#### Section 3: USE OF FORCE

Learning Goal: The student will know the limitations placed on the use of physical force and deadly physical force by a private citizen or armed private security officer. The student will understand that an armed private security officer possesses no law enforcement powers, and is considered a private citizen with no duty to act when confronted by unlawful behavior. The student will understand how to avoid becoming the aggressor. The student will also understand the criminal and civil penalties associated with the misuse of deadly force.

#### **OREGON LAW**

Oregon law allows a private citizen to use force in self defense or the defense of another person. Oregon law considers the armed private security officer to be a private citizen, and therefore subject to the same limitations on the use of force, both physical and deadly. It is necessary for the armed private security professional to possess a fundamental knowledge of Oregon law concerning the use of force by private persons. *Under Oregon law the armed private security officer is NEVER REQUIRED to use force*.

#### **Definitions**

**Deadly Physical Force** means physical force that under the circumstances in which it is used is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury. ORS 161.015(3)

**Serious Physical Injury** means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death. ORS 161.015(8)

**Reasonably believes...** means that the person carrying out the force is acting on knowledge that he or she believes at that time to be true, and that an ordinary and reasonable person (i.e. a juror) would also believe to be true under the circumstances.

#### Statutes

An armed private security officer may be justified in using physical force during the confrontation or apprehension of a suspect, or in responding to an attack. Oregon law allows the use of necessary physical force in such circumstances, but

generally deadly physical force is not permitted except as a last resort and only to protect human life.

**161.209** Use of physical force in defense of a person. Except as provided in ORS 161.215 and ORS 161.219, a person is justified in using physical force upon another person for self defense or to defend a third person from what the person reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force, and the person may use a degree of force which the person reasonably believes to be necessary for the purpose.

# What does ORS 161.209 mean?

It means that a private citizen can use reasonable physical force (less than deadly force) to defend him or herself from an attacker who is using physical force.

- 1. Physical force is force that is not likely to result in death or serious physical injury. Generally this would mean an attack with empty hands or no weapons involved.
- 2. The private citizen or armed private security officer could respond by using reasonable force such as defensive tactics controls, a chemical weapon like CapStun  $^{TM}$ , an electronic weapon or stun gun, or a baton.
- 3. Physical force is also reasonable if it is the minimum degree of force necessary to cause the threat to stop the attack or be placed under physical control.

# It is very important to understand that Oregon law places restrictions on the use of DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE

**ORS 161.219(3)** states that a person is not justified in using deadly physical force upon another person unless the person reasonably believes that the other person is using or about to use deadly physical force against a person.

What does ORS 161,219(3) mean?

- 1. It means that you may use deadly force (i.e. a firearm) only if you reasonably believe that another person is using or about to use deadly force against you.
- 2. It means that you must base your belief on the knowledge you possess at the time of the attack, and that such knowledge would lead a reasonable person to the same conclusion.
- 3. It means that your use of deadly force is justified only as long as the attacker is using or about to use deadly force against you. Once the attacker stops using deadly force, you must stop using deadly force.

# DPSST recommends that private security officers use deadly physical force only:

- 1. **In defense of the officer's own life** (to prevent someone from causing death or serious physical injury to the officer.)
- 2. In the defense of another person's life (to prevent someone from seriously injuring or killing another person in the officer's presence.

It is very important to understand that deadly physical force (using a firearm or other deadly weapon) is NOT justified to stop a suspect who is running away from you, attempting to steal or destroy property, or disobeying an order.

# **Becoming the Aggressor**

You become the aggressor when you use force that is not justified in the first place, or after there is no longer a need to use previously justifiable force. Oregon law provides no defense or justification for the use of force by the aggressor.

# ORS 161.215 states that a person is not justified in using physical force in self defense if:

The person using the force provokes the use of unlawful physical force by another person with the intent to cause death or physical injury to that person; or

The person is the initial aggressor, (except that the use of physical force upon another person under such circumstances is justifiable if the initial aggressor withdraws from the encounter and effectively communicates to the other person the intent to do so, but the latter nevertheless continues or threatens to continue the use of unlawful physical force.)

This means that you are NOT justified in using physical force if you provoke a fight, or start a fight, or continue a fight when the circumstances do not justify the use of force.

For example, if a private security officer teases or taunts a trespasser into fighting, then the use of force by the officer is not justified.

