policies

- Standard Operating Procedure – Officer Safety Training
- Metropolitan Police Service Officer Safety Manual