



BRAINTREE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure 2019-71

Safety Restraint Chair

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Revised:

Chief Paul Shastany

Certification Standards:

Accreditation Standards:

Optional Accreditation Standards:

General Considerations

The purpose of the safety restraint chair is to provide officers with the safest most humane, and least psychologically traumatizing system for restraining and containment of detainees exhibiting violent, violent prone or uncontrollable behavior or to enhance the safety of detainees and officers. The use of the safety restraint chair shall never be used to punish detainees. The safety restraint chair may be used in any or all of the following situations:

- 1) When a detainee has demonstrated or is demonstrating threatening, violent, combative, aggressive, or uncontrollable behavior;
- 2) To prevent self-injury; injury to others or property damage;
- 3) Makes overt attempts to assault staff, or other detainees; and
- 4) As a means of moving a combative, violent detainee safely from one area of the building to another.

Policy

The safety restraint chair will only be authorized by the Shift Commander or higher authority to provide safe containment of a detainee exhibiting violent, violent prone, uncontrollable behavior. Other control techniques, such as officer presence, verbal commands, and voluntary compliance should be employed prior to using the Safety Restraint Chair.

Procedures

Only personnel trained in the use of the safety restraint chair are authorized to place a detainee in the chair. A minimum of two (2) officers will be present to assist in the placement of a detainee in the chair.

1) Officer Responsibilities

- a) After it has been determined that the safety restraint chair is necessary and its use has been authorized, police officer responsibilities include:
 - i) Inspect chair to ensure equipment is in good working order;
 - ii) Follow procedures outlined in attached manual for the placement and removal of such detainee from the restraint chair;
 - iii) Document time the detainee was placed in the restraint chair.
 - iv) Keep detainee under continuous video monitoring;
 - v) Conduct in-person visual and physical checks of the detainee and chair restraints every 15 minutes;
 - vi) Immediately notify the Shift Commander and E.M.S any time an officer believes the detainee's health may be at risk;
 - vii) Restroom and water breaks are not to be attempted if the detainee continues to be threatening, combative, or is attempting to get out of the restraint chair;
 - viii) If the station officer observes signs indicating a lack of circulation in either the hands or feet of the detainee, he or she shall notify the Shift Commander immediately and then, in the presence of another officer, adjust the restraints to accommodate better circulation. E.M.S. should be called to address any concerns regarding a detainee's circulation. E.M.S. shall be called to address any concerns regarding a detainee's ability to breathe while restrained in the chair;
 - ix) The Safety Restraint Chair is not to be used for detainees who have injuries of such a nature that placement in the chair would further injure them.

2) Shift Commander Responsibilities

- a) Check that the safety restraint chair procedures are followed;
- b) Review documentation as being completed and accurate;
- c) Ensure the detainee is under frequent, and direct observation by personnel;
- d) Contact medical personnel, if detainee experiences any medical problems; and

e) Release of the detainee when it is safe and practical to do so.

3) Combative Detainees

a) Detainees shall be searched without the handcuffs being removed. During the search, the searching officer will inspect the handcuffs to ensure that they are secure and double locked. The officer shall also ensure that the handcuffs do not restrict the detainee's circulation.

4) Documentation

a) Information regarding the use of the safety restraint chair will be logged. This reporting includes:

- i) Name of detainee;
- ii) Detainee's behavior or other reason for placing the detainee in the chair;
- iii) Name of Shift Commander or other person authorizing the use of the safety restraint chair;
- iv) Name of officers who placed the detainee in the safety restraint chair;
- v) Time of placement in chair;
- vi) Behavior and demeanor of detainee while in the chair;
- vii) How many times the detainee was checked while in the chair is verified through fob.
- viii) Any medical problems while in the chair;
- ix) Time of removal from the chair;
- x) Officers who removed detainee from the chair;
- xi) Notation of any problems or concerns.

5) Placing the Detainee in Safety Restraint Chair

a) The following steps are guidelines to follow when placing a detainee in the restraint chair. If a detainee is violent, combative or displays aggressive or uncontrollable behavior officers may have to deviate from the guidelines when placing the detainee in the restraint chair to ensure officer safety:

- i) If safe to do so, remove all of the detainee's personal property including; jewelry, glasses, shoes, boots, socks,

coat, hat and belt. The detainee should be handcuffed and wearing leg irons when warranted.

- ii) Violent behavior may mask dangerous medical conditions. Detainees must be monitored continuously and provided medical treatment if needed. Handcuffs and leg irons should be removed as soon as possible to prevent injury.

Belts and straps may need to be loosened to insure adequate circulation. The Safety Restraint Chair must always be used in the upright position, leaving the chair on its side or back may cause injury or death to the detainee. ***Detainees should not be left in the Safety Restraint Chair for more than two (2) hours.***

If a detainee still exhibits signs of violent, combative, aggressive or uncontrollable behavior when placed back into a cell after being removed from restraint chair, the Shift Commander may authorize the detainee to be placed back into the safety restraint chair not to exceed the recommended time limit of two (2) hours. The Shift Commander shall document the reasons justifying the placement of the detainee back into the restraint chair.