In another example where a person attacks an officer, if that person stops using force, retreats or surrenders, but the officer continues to use force against that person, then the officer's use of force from that point forward is not justified. At that point the private security officer is using force unlawfully and has become the **AGGRESSOR**.

# Being the AGGRESSOR means using EXCESSIVE or UNJUSTIFIED FORCE.

# How Do You Avoid Using Excessive or Unjustified Force?

The armed private security officer can avoid becoming the aggressor in a use of force situation by:

- 1. Knowing when it is lawful and proper to use force.
- 2. Considering and, if possible, using alternatives to the use of force.
- 3. Using only the degree of force necessary to stop the attack or control the threat.
- 4. Reducing the level of force if the threat stops using force, retreats or surrenders.
- 5. Understanding the *Determination of Force Matrix* and using it to help make sound, defensible use of force decisions.

#### The Determination of Force Matrix

The **Determination of Force Matrix** is a conceptual model that helps private security officers understand what the proper level of force or alternate action should be in response to an attack or in trying to overcome resistance. It is also helpful in avoiding becoming the aggressor.

The **Determination of Force Matrix** is often expressed as a chart that shows the level of resistance by the threat, from low to high, and the corresponding level of appropriate force or action by the officer. At the lowest level of resistance the threat may refuse to comply or offer verbal resistance. The officer would reasonably respond by calmly talking to the threat, getting information, asking the threat to comply, providing choices, and calling for assistance.

Maybe the threat resists by punching, kicking or attempting to escape. The officer could reasonably defend him or herself by using non-lethal techniques: restraining techniques, pepper spray or impact weapons. If the threat's resistance is lethal (uses a firearm or other lethal weapon like a knife or club, uses a non-lethal weapon or any object in a lethal manner, or attempts to disarm the officer), then the officer could reasonably respond with deadly force.

The *Matrix* also allows downward movement. As the officer gains control and/or compliance and the threat reduces or stops using force, then the officer's level of force is reduced to a level appropriate to maintain control over the threat.

Always keep in mind that your primary goal in a violent or potentially violent situation is to defend yourself or other persons from the threat

# Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training ARMED PRIVATE SECURITY PROFESSIONAL

DETERMINATION OF FORCE MATRIX			
Resistance - What the Threat Does	Response - The Officer's Force Options (*Officer Has No Legal Duty to Take Action)		
Presence  Resistive Presence  Verbal Resistance  Refusing to Comply	Presence Communicating Gathering Information Verbal Requests - Persuasion Giving Choices and/or Setting Limits Giving Directions Verbal Warnings (Or may retreat if safe and practical)		
Resistance	Physical Control		
Static Resistance Refuses to Leave Balks/Dead Weight  Active Resistance Struggles/Pulls away Attempts to Escape	Defensive Tactics Restraining Techniques Pepper Spray  (Or may retreat if safe and practical)		
Non-Lethal Attack	Serious Physical Control		
Ominous Resistance Physical Assault Punches, Kicks, Bites Throws Object Wrestles Bear Hugs, Holds Down	Defensive Tactics Restraining Techniques Punches, Kicks Focused Blows Pepper Spray Impact Weapons Electronic/Stun Weapons (Or may retreat if safe and practical)		
Lethal Attack - Attack with any object or weapon used in a lethal manner - Attack with unarmed force likely to cause death or serious physical injury - Attempt to Disarm Officer - Attack with a dangerous weapon, deadly weapon or firearm	Deadly Physical Force - Force using any object or weapon used in a lethal manner - Unarmed force likely to cause death or serious physical injury - Firearms (Or may retreat if safe and practical)		

and/or control the situation. You, as a private security officer, will need to use enough force to stop or control the threat. You should not try to equally match your force to the threat's resistance. You should use just enough greater force than the threat, but not deadly force.

**Example:** You confront a recently fired employee in your client's place of business. You ask this person to leave, but he refuses. You call for police assistance, and you continue to talk and attempt to gain compliance. After you have talked to this person for several minutes, he finally complies and leaves the premises.

You have responded to this person's low level of resistance with a correspondingly low response on the *Matrix*: being present in uniform, asking for compliance, giving direction, and getting help on the way.

**Example:** Now let's take the same situation, but when you initially confront this person, he attacks you with punches and kicks. It is not possible to respond effectively with presence and verbal requests. You should immediately move to an appropriately higher level of force. You respond with force greater than his, but less than deadly force. Such force may include (but is not limited to) pepper spray, defensive tactics control techniques or impact weapons.

