



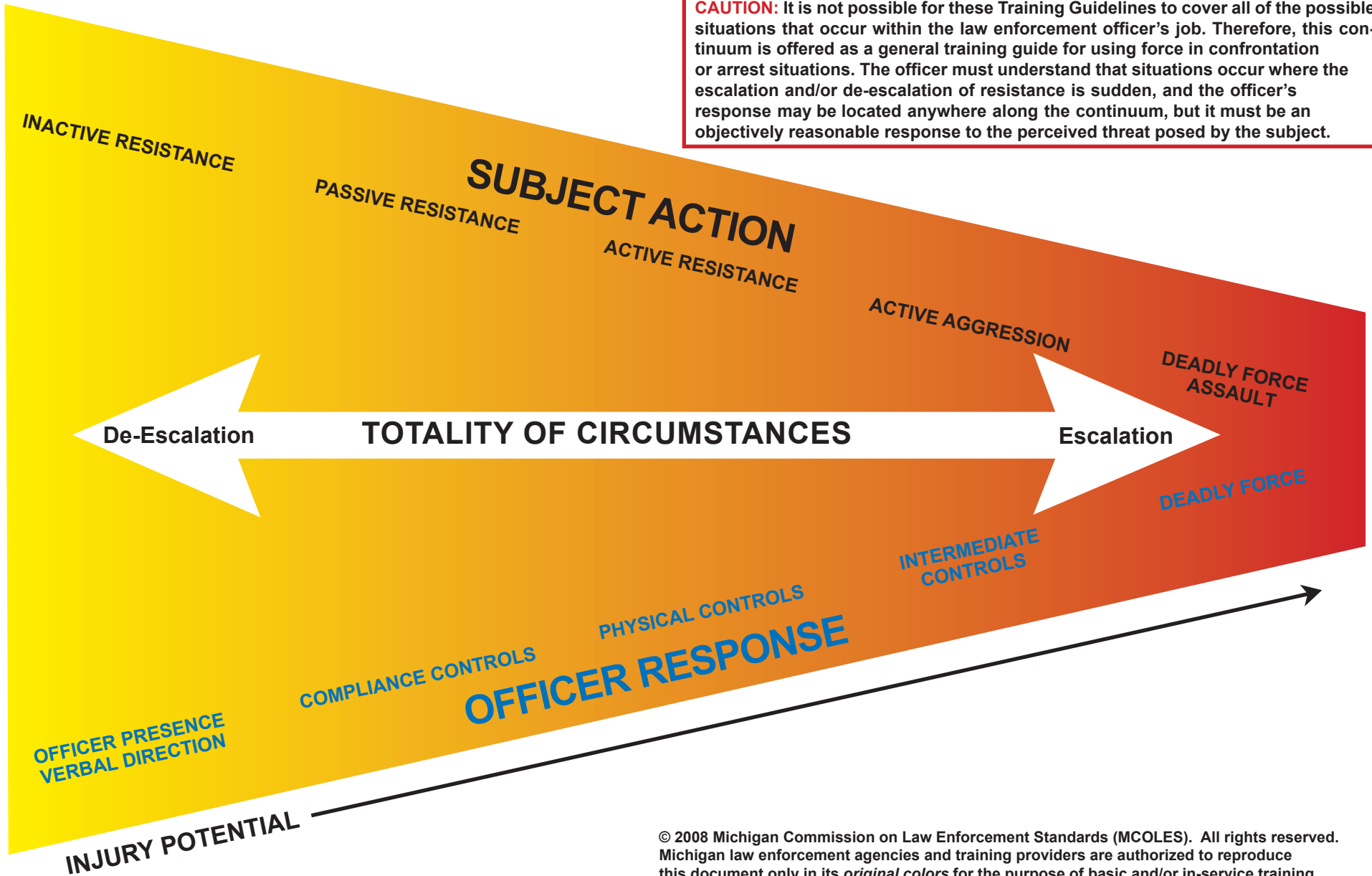
MCOLES

Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards

SUBJECT CONTROL CONTINUUM

A Training Guide for Escalation and De-Escalation of Subject Control

CAUTION: It is not possible for these Training Guidelines to cover all of the possible situations that occur within the law enforcement officer's job. Therefore, this continuum is offered as a general training guide for using force in confrontation or arrest situations. The officer must understand that situations occur where the escalation and/or de-escalation of resistance is sudden, and the officer's response may be located anywhere along the continuum, but it must be an objectively reasonable response to the perceived threat posed by the subject.