The recommended time limit of two (2) hours was established to allow for the detainee to calm down or sober up, and if needed it allows for officers to seek medical help for the detainee. This two (2) hour time limit may be extended, but only under direct medical supervision (Doctor / Nurse). This guideline should be followed if the detainee were to remain continuously restrained in the safety restraint chair for more than two (2) hours.

This extended time period must not exceed eight (8) hours and range of motion exercises must be performed regularly. Therefore it is not recommended for anyone to be left in the Safety Restraint Chair for more than ten (10) hours total.

- xi) A Detainee may be removed from the safety restraint chair only under the direction of the Shift Commander.
- xii) Training: Shift Commanders shall conduct bi-annual training or remedial training to sworn officers. The training video is located on the Share Drive.

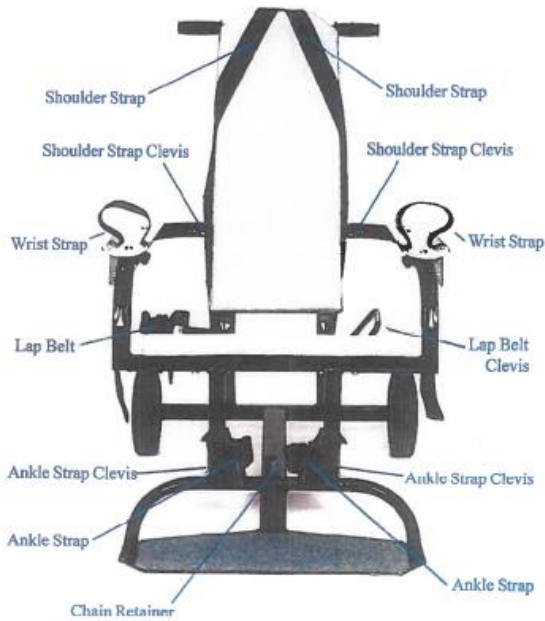
Safety Restraint Chair

Instructions

Warning

Use of the Safety Restraint Chair without first reading and thoroughly understanding the instructions could cause injury or death.

The Safety Restraint Chair is intended to help control combative, self destructive, or potentially violent detainees. If used properly it can reduce the risk of physical harm to both the detainee and staff. Violent behavior may mask dangerous medical conditions therefore detainees must be monitored for and provided with medical treatment if needed. Detainees should not be left in the Safety Restraint Chair for more than two hours. The Safety Restraint Chair should **never** be used as a means of punishment.



Step 1.

Ensure that all of the detainee's personal property has been removed from them, to include jewelry, glasses, shoes, boots, socks, coat, hat, and belt. They should only be clothed in their shirt, pants, or dress.

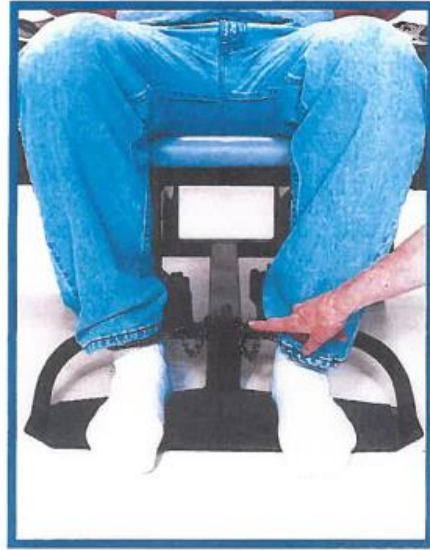
Note: The detainee should be handcuffed and wearing leg irons when warranted.



Step 2.

Have the detainee sit in the seat, secure the lap belt free end in the lap belt clevis, and pull the handle until snug.

Note: To loosen the lap belt, insert a standard handcuff key in the lap belt buckle, and "push in" while pulling slack on the lap belt.



Step 3.

Place the chain of the leg irons behind the chain retainer.

Caution: Handcuffs and leg irons must be removed as soon as possible to prevent injury.

Caution: Belts and straps may need to be loosened to insure adequate blood flow. The Safety Restraint Chair must always be used in the upright position, leaving the chair on its side or back may cause injury or death to the detainee. Detainees should not be left in the Safety Restraint Chair for more than two hours.

This time limit was established to allow for the detainee to calm down or sober up, and if needed it allows for the correctional office to seek medical or psychological help for the detainee. This two hour time limit may be extended, but only under **direct** medical supervision (Doctor/Nurse). This extended time period must not exceed eight hours and range of motion exercises must be performed regularly. Therefore we do not recommend anyone be left in the Safety Restraint Chair for more than ten hours total.

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