REVIEW

STARTED OUT AS
“EXCITED DELIRIUM SYNDROME”
IN THE LATE 1980’S EARLY 1990’S
(REFERENCE PPCT FORCE COMPENDIUM 1997 ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE)
1990 – 1997 SIDS

- SUDDEN IN-CUSTODY DEATH SYNDROME
- POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
- MECHANICAL ASPHYXIA
- RESTRAINT ASPHYXIA
1997 - PRESENT

- **RESTRAINT ASPHYXIA**
  
  FIRST MENTIONED IN PUBLICATION IN 1993 BUT HAS NOT BECOME A POPULAR TERM UNTIL RECENTLY.

- **1998 JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE**
  
  PUBLISHED REPORT THAT EMS WORKERS WITNESSED 20 DEATHS BY ASPHYXIA BETWEEN 1992-1998
NOT JUST A LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM

RESTRAINT DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED IN ALARMING NUMBERS IN PSYCH UNITS, NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS
WHAT’S THE POINT OF THIS CLASS?

- DISCUSS CONTEMPORARY RESTRAINT OF PRISONERS
- TALK ABOUT THE SAFETY FACTORS THAT MUST BE PRESENT WHEN CONTINUED/LONG TERM RESTRAINT IS CONSIDERED
- WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COMMON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYING THE SAFETY CHAIR?
- WHAT IS "POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA"
CORE CLASS OBJECTIVES

- WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
- DESCRIBE THE BASIC INDIVIDUAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
NEVER HOG TIE A PRISONER

- UNDERSTAND THE EXTREME RISK TO LIFE THAT “HOG TYING” A SUBJECT PRESENTS
SUDDEN IN CUSTODY DEATH SYNDROME

WHAT ARE THE PREDISPOSING FACTORS:

- OVER CROWDED FACILITY
- MANPOWER SHORTAGES (EL PASO CO.)
- ABSENCE OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES
- ABSENCE OR INADEQUATE TRAINING
- ABSENCE OF QUALIFIED MEDICAL STAFF
SUDDEN IN CUSTODY DEATH SYNDROME

-- NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS
POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA

• THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF SUDDEN IN CUSTODY DEATH SYNDROME IS:

• POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
AN IMPAIRMENT OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM IN WHICH OXYGEN IS DECREASED AND CARBON DIOXIDE IS INCREASED

• OTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS OR CONDITIONS ARE:
LACTIC ACIDIOUS
METABOLIC ACIDIOUS
THORAX ASPHYXIA
EMBOLISMS (MOSTLY PULMONARY)
HOG TYING A PRISONER HAS BEEN PROVEN TO CONTRIBUTE TO PRISONER’S DEATH

- PLACES SUBJECT SQUARELY ON THEIR ABDOMEN
- INHIBITS OR DEFEATS BOTH THE BODY’S DIAPHRAGM AND “BELLOWS” MUSCLES IN THEIR FUNCTIONS WHICH IS:
- TO PROVIDE OXYGEN AND EXPUNGE CARBON DIOXIDE
GROUND A SUBJECT
TRANSFER SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT THROUGH POINTS OF CONTACT WITH SUBJECT
STRUGGLE WAS VIGOROUS
SUBJECT IS MAXIMALLY RESTRAINED BEHIND HIS BACK
HE IS A DRUG USER - HE IS POOR
HE IS OBESE
HE IS LEFT ON THE FLOOR AFTER ALTERCATION

You just met the person
most likely to die in your jail !!!

POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
ABBREVIATION: “POST X”
When a violent struggle ensues, the respiratory contractions increase, never decrease.

Moreover, when a subject continues to resist us while we are attempting control we tend to apply more pressure not less on that subject’s back.

