

Section 1.0 – Use of Force	Page 1 of 2
Sub Section 1.5 – Use-of-Force Techniques	Effective: February 27, 2020
Subject 1.5.1 – Neck Restraints	Revised: n/a

## Definitions

**“Chokehold”** – a physical-control technique that applies pressure to the front of the neck and trachea/windpipe and restricts a person’s ability to breathe.

**“Officer”** – a constable appointed under the *Police Act* or an enforcement officer appointed under s. 18.1 of the *Police Act*.

**“Vascular neck restraint”** – physical-control technique which applies compression of the vascular tissue along the lateral aspects of the neck, which results in temporary decreased cerebral blood flow, and may result in temporary loss of consciousness.

## Standards

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner:

### Vascular neck restraint

- (1) Must ensure only officers trained and demonstrating proficiency in applying the vascular neck restraint (VNR) are authorized to apply this technique.
- (2) Must ensure officers are requalified in applying the VNR according to the following schedule:
  - a) If the police force permits the use of the vascular neck restraint in circumstances other than those where there are reasonable grounds to believe that lethal force is justified, each officer authorized to apply the vascular neck restraint must re-qualify every year, at a minimum, in applying this technique.
  - b) If the police force only permits the use of the vascular neck restraint in circumstances where there are reasonable grounds to believe that lethal force is justified, each officer authorized to apply the vascular neck restraint must re-qualify every three years, at a minimum, in applying this technique.
- (3) Must prohibit officers from the intentional use of chokeholds, unless the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that lethal force is justified.

### Written records of training

- (4) Must maintain written records of the training and requalification completed by each officer of the police force.

### Policies and procedures

- (5) Must ensure policies and procedures are consistent with these *BC Provincial Policing Standards*.