If he stops the attack and backs away, you would properly reduce your force to a level that allows you to maintain control or keep the threat away from you. For instance, if you opted to use pepper spray, you would stop spraying, but you would be ready to use it again if the threat resumed his attack.

**Example:** Let's look at this same situation again. In this case you confront the person, but before you can say anything, he draws a handgun from under his jacket and points it at you. It would be reasonable for you to believe that you are in immediate danger of death or serious physical injury. Your response is to move immediately to deadly force on the **Matrix**. You would not be required to attempt to stop his attack at a lower level on the **Matrix**.

### Criminal Penalties for Unlawful Use of Force

It is a criminal act to use physical force or deadly physical force without justification. Even if you are justified in using deadly physical force to defend your life, you may be prosecuted (and/or held civilly liable) if you injure or kill innocent persons. The armed private security officer who uses deadly force, or threatens to use deadly force when it is not justified or, if justified, endangers or

harms innocent persons, may be prosecuted and convicted of the following crimes:

**Menacing (ORS 163.190):** A person commits the crime of menacing if by word or conduct the person intentionally attempts to place another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury. Menacing is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by up to one year incarceration.

For example, if an armed private security officer, who is not acting in justifiable self-defense, draws or points a firearm at another person and threatens to shoot or kill that person, the officer may be charged with the crime of menacing.

**Recklessly Endangering (ORS 163.195):** A person commits the crime of recklessly endangering another person if the person recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to another person. Recklessly endangering another person is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by up to one year incarceration.

An example of Recklessly Endangering is an armed private security officer firing at a threat (with or without justification) with an innocent person in the line of fire or in dangerously close proximity to the threat. The innocent person does not have to be killed or injured to complete the crime. If an innocent person is hit by the officer's gunfire, then the crime could elevate to criminal homicide or felony assault.

**Pointing a firearm at another (ORS 166.190):** Any person over the age of 12, who, with or without malice, purposely points or aims any loaded or empty pistol, gun, revolver, or other firearm at or toward another person within range of the firearm, except in self-defense, commits the crime of pointing a firearm at another. Pointing a firearm at another is an Unclassified Misdemeanor.

**Assault in the First Degree (163.185):** A person commits assault in the first degree if the person intentionally causes serious physical injury to another by means of a deadly or dangerous weapon. Assault in the first degree is a Class A felony punishable by twenty years in prison.

**Criminal Homicide (ORS 163.005):** A person commits criminal homicide if, without justification or excuse, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence causes the death of another human being.

#### **Types of Criminal Homicide:**

- 1. **MURDER (ORS 163.095):** Person acts **intentionally** (has a conscious objective). Murder is an unclassified felony punishable by life imprisonment.
- 2. **MANSLAUGHTER II (ORS 163.125):** Person acts **recklessly** (is aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk). Manslaughter II is a Class B felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment.
- 3. **CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE (ORS 163.145):** Person acts with **criminal negligence** (fails to be aware of a substantial and unjustifiable risk). Criminally Negligent Homicide is a Class C felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment.

### Civil Penalties for Use of Deadly Physical Force

Even if you are justified in using physical force or deadly force to defend yourself or another person, you and your employer may be sued in civil court for damages by the person or family of the person you used force against.

The person suing (plaintiff) must establish by the preponderance of the evidence that he or she was harmed; that you were the cause of the harm, and that you acted recklessly and outside the law. Civil liability exists whether or not you were convicted of a crime.

Your defense is usually based on facts surrounding your decision to use deadly force: the plaintiff's actions placed you in fear for your life or another's life; you acted within the law and in defense of yourself or another person.

Before you begin employment as an armed private security officer, you may wish to meet with your employer and discuss how you will be defended against lawsuits, who pays for your defense, and how judgments entered against you will be paid.

#### Section 3: Review

- 1. A private security officer is, under Oregon law, never required to use force. Why?
- 2. Explain the difference between physical force and deadly physical force.

