



State of California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

Domestic Violence Response Update (SELF-PACED)

This course meets the 2-hour refresher training requirements per Penal Code 13519. During this interactive training, the learner will hear from experts, learn about the dynamics of power and control in abusive relationships, practice interviews while incorporating a lethality assessment, determine Penal Code violations and offer support and services to victims all while applying updates to the law. Plus, the training has many resources to explore.

Learning Objectives

The course meets the refresher training requirements per Penal Code 13519 and will address the following learning objectives in consideration of agency policies and procedures:

- Identify scene safety actions to take in initial response including ways parties can be separated safely with a sound barrier using de-escalation techniques.
- Recognize the impact of strangulation on the victim and officer safety.
- Recognize domestic violence occurs in a larger context - a process and history of repetitive behavior patterns around power and control in a relationship.
- Apply effective interviewing skills to uncover more accurate and detailed information including asking about strangulation and identifying the dominant aggressor.
- Consider applying lethality assessment indicators by asking specific questions.
- Treat victims of violence sensitively and appropriately including offering restraining order options along with safety planning, keeping in mind the historical experiences of people of color and immigrants.
- Analyze the physical environment to identify relevant evidence and use this evidence to assist in responding to the DV situation.
- Identify firearm protocols in DV situations.
- Recognize thorough documentation based on a detailed investigation supports all parties involved and provides the prosecution with information to make an informed decision.



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Activity Types

- **Learning Activity: Video Analysis**
Spot the indicators is a video analysis activity that challenges learners to identify factors that may indicate domestic violence has occurred, both in the present and as part of an ongoing pattern of violence using the Power and Control wheel behavior. A timeline is used at the conclusion to show the history, present, and future of the cycle of violence for the involved parties.
- **Learning Activity: Video Conversation**
The video conversation activity challenges learners to interview in a way that uncovers information leading to appropriate charges while building rapport, where necessary. Field notes for reference and a three strikes rule ensure learning is taking place. A timeline and/or a brief lethality assessment questionnaire is used at the conclusion to show the history, present, and future of the cycle of violence for the involved parties.
- **Learning Activity: Click Reveal**
This activity allows the learner to gain foundational knowledge by clicking on an area for more information. This applies to the power and control wheel and the strangulation diagram.
- **Learning Activity: Scenario Question and Answer**
This activity sets up a situational scenario where learners are asked what to do given the situation. This applies to the lethality assessment, penal code violation determination, and a firearms scenario.
- **Evaluation Activity: Scene Explore plus Video Conversation**
The scene explore activity along with the video conversation will be used as the evaluative activity for this course and will tie together skills practiced earlier in the course. In this interaction, learners:
 - Observe items in the room related to the case.
 - Interview two parties with the goal of uncovering information leading to the appropriate charges.
 - Select options that represent thorough notes more likely to determine violations and/or offer support to victims.



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Resources

- The Domestic Violence Response Update course provides documents, links, references to statistics, research, victim support services, penal codes, and legislation.

Content Outline

Domestic Violence Response Update

Lesson 1: Introduction

- Overview of goals
- Link to POST Domestic Violence Guidelines
- Expert testimony

Lesson 2: Power and Control: Indicators of Domestic Violence

- Power and Control wheel introduction
- Learning Activity: Video Analysis - Indicators of domestic violence
- Learning Activities: Click Reveal - Power and control; History of violence timeline

Lesson 3: Lethality Assessment

- Lethality assessment explained
- Expert testimony

Lesson 4: Strangulation

- Expert testimony
- Learning Activity: Video conversation - Strangulation victim interview
- Officer offering victim services video and links to victim resources
- Learning Activity: Click Reveal - Signs of strangulation

Lesson 5: Identifying the Dominant Aggressor

- Officer and child interview video
- Learning Activity: Video Conversation - Determining the dominant aggressor
- Expert testimony

Lesson 6: Firearms Protocol

- Learning Activity: Scenario Question and Answer
- Expert testimony



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Evaluation Activity: Scene Explore and Video Conversation Final Scenario

- Observe items in the room related to the case.
- Interview two parties with the goal of uncovering information leading to the appropriate charges.
- Select options that represent thorough notes more likely to determine violations and/or offer support to victims.