TRAINING GUIDE FOR THE MCOLES SUBJECT CONTROL CONTINUUM

This Subject Control Continuum is published by the Michigan Commission On Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and is offered as a general training guide for controlling subjects in confrontation or arrest situations. It is imperative that law enforcement officers are properly trained in the interpretation and application of this training guide, and be annually updated on relevant legal issues, technological advances, departmental policy, and department approved tactics, techniques and skills used for subject control.

SUBJECT ACTIONS	
INACTIVE RESISTANCE	Resistance that may include psychological intimidation and/or verbal resistance (e.g., blank stare, clenching of fist(s), tightening of jaw muscles, etc.).
PASSIVE RESISTANCE	Any type of resistance whereby the subject does not attempt to defeat the officer's attempt to touch and control the subject, but still will not voluntarily comply with verbal and physical attempts of control (e.g., dead weight, failure to obey verbal commands, etc.).
ACTIVE RESISTANCE	Any action by a subject that attempts to prevent an officer from gaining control of the subject (e.g., pulling/pushing away, blocking, etc.).
ACTIVE AGGRESSION	Physical actions/assaults against the officer or another person with less than deadly force (e.g., advancing, challenging, punching, kicking, grabbing, wrestling, etc.).
DEADLY FORCE ASSAULT	Any force used against an officer or another person that may result in great bodily harm or the loss of human life.
OFFICER RESPONSE*	
OFFICER PRESENCE/VERBAL DIRECTION	Identification of Authority (e.g., uniformed presence or identification as a police officer), Verbal Direction (e.g., for arrest or to control subject's movements), Use of Restraint Devices (e.g., compliant handcuffing).
COMPLIANCE CONTROLS	Soft Empty Hand Techniques (e.g., joint lock, pressure points, etc.), Compliance Control Devices (e.g., Do-Rite, baton, Kubotan, PR-24, etc.).**
PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Hard Empty Hand Techniques (e.g., strikes, take downs, etc.).
INTERMEDIATE CONTROLS	Intermediate Weapons (e.g., impact weapons).
DEADLY FORCE RESPONSE	Any force used by an officer that has a reasonable probability to cause death.
<p>* NOTE: All officer response controls available at the lower end of the continuum are still available to the officer as the subject's actions escalate (e.g., an officer attempting to arrest a subject who is actively resisting may use verbal direction and compliance controls as a control measure, even though the officer may be justified in using chemical aerosol spray and/or hard empty hand techniques).</p> <p>**NOTE: Compliance Control Devices fall under Compliance Controls when used as a compliance control device rather than as an impact weapon.</p> <p>Less-Lethal Subject Control Devices (e.g., chemical aerosol sprays, electrical devices, impact projectile systems, etc.) have different risks of injury associated with them and may be considered different levels of force. The decision to deploy any less-lethal device, when used to physically control a subject, should be based on the subject's actions, the totality of the circumstances, and be consistent with the objectively reasonable standard that governs the application of force by law enforcement officers.</p>	
TOTALITY OF CIRCUMSTANCES	
<p>The question is whether the officer's actions are "objectively reasonable" in light of <u>all</u> the facts and circumstances confronting the officer at the time the force is used.</p>	
CIRCUMSTANTIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
<p>(List is not all inclusive)</p>	
<p>Type of crime committed or attempted; relative size/stature of subject(s); exigent conditions: number of officers on scene, number of subjects involved, and availability of back-up; reaction time; relative strength; subject(s) access to weapons; subject(s) under the influence of alcohol or drugs; exceptional abilities/skills of suspect(s) (e.g., martial arts); injury to, or exhaustion of, the officer; weather or terrain conditions; immediacy of danger; distance from the subject; special knowledge (e.g., subject's prior history of violence), etc.</p>	
<p>Last Resort: Situations may occur where immediate and drastic measures must be undertaken by an officer to protect human life. Force used in these life threatening situations may involve the use of tactics, techniques, or weapons not specifically authorized by policy (e.g., neck restraint, striking with flash light, etc.).</p>	