



ATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure

	Emergency Restraint Chair	
Title Chapter 18 Section 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDS <input type="checkbox"/> RESCINDS	
DISTRIBUTION All Personnel	DATE OF ISSUE August 15, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE August 15, 2013
REFERENCES	Issuing Authority: <i>Chief Kyle P. Heagney</i> 	

18.10.1 Emergency Restraint Chair

18.10.1.1 Purpose The purpose of this directive is to establish policy and procedures for the use of the emergency restraint chair.

18.10.1.2 Policy It is the policy of this Department that the restraint chair may be used to provide temporary safe containment of a prisoner who is exhibiting violent or uncontrollable behavior and to prevent self injury, injury to others or when other control techniques are not effective. **The restraint chair may be utilized when less restrictive alternatives, such as handcuffing or leg irons, have failed, appear likely to fail, or it is apparent that they will be ineffective in controlling a violent, dangerous, or harmful prisoner.**

18.10.1.3 Authorization The only person authorized to deploy the emergency restraint chair is the on-duty shift commander. The shift commander must be trained and certified in the use of the emergency restraint chair.

18.10.1.4 Health & Safety **Violent behavior may mask dangerous medical conditions therefore detainees must be monitored and provided with medical treatment if needed.**

18.10.1.5 Punishment The emergency restraint chair shall never be used as punishment, harassment, or for the sole purpose of knowingly causing harm to a prisoner.

18.10.2 Rules and Regulations

**18.10.2.1
Monitoring** The on-duty shift commander shall select and direct a department employee to maintain constant visual observation of the prisoner secured in the restraint chair.

**18.10.2.2
Use of Force** The emergency restraint chair shall be a use of force. The on-duty shift commander who deploys the chair shall complete a use of force report.

**18.10.2.3
Log** The department member designated to directly observe the prisoner shall document his/her direct visual observation every 15 minutes on the Attleboro Police Form 18-10 (Emergency Restraint Chair Observation Form).

**18.10.2.4
Restraint check** The restraint components shall be physically checked every 30 minutes to ensure they are properly employed, secure, and present no obvious physical concerns to the prisoner, such as clear signs of circulatory restrictions to the prisoner's extremities. A second person shall be present when the restraints are checked.

**18.10.2.5
Maximum time restraint** The maximum time period a prisoner can be secured and controlled in the emergency restraint chair is two (2) hours, at which time the prisoner should be removed from the chair. After release, and depending on the prisoner's action, the shift commander may re-evaluate and re-order the prisoner to be once again placed into the emergency restraint chair, at which time all restraint chair requirements start anew. *Should the prisoner be re-ordered to the chair, the Chief of Police shall be immediately notified.* Consideration should be given to the Federal Mental Health Regulations which require a range of motion exercise, alternating extremities, every two (2) hours for ten minutes, but these exercise regulations may vary and can be impacted by the behavior exhibited by the prisoner.

**18.10.2.6
Food, water, toilet** Prisoners secured in the restraint chair shall not be precluded from having food and fluids and they shall not be denied food and water, or use of the toilet.

**18.10.2.7
Injuries** Any injuries suffered by a prisoner while secured in the emergency restraint chair shall be immediately reported to the Chief of Police.

18.10.3 Procedures for use of the Emergency Restraint Chair

18.10.3.1 Procedure

The following procedure shall be followed in the use of the Emergency Restraint Chair:

Step	Action
1	Ensure that all of the detainee's personal property has been removed from them, including but not limited to, jewelry, glasses, handcuff key, shoes, boots, socks, coat, hat, and belt. They should only be clothed in their shirt, pants or dress.
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. To loosen the lap belt, insert a standard handcuff key in the lap buckle, and push in while pulling slack on the belt.
3	If wearing leg irons, place the chain on the leg irons behind the chain retainer.
4	Attach the handcuff tether to the handcuffs.
5	Release the right wrist from the handcuffs and secure it to the arm of the E.R.C. with the right wrist strap and pull the belt snug. Do not cut off circulation to the hand.
6	Release the left wrist from the handcuffs and secure it to the arm of the E.R.C. with the left wrist strap and pull the belt snug. Do not cut off the circulation to the hand. To loosen the wrist strap, insert a standard handcuff key in the wrist buckle, and push in while pulling the wrist strap.
7	Retighten the lap belt if necessary.
8	Fasten the shoulder strap by passing the free ends over the shoulders, under the armpits, and secure them to the shoulder strap clevises located on the back of the chair. Then tighten by pulling down on the shoulder strap handle. Do not wrap the straps around the chest, head, or neck.
9	Secure the ankle strap by passing the free end around the front of the ankle and securing it to the ankle strap clevis. Then pull the ankle strap handle until snug.
10	If leg irons are being used; remove the leg irons.
11	Reassess straps to ensure they are properly secure. <i>Violent behavior may mask dangerous medical conditions. Detainees must be monitored continually and provided medical treatment if needed.</i>
