

Special Police Officer Entrance Level Training Objectives

Effective July 1, 2025

Approved by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission on July 10, 2024.



Objective	
SPO 1	Identify the requirements for receiving and maintaining Special Police Commission in the State of Maryland.
SPO 2	Identify the potential consequences if a Special Police Officer performs official duties without a valid Special Police Commission from the State of Maryland.
SPO 10	Identify why Special Police Officers, both on and off duty, should exemplify the highest ethical and moral standards.
SPO 3	Identify basic criminal law concepts (level of suspicion, felony, misdemeanor, warrant, warrantless).
SPO 4	Given various scenarios, demonstrate the ability to identify elements of a given crime, using the annotated code of Maryland and/or the Digest of Criminal Laws
SPO 5	Identify the legal requirements to lawfully detain a person.
SPO 6	Identify the legal requirements to make a lawful arrest.
SPO 7	Identify basic juvenile law concepts.
SPO 68	Identify a juvenile offender's rights regarding parental notification and telephone calls upon being placed in temporary custody.
SPO 8	Demonstrate advising a person of their rights against self-incrimination.
SPO 20	Identify "chain of custody" and why it is important.
SPO 9	Identify basic search and seizure concepts.
SPO 11	Identify the procedure to apply for and serve an arrest warrant.
SPO 12	Identify the legal requirements to conduct a stop or search based on evidence of cannabis.
SPO 19	Identify the consequences of Special Police Officer actions that are not legal.
SPO 16	Identify legal requirements related to a Special Police Officer's use of force based upon Maryland law.
SPO 14	Identify a Special Police Officer's legal responsibilities to intervene when another Special Police Officer is using unnecessary force or acting outside the scope of their duties.
SPO 15	Given a scenario, determine what level of use of force is justified.
SPO 17	Identify how a suspect's level of resistance may impact the level/type of force used by a Special Police Officer.
SPO 18	Identify specific conditions or factors that may impact the level/type of force used by a Special Police Officer.
SPO 56	Identify de-escalation requirements under the Maryland Use of Force Statute.
SPO 57	Identify the roles of time, distance, and cover in de-escalation.
SPO 21	Identify patrol strategies Special Police Officers may employ to provide protection and service within their assigned areas.
SPO 22	Identify locations/situations warranting frequent checks within a Special Police Officer's assigned area.
SPO 23	Identify factors that indicate criminal or suspicious circumstances/person(s).

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SPO 45	Identify the Special Police Officer's role in crime prevention.
SPO 46	Identify the purpose of a business security survey.
SPO 25	Identify the tactical responsibilities of the first responding Special Police Officer for a crime in progress call.
SPO 28	Given a scenario, respond to a crime in progress.
SPO 33	Identify responsibilities of a Special Police Officer who discovers or is first to respond to a crime scene and identify suspects.
SPO 26	Identify circumstances and procedures for responding to and handling hazardous materials incidents.
SPO 27	Identify circumstances and procedures for responding to and handling bomb threats.
SPO 75	Identify considerations when responding to a scene where the presence of a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) is suspected.
SPO 76	Identify considerations when responding to a scene where a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) attack has occurred.
SPO 29	Identify criminal activities associated with gangs active in the U.S. and locally.
SPO 31	Identify strategies for preventing and controlling gang activity.
SPO 73	Identify threats and challenges posed by terrorism.
SPO 74	Identify indicators of terrorist activity.
SPO 35	Successfully complete an emergency medical care program that includes CPR.
SPO 32	Identify the basic responsibilities of a Special Police Officer when responding to a missing person and resources available.
SPO 34	Identify potential indicators of Human Trafficking and/or child exploitation.
SPO 37	Demonstrate communication skills for de-escalation in public interactions.
SPO 47	Identify the duties of a Special Police Officer when intervening in an interpersonal conflict.
SPO 48	Identify options a Special Police Officer has in resolving a conflict situation, such as de-escalate, separate, mediate, refer, and arrest.
SPO 49	Identify the role of a Special Police Officer in a civil dispute, such as landlord/ tenant, employer/employee, driver/tow truck operator, etc.
SPO 50	Identify basic victim psychological responses, such as feelings of helplessness, lack of control, self-blaming or blaming others, anger, and fear.
SPO 51	Identify techniques a Special Police Officer can use to de-escalate a crime victim in crisis, such as active listening, acknowledging their ordeal, and explaining options and next steps.
SPO 52	Identify the Special Police Officer's role in handling crowds and 1 st Amendment protected activities such as protests, political events, and labor disputes.
SPO 53	Identify important considerations when interacting with a person who may have an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) and resources available.
SPO 54	Given a scenario, identify how to interact effectively with a person who has a physical disability.
SPO 55	Demonstrate effectively interacting with a person in mental health crisis.
SPO 36	Identify the importance of cultural awareness for Special Police Officers.
SPO 24	Identify the objectives of a field interview.
SPO 38	Demonstrate interviewing techniques.

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SPO 39	Identify implicit bias and how it can influence decision-making in policing.
SPO 40	Identify the relationship between successful prosecution and police reports.
SPO 41	Demonstrate preparing complete field notes.
SPO 42	Demonstrate completing acceptable police reports.
SPO 43	Demonstrate completing a statement of probable cause and statement of charges for a warrantless arrest.
SPO 44	Demonstrate obtaining and serving an arrest warrant.
SPO 59	Identify techniques to minimize the possibility of a Special Police Officer entering an ambush situation.
SPO 60	Demonstrate a safe and effective position to assume while interviewing a suspicious person.
SPO 13	Identify the legal requirements to conduct a frisk/weapons pat down.
SPO 61	Identify the basic principles of weaponless defense.
SPO 62	Demonstrate proper techniques for using departmentally-approved impact weapons.
SPO 63	Demonstrate safe and effective use and removal of a restraint device on a compliant subject.
SPO 58	Demonstrate proper procedure for thoroughly searching an individual.
SPO 64	Demonstrate safe and effective use of a restraint device on a non-compliant subject, including moving the suspect to the recovery position.
SPO 65	Demonstrate a safe and effective method to escort a suspect from premises.
SPO 66	Identify methods for preventing in-custody deaths.
SPO 67	Identify procedures for searching vehicles before and after transporting prisoners.
SPO 69	Demonstrate safely placing, securing, and removing a prisoner in a vehicle.
SPO 70	Identify the general structure of the Maryland court system.
SPO 71	Identify situations when a Special Police Officer may testify in court, such as arraignment, bond review, trial, and appeal.
SPO 72	Identify a Special Police Officer's pre-trial responsibilities and procedures.