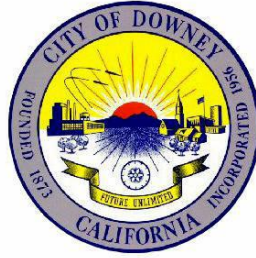


DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING



BULLETIN

Dean Milligan
Chief of Police

No. 21-05

Recovery Position, Breathing and In-Custody Deaths

With prior Basic First Aid Training, Officers have been taught to reposition a restrained subject onto their side to enhance breathing and have labeled this as the “Recovery Position” in their reports. The idea was if an unconscious person is breathing they should be rolled into the “Recovery Position” to protect the airway and minimize or prevent aspiration. Depending on preexisting or unknown medical conditions, the “Recovery Position” could cause medical issues. This position is also not designed to improve breathing.

Effectively immediately, personnel **SHALL NOT** utilize the term “Recovery Position” in any reports, broadcasts, or testimony. If a person in custody is placed on their side the term “Recovery Position” should be replaced with “Rolled the person onto his or her side” when documenting the incident.

Furthermore, if a person is placed on their side, Officers must actively and constantly monitor their ABCs (Airway, Breathing, Circulation), and render medical aid and activate EMS as necessary.