Of course, this only aggravates the situation and causes increased stress.
MORE POST X FACTORS

- OBESITY
- DRUGS
- ENLARGED HEART
 IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

GAIN CONTROL OF SUBJECT

APPLY RESTRAINTS

GET SUBJECT ON THEIR SIDE AT A MINIMUM – STAND THEM UP IF YOU CAN
• Never hog tie a prisoner
• Don’t allow it to happen around you
• Never keep a subject restrained from behind on their abdomen for prolonged periods
• IF YOU FEEL A PRISONER IS IN DISTRESS
• IF THEY EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY BREATHING
GET MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY
STAND THEM UP
PREPARE TO REMOVE RESTRAINTS IF NECESSARY
PREPARE TO EVACUATE PRISONER IF ORDERED
HYPOXIA

BREATHING IN Volves:

• CHEST WALL
• DIAPHRAGM
• BELOW MUSCLES (RIB CAGE)
• ABDOMEN
HYPOXIA

INTERFERENCE WITH PROPER BREATHING PRODUCES AN OXYGEN DECIENCY (KNOWN AS HYPOXIA) IN THE BLOOD WHICH DISTURBS THE BODY’S CHEMISTRY AND CREATES THE CONDITIONS FOR A FATAL RHYTHM DISTURBANCE IN THE HEART
AGGRAVATING FACTORS

• DEATH BY HYPOXIA (POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA) ARE AGGRAVATED BY THESE FACTORS:

1. HOG TIEDED OR PRONE POSITIONING
2. OBESITY, WITH ACCOMPANYING LARGE OR BULBOUS STOMACH (BEER BELLY)
3. DRUG ALCOHOL USE/ADDICTION
4. PSYCHOTIC BEHAVIOR WITH SERIOUS FATIGUE
5. POOR GENERAL HEALTH
DEATH OCCURS

• DEATH CAN OCCUR WHEN THE PRISONER IS PLACED AND MAINTAINED IN ANY POSITION (FOR EXTENDED PERIOD) THAT PLACES PRESSURE ON THEIR DIAPHRAGM COMPRESSING IT. IF A PERSON'S DIAPHRAGM CAN'T WORK THEY CAN'T BREATHE.

• THEY THEN CAN NOT EXPUNGE THE CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THEIR LUNGS AND GET ADEQUATE OXYGEN

• AT SOME POINT THE HEART WILL ARREST, AND DEATH OCCURS
HYPOXIA MASKED

► DURING A STRUGGLE WITH A SUBJECT THAT MEETS THE PROFILE OF POST X – IT WILL BECOME DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BREATHE PROPERLY THE LONGER THEY ARE UNDER PRONE CONTROL.

► THEY WILL BEGIN TO STRUGGLE MORE IN AN ATTEMPT TO BREATHE – NOT RESIST.

► IF NOTHING IS DONE TO RELIEVE THIS CIRCUMSTANCE THEY WILL BECOME QUIET – THEN DIE.

► THERE ARE NO DOCUMENTED CASES OF HYPOXIA VICTIM BEING REVIVED
OBSERVE RESTRAINED INMATES CONTINUOUSLY

- OBSERVE BOTH DURING AND POST FORCE/ USE OF RESTRAINTS
- NEVER RESTRAIN SOMEONE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME WITHOUT HAVING THEM EXAMINED BY MEDICAL STAFF
- DOCUMENT THE INCIDENT, BE METICULOUS ABOUT TIMES AND DETAILS.
- RESTRAINTS ARE NECESSARY, BUT NEVER A “SMALL DEAL”
O.C. COMPLICATES

- IF O.C. IS USED ON A POST X PROFILE INMATE, IT CAN FURTHER PROVOKE A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION.

- STAND THEM UP – DECON IMMEDIATELY, GET THEM MEDICAL ATTENTION READ THE ADMIN WARNING TO THEM
ANYTHING ELSE? YES!

- THE HOG TIED POSITION IS NOT EXCLUSIVE
- ANY RESTRAINT CHAIR, OR OTHER RESTRAINING DEVICE THAT COULD CONSTRICT CARDIO-PULMONARY FUNCTION IS JUST AS LIKELY TO FACILITATE POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA
- ANY EXTENDED CONTROL MEASURES ON A PRONE SUBJECT WILL HAVE THE SAME EFFECT