

**Safety Guidelines for Chemical Agent Instructor Course  
Presented by CATO  
Presented at San Diego Sheriff's Miramar Training Facility**

It shall be the policy of CATO to conduct all training in such a manner as to promote an attitude of safety among instructors and students alike. Concern for safety is contagious and can only result in a reduction in risk.

**Staff Presenter Responsibilities**

- a) The training staff shall provide advance notice to prospective trainees and their agencies regarding anticipated physical demands and/or physical performance expectations.
- b) Instructors will be provided with a copy of the specific safety guidelines pertaining to their course of instruction prior to the commencement of the class.
- c) The training staff shall ensure that emergency communications are accessible at all training sites.
- d) At least one member of the instructional staff, either directly involved in the training event or immediately available at the training site, shall be trained in first aid and CPR.
- e) Student emergency notification information shall be maintained for the duration of the course.
- f) When planning a training event the training staff shall identify which medical facilities and emergency services are available or subject to call in the event of an emergency or student injury.

**Instructional Staff to Student Ratios**

- a) Instructional staff to student ratios for each psychomotor skill area have been established. Factors considered in establishing these ratios included, but were not limited to:
  - i) The intensity or pace of the training experience
  - ii) Student familiarity of the material
  - iii) Characteristics of the training site
  - iv) Injury potential
  - v) Active versus passive participation
- b) For the purposes of establishing an instructional staff to student ratio, the following personnel titles and descriptions are viewed by CATO as exerting functional supervision over students in training:
- g) Primary Instructor in addition to:
  - i) Assistant Instructors
  - ii) Course Coordinators
  - iii) Training Assistants
  - iv) Range masters
  - v) Range Safety Officers
  - vi) Recruit Training Officers
  - vii) Designated Role Players
- h) Reassessment of the staff-to-student ratio will be initiated when curriculum changes are proposed or when course structure is otherwise modified.
- i) Students not engaged in training will observe from a safe location.

**Instructor Responsibilities**

- a) The primary instructor or designee shall be responsible for conducting safety inspections of students and facilities used for training.
- b) Instructors should be aware of environmental factors such as weather or air quality and adjust the instruction as necessary.
- c) The primary instructor or designee shall verbally review specific safety rules with students.

- d) Specific safety rules shall be incorporated into lesson plans. Copies of safety rules shall be distributed to students as part of the course handouts.
- e) Instructors shall adhere to the expanded course outline as submitted to POST. Instructors shall also adhere to their lesson plan as approved by CATO.

### **Student Responsibilities**

- a) Students shall immediately notify CATO of any known pre-existing medical condition which is likely to be aggravated by, or effect performance during training.
- b) Students shall be required to provide evidence of medical or physical fitness for training if the instructor questions their ability to perform safely.
- c) Students shall immediately notify a member of the training staff of any injury sustained during training.
- d) Students are responsible for adhering to all safety requirements of individual courses

### **Responses to Injuries**

- a) In the event of an injury, the following actions shall be taken as necessary:
  - i) Render first aid
  - ii) If a student is injured and requires anything more than first aid, he/she will be taken to the UCSD Hospital Emergency Room for treatment. If the injury is severe, Life Flight may be called to transport the injured student to the UCSD Medical Trauma Center.
  - iii) Obtain appropriate medical assistance. In all cases where a student loses consciousness an evaluation shall be sought from a competent medical authority before the student is allowed to return to training.
  - iv) The course coordinator for CATO will be notified as soon as practical after the incident has occurred.
  - v) Initiate notification of the student's agency and any emergency contact persons if appropriate.
  - vi) Investigate and complete an accident report required by CATO.
  - vii) Students who sustain an injury which requires treatment by a physician must obtain a medical release before they will be allowed to resume training.

### **Facility Guideline**

- a) All students will meet Cal/OSHA requirements for air purifying respirators prior to attending class.
- b) All range safety rules will be observed at all times. All safety rules are clearly posted at range and will be reviewed by each student prior to class.
- c) All students and instructors will review these safety rules prior to class.
- d) Training with live agent will be held at the Marine Corps chemical agent facility or the San Diego Sheriff's SED chemical agent facility located at the range.
- e) Wind direction during the release of chemical agents will be observed by instructors to ensure the cloud will not range to any roadways or occupied buildings.
- f) Instructors will not use pyrotechnic chemical agent near any combustible material.

### **Equipment Guidelines**

- a) All students will bring to class a NIOSH approved APR
- b) Water hoses and chemical wipes will be available during all field exercises. Water from range hoses is not potable but can be used to decontaminate.
- c) Fire department located adjacent to the range will be notified prior to the use of any pyrotechnic chemical agents. Shovels will be located at each training venue where chemical agents will be deployed. Fire extinguishers are available in all classrooms adjacent to training sites.

- d) All students are required to bring appropriate safety clothing and devices to include, fire resistant gloves, eye and ear protection.

### **Instructor Qualification**

- a) All instructors will be pre-approved by POST in the certification process.

### **Instructor to student Ration 1:6**

- a) Three instructors will be present for all field evolutions.
- b) Each instructor will never have more than six (6) students under his or her control at a time.
- c) One of the instructors will remain free of the evolutions and act as the safety assurance instructor
- d) "Students not engaged in training and not under the direct control of an instructor will observe from a safe location."

### **Presentation Guidelines**

- a) No live devices will be brought into a classroom
- b) Instructors will be familiar with and use all chemical agent devices as designed.
- c) All projectiles will be fired only on designated ranges with an impact area and in any event never be fired towards an individual. The exception is for personal protection devices.
- d) Only instructors will handle dud munitions. Instructors will show students how to properly dispose of such devices.
- e) Students will not remove safety pins from any device until instructed to throw or shoot the device.
- f) Students will hold and throw or shoot devices only as instructed during class
- g) Students will always be aware a chemical agent will land prior to throwing or launching the device.

### **Specific Safety Rules**

- a) Instructors will monitor all students decontaminating until they are free of chemical agent debilitating effects.
- b) Students will stay with their partner until such time as released by the instructor
- c) All cases of unusual distress will be examined in the emergency room at UCSD Medical center.