- 3. Explain the difference between how a private citizen and a private security officer may use deadly force in self-defense.
- 4. ORS 161.219(3) allows a private citizen to use deadly physical force in self defense. How does this statute restrict the use of deadly force by private citizens?
- 5. May a private security officer ever use deadly physical force to stop a suspect who is running away, who is stealing or destroying property, or who is failing to obey an order? Why?
- 6. How can a private security officer become the aggressor when using force? How can the officer avoid becoming the aggressor?
- 7. If a private security officer must use deadly physical force (i.e. gun fire) to defend his or her life, what are the officer's responsibilities to nearby innocent persons?
- 8. Could an officer be prosecuted for injuring or killing an innocent person while shooting at a deadly threat?
- 9. Name three types of criminal homicide.

### Section 4: Decision Making Responsibilities

Learning Goal: The student will understand that legally and morally justifiable use of deadly force decisions must be made instantly and correctly taking many factors into consideration. The student will understand that legally and morally justifiable shooting decisions require that the armed private security professional devote prior thought, study and decision-making practice.

### The Decision-Making Process

Most everyday job-related decisions, both great and small, are made by understanding your private security mission, obtaining information, reviewing past experience, comparing options and alternatives, and then using this input to choose a course of action. The process for making use of deadly force decisions is similar, but the stakes are much higher.

#### Understand the Armed Mission

Effective protection of the client requires the armed private security officer to observe, report and coordinate assistance. The armed officer has no statutory duty to protect by direct intervention, and, in any case, that is not the reason why the officer is armed. The armed officer carries the gun because a threat may perceive the officer to stand between him and the threat's objectives (access to the site, theft, escape), and is willing to attack and kill the officer. Also, carrying out the responsibilities of observing and reporting may place the officer in harm's way. The gun is a deterrent to the threat, and a ready means of self defense.

#### Know the Facts

Beyond knowing that you are dealing with a potentially dangerous person, the actual facts surrounding the encounter may be unclear or confusing. Most use of force incidents share this characteristic. You may not immediately realize that you are under attack. Your initial contact with the threat may seem routine and innocuous. Since weapons may not be readily visible or may be purposely concealed, the threat may be difficult to identify as a dangerous person. This scarcity of hard facts will require that you be aware and constantly working to gain more information to clarify the situation.

#### Obtain Information

You must be able to identify the threat as a danger to you or another person. This is straight forward when the person produces a gun and points it at you.

But what if a third person tells you someone is armed and threatening to do harm? Deadly force cannot be justified using second hand information. You need to see that the person is actually a deadly threat.

# To help you identify a person as a deadly threat, you must ask and answer these questions:

- 1. Is the threat armed?
- 2. Could the threat be armed?
- 3. What kind of weapon?
- 4. What is the threat doing?
- 5. Is the threat endangering innocent persons?
- 6. Has the threat harmed, or is the threat about to harm innocent persons?

### Review Past Experience

Reviewing your past experiences and/or training is vital in making sound deadly force decisions. Ask yourself if this current situation is similar to situations you have handled before, or discussed and practiced in training. How did you respond and handle those situations? Were you able to use alternative actions, or did you have to use deadly force?

### Understand MEANS, OPPORTUNITY and INTENT

These three requirements, MEANS, OPPORTUNITY and INTENT, MUST be met to justify the use of deadly physical force. All three requirements must exist at the same time.

1. The MEANS exist for person to cause you or another person serious physical injury or death.

This usually means that the person has a weapon. The weapon could be a gun, a knife, a club, a piece of pipe, or a wood 2X4. However, some people have the strength or ability to injure you with their hands and feet. Multiple unarmed attackers may be able to overwhelm your defense and seriously injure or kill you. You must realistically assess your physical ability to defend against a larger, better trained (martial arts) or younger opponent.

# 2. The OPPORTUNITY exists for another person to cause you or another person serious physical injury or death.

Is this person in a location, position or at a distance that will permit him to harm you or another person? A man armed with a knife is not an imminent threat when he is 100 yards away, but if he approaches within twenty feet, he will be able to attack and kill you within two seconds. At 100 yards this man does not have the opportunity to harm even though he has the means (the knife). At twenty feet he does have the opportunity because he could carry out an attack before you could respond. A person armed with a firearm may be a deadly threat at a great distance. He would not need to get close to cause you serious physical injury or death.

