

	<b>LETB UNIFORM STATEWIDE POLICY</b>	Agency Policy/General Order Number:
	Subject: Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program	
	Effective: <b>February 17, 2026</b>	Revised: <b>February 17, 2026</b>

**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 and Program 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 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.

**III. UNIFORM STATEWIDE DEFENSIVE TACTICS TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program (“Training Program”) requires that every Indiana law enforcement officer must train in the following mandatory categories annually to ensure Indiana’s law enforcement officers are skilled in defensive tactics.

- A. All law enforcement officers subject to mandatory in-service training must complete four (4) hours of active hands-on defensive tactics training in the following mandatory skills to satisfy the requirement established in IC 5-2-1-9 and 250 IAC 2-7-1:
  - 1. **Strikes:** Training in this mandatory skill will incorporate strikes that an officer may execute using hands, arms, elbows, knees, legs, feet, and/or head. These may include strikes from both a standing and grounded position.
  - 2. **Standing Control Skills:** Training in this mandatory skill will incorporate standing control and/or escape techniques. Clinches, takedowns, and standing escapes are fundamental elements of standing grappling that prepare an officer to control, transition, or disengage during a standing resistance situation.
  - 3. **Ground Fighting:** Training in this mandatory skill will incorporate offensive and/or defensive techniques, including ground escapes, that an officer may use during a grounded

confrontation.

4. Weapons Defense, Retention, and Use of Impact Weapon: Training in this mandatory skill will incorporate techniques that an officer may use to defend against an attempt to disarm, retain the officer's weapon(s), and/or use to gain compliance, defend an attack, or maintain control. Weapons include firearms, edged-weapons, intermediate weapons, and/or impact weapons. Training in this skill should include techniques from a standing and grounded position.

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, however, this may not be used for any portion of the required four (4) hours of in-service defensive tactics training.

- B. Defensive Tactics Instructors must develop a training program that incorporates the four (4) mandatory skills each year. In addition to the four (4) mandatory skills, instructors should use any remaining time within the four (4) annual hours to incorporate training in other defensive tactics skills to address the needs of the agency. The following skills may be incorporated as time allows:
  1. Blocks: Training in this skill includes defense against strikes thrown from the hands, arms, elbows, legs, knees, feet, and head, including blocks from both a standing and grounded position.
  2. Positioning: Training in this skill includes positioning techniques to gain or maintain control over an individual.
  3. Subject Control, Displacement, Transition: Training in this skill includes techniques used to gain or maintain control over an individual.
  4. Scenario-based Training: Training in this area should include use of force decision-making practice and incorporate two or more additional skills in a scripted dynamic scenario.
  5. Handcuffing: Training in this skill should include handcuffing practice in standing, kneeling, and prone positions.
  6. Vascular Neck Restraint: 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. Training in this skill will continue the education officers received during basic training including the effective and safe use of the technique to gain compliance and escape techniques for officers.

Agencies using Vascular Neck Restraint must conduct annual hands-on training to ensure proper application during active resistance.

7. Any additional defensive tactics skill developed by an approved training provider for use by a law enforcement officer.
- C. To ensure that officers are competent and knowledgeable in defensive tactics, each officer shall correctly demonstrate and explain each skill trained for successful completion of the in-service requirement. Defensive Tactics Instructors shall affirm that each officer in attendance demonstrated a clear understanding of the defensive tactics skills trained or provide remedial training until the officer correctly demonstrates his/her understanding. 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.
  - D. The LETB, through the Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy or designee, may waive the active participation requirement of the mandatory defensive tactics in-service training only for officers 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 and the request should include the anticipated duration of the officer's limited duty.

#### **IV. CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS**

- A. Psychomotor skill instructors certified in defensive tactics must complete a LETB-approved instructor course(s) that provides instructor-level training in the mandatory defensive tactics skills and receive a certificate as a Defensive Tactics Instructor.
- B. Indiana Law Enforcement Academy ("ILEA") Defensive Tactics Instructors will be responsible for reviewing and approving all defensive tactics training provider applications. ILEA is responsible for maintaining the list of LETB-approved defensive tactics instructor programs and shall maintain updated copies of any approved program for review.
- C. All Defensive Tactics training providers must notify ILEA of any changes to the approved program and provide an updated instructor manual to maintain approval status as a LETB-approved course for in-service training and LETB Defensive Tactics Instructor certification.
- D. Defensive Tactics Instructors must hold a valid and current certification in a LETB-approved instructor course to provide defensive tactics in-service training and may not provide instruction outside of their certified program(s).
- E. Defensive Tactics Instructors must maintain a lesson plan that documents the skills trained and practiced during in-service training as well as the training objectives. The lesson plan must be maintained by the law enforcement agency and/or the Defensive Tactics Instructor for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of training, a copy of which shall be provided to the LETB upon request.
- F. Instructors are responsible for accurately documenting any in-service training provided to maintain their LETB instructor certificate.