

ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE	NUMBER: 8.29	PAGES: 1 of 2
	RELATED ORDERS: P&P 8.26	
	ISSUED DATE: June 28, 1994	
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CHAPTER: Security and Control	SUBJECT: Positional Asphyxia	

I. **PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for the use of restraints which minimize the potential for inmate injury as a result of positional asphyxia.

II. **POLICY:** The use of prone restraint techniques shall be limited and inmates so restrained shall be constantly monitored, pursuant to Policy and Procedure 8.26, "Use of Special Restraints."

III. **DEFINITIONS:**

- A. **MAXIMUM PRONE RESTRAINT:** Using ankle, wrist, waist restraint devices and/or hobbles applied in any manner which places the individual in a prone or supine position, while restricting his/her ability to move or change position without assistance.
- B. **POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA:** Interference with normal respiration (breathing) as a result of body position.

IV. **PROCEDURE:**

- A. Maximum Prone Restraint (MPR) may be used to gain control of a combative or violent inmate when such force is necessary to ensure the safety and security of staff and the affected inmate.
 - 1. Inmates in wrist, waist or ankle restraints, or any combination thereof, and who are subsequently placed in a prone or supine position, shall be constantly monitored to ensure they remain alert and exhibit no signs of respiratory difficulty.
 - 2. Special attention shall be paid to inmates who are under a combined effect of any drug and alcohol. The risk of sudden death increases significantly when individuals are intoxicated. The symptoms can be, but are not limited to:
 - a. Bizarre and/or aggressive behavior/violence toward others
 - b. Shouting/paranoia/panic
 - c. Sudden tranquility
 - d. Unexpected physical strength
 - 3. Duration of the application of MPR techniques shall be limited to the time necessary to gain control of the inmate and ensure the safety and security of staff and the affected

inmate.

4. Once control is gained and the situation is secure, the inmate shall be returned to an upright or sitting position.
- B. No inmate shall be left unattended while restrained with wrist, waist and/or ankle restraints, or any combination thereof while in a prone or supine position.
- C. Maximum Prone Restraint techniques shall not be employed while transporting inmates.
1. Inmates in wrist, waist and/or ankle restraints shall be transported in an upright or sitting position.
 2. Personnel transporting inmates shall ensure their body position is such that normal respiration (breathing) is not inhibited.