# 3. You reasonably believe that a person has the INTENT to seriously injure or kill you or another.

This means that this person's actions are directed at you or another in such a way that leads you to believe that the person may inflict serious physical injury or death. For instance, a man, walking toward you carrying a shotgun, has a weapon (MEANS), is within 20 yards and can see you (OPPORTUNITY). However, unless he points the shotgun at you, and unless you reasonably believe that he intends to do you harm (i.e. threatens to kill you), INTENT does not exist. Assessing the **totality of circumstances** will help you determine if INTENT exists. Let's say that you are on duty at a plant, and you observe an employee take a shotgun from the trunk of his car. The employee may be simply transferring it to a friend's car for an after-work trip to the range. Or, he may be heading into the plant to seek revenge for losing his job. You must evaluate the totality of all the circumstances and actions, as well as the employee's demeanor and response to your questions or commands. All of these factors will help you determine if this person intends to place you or another in jeopardy.

### Consider the Totality of the Circumstances

In addition to **MEANS**, **OPPORTUNITY** and **INTENT** the decision to use force is influenced by one or more factors that a reasonable person must consider. Every use of force situation is different, and these influencing factors will vary from one

incident to another. Factors can combine to place you in a disadvantageous position that may require increased force. Other factors may indicate the use of lesser force or taking alternative action if circumstances are weighted in your favor (e.g. a small sixty year old woman punches a fit, thirty year old officer).

- 1. Is there an age difference between you and the threat that would place you at a disadvantage? A teenager has about twice the stamina of a middle aged person.
- 2. Is the threat clearly bigger and stronger than you?
- 3. Is there a difference in physical fitness between you and the threat?
- 4. Does the threat display or use martial arts skills?
- **5. Are you out-numbered?** Is there one of you and four of them?
- 6. Does the threat have immediate access to a weapon like a knife or gun? Are there common items that could be used as a weapon? This factor is a very serious concern in your use of force decision.
- 7. Who has the high ground or position of advantage?
- 8. Do you have cover available?
- 9. Is there an obstacle between you and the threat?
- 10. Do you have a clear path of retreat?
- 11. Do you or the threat possess any special knowledge that would give one of you an advantage? Do you know this particular threat? Does he usually carry a weapon? Does he have a history of violence?
- 12. If you are hurt or exhausted, how much longer can you defend yourself? Are you able to summon assistance from law enforcement or other security officers? How long will it take for them to arrive?
- 13. Does the threat appear or act intoxicated? Alcohol and drugs may alter a person's perceptions and judgment. Some drugs may give a person a boost in physical strength.

# 14. If you are not able to stop or control the threat, who may be injured by the threats actions?

It is reasonable that a disparity in age, fitness, gender, physical size or skill level may require that an officer use more or less force to control a situation or defend against an attacker. It is reasonable that a single security officer without back-up may have to use more force to defend against multiple threats.

# Give the Threat Clear, Understandable Commands

Does the threat understand who you are and what you want him to do? In some instances you may have the opportunity to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation by giving clear verbal commands. Identify yourself. It is not reasonable to expect that someone will follow your orders if you are not in uniform or they cannot see who you are. The proper form of self identification is a matter of your employer's policy, but here are some choices:

"Security Officer"

"Security"

"Private Security"

"Armed Security"

You **MAY NOT** identify yourself as a law enforcement officer, police officer, peace officer, public safety officer or deputy sheriff. When working for a private employer, even if you hold a reserve police officer commission, or you are deputized by the county sheriff, you must identify yourself as a private security officer.

If the person is moving or attempting to escape, the proper commands include "STOP!" or "DON'T MOVE!" If the person continues to move away, you MAY NOT use deadly physical force.

If a person is threatening you with deadly force, and you have time, you must issue a command like:

"Stop or I'll shoot."

"Drop the gun/knife/weapon, or I'll shoot."

If the threat is immediate, and you are in the process of defending yourself, you do not have to issue a command. Your commands must be clear and repeated until the threat complies. Avoid the use of profanity and slang terms like "freeze".

#### Examine Alternatives to Force

- 1. Is this use of force worth the risk of injury to yourself or the threat?
- 2. Is there anything you can do now to safely de-escalate the situation or break contact with the threat?
- 3. Is this the reasonable amount of force necessary to control the threat?
- 4. Does the threat have the opportunity to comply with your commands?
- 5. Is force, physical or deadly, your only option, or can you take another action without placing yourself at unacceptable risk?

#### Section 4: Review

- 1. Explain the meaning of MEANS, OPPORTUNITY and INTENT. Provide an example of each.
- 2. Describe some of the factors that must be taken into consideration when considering the totality of the circumstances.
- 3. Give an example of the voice commands you would use to confront an armed threat.
- 4. What are some of the alternatives to force that an armed officer should consider?

### Section 5: After Using Deadly Physical Force

Learning Goal: The student will understand the need for caution in dealing with the threat, responding law enforcement and by-standers after a use of deadly force encounter. The student will be aware that he or she may experience a wide range of emotional and perceptual responses after a life or death confrontation.

#### The Immediate Aftermath

The immediate aftermath of a self defense shooting can be chaotic and emotionally confusing if the armed private security professional has not given thought to his or her response. You should expect and be ready to encounter a bleeding, and, perhaps, dying threat, distraught by-standers, shouted accusations and witnesses. Due to your natural survival response you may not remember firing your weapon or hearing its report. You may be experiencing "tunnel vision" in which your senses and thoughts focus solely on the threat to the exclusion of other activity around you. You may feel elated to have survived and, at the same time, guilty for harming another human being. Law enforcement psychologists know that these reactions are normal and to be expected.

Always remember that this immediate aftermath is a very dangerous time. The threat may not be out of the fight and could still pose a danger to you and others. You may be wounded, but you should be mentally prepared to remain alert and in readiness to continue the fight if necessary. Additional unidentified threats may be a danger, and you must be looking for them and ready to engage if needed.

### **Recommended Post-Shooting Actions**

Think about the following recommended post-shooting responses and visualize yourself carrying them out in a calm and professional manner.

- 1. Get behind cover and observe the threat until you are reasonably certain that the threat is no longer a danger. A weapon in the threat's hand would be an indicator that he or she may still be capable of harming you or another person.
- 2. Once you have established that your attacker is no longer a threat, summon medical assistance and administer first aid within your training and ability. Be aware of blood-borne hazards.

- 3. Notify law enforcement (911) immediately. The police will be responding to a "shots fired" call. You should expect them to be very cautious and to approach with weapons drawn and ready. The police will not know who you are, or which side you are on. A mistaken identity shooting is a real possibility if precautions are not taken. This caution is especially critical in plain-clothes assignments.
- 4. If possible holster your weapon when the police arrive on the scene. Under no circumstances should you turn or otherwise point your gun in the direction of the responding officers. Keep your hands clearly away from your holstered gun. This is especially important if you are not in uniform. Your identification should be in your hand displayed palm out. Always follow the orders of the police even if that means submitting to a high risk procedure (being proned out and handcuffed). The main goal is to stay calm, to make no suspicious or sudden movements, and let the police sort out the situation.
- 5. Cooperate with the police, but remember that you do not have to talk to them or give a statement without an attorney's advice. If you choose to not answer questions or give a statement, be prepared to be detained or arrested based on the information that the police officers have at that time. Be as calm as possible and do not resist.

# 6. Be prepared to surrender your weapon and other personal items including clothing.

Before you begin work as an armed officer, you may wish to speak with your employer about what legal assistance will be provided to you in the event of a shooting. You should also ask about the availability of counseling to help you deal with your emotions and perceptions following a deadly force encounter. A skilled counselor can help you understand your reactions, and help you reconcile negative thoughts or feelings. It would be a good idea to see a counselor whether your employer provides one or not.

#### Section 5: Review

- 1. What are the priority post-shooting actions the private security officer should take?
- 2. What should the private security officer do with his or her firearm before the police arrive on the scene? What should the private security officer never do with the firearm as the police arrive on the scene?
- 3. Describe how the private security officer, who has just used deadly force, should interact with the police.

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#### Section 6: Decision-Making Scenarios

Learning Goal: The student will practice decision-making by reading the following scenarios and writing a brief description of how the student would respond and why. The student will develop a basic understanding of how to apply the decision-making process to potentially deadly force situations.

The scenarios that follow may be typical of those you encounter on the job in real life. Project yourself into each scenario and in the space allowed write a description of the proper action or response you would take and why you would take it. In each scenario make the decision to shoot or not shoot.

Scenario #1
You are a lone armed security officer patrolling a warehouse on the night shift. The warehouse is located in an industrial area, and it contains electronic equipment including televisions and stereos. It is 3:00 AM when you hear noises in an area of the warehouse and you move to investigate. You approach the area cautiously and observe two men stacking cartons near a door. The door appears to have been forced open. Both men hear you approach and turn toward you. Their hands are empty and they do not move in your direction.
WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?
WHY?
Is there a better course of action?
What are your alternatives?