



Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

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Date: March 17, 2020

Bulletin: No. 2020-14

Subject: **Compliance with POST Training Mandates During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency**

POST is providing this bulletin with respect to regulatory training mandates during the pendency of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency within California, and on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency with respect to COVID-19. POST recognizes the COVID-19 crisis has presented unique challenges for the law enforcement profession with respect to the balance between operational needs to support public safety and compliance with POST training mandates. Many jurisdictions are concerned with governmental restrictions on non-essential travel, group gatherings, potential staffing shortages due to ill or exposed personnel, and a concern that training activities could increase exposure risks to students. As a result, most POST training presenters have postponed or discontinued training. This has inhibited individuals from participating in mandated training or remaining compliant with POST regulations.

Therefore, should any agency find it is unable to comply with POST regulatory mandates due to COVID-19 concerns, it should maintain a detailed record of the reason(s) for non-compliance. Consistent with Regulation 1010 (8)(A), the agency should develop a plan to expeditiously return to compliance once the COVID-19 situation has subsided. These records will be analyzed during regular POST compliance audits. Although each situation involving any technical or involuntary non-compliance will be judged on its own merits, POST is sensitive to these concerns, understands the practical problems imposed by this emergency, and will take into consideration the extent and duration of the non-compliance during the audit process.

Agencies should, as appropriate, seek guidance from their own legal counsel regarding non-compliance. This bulletin should not be construed to permit the exercise of peace officer powers absent compliance with legislative mandates imposed by state statute.

Questions about this bulletin and/or inquiries regarding specific compliance issues should be directed to the respective [POST Regional Consultant](#) for initial review, and subsequent referral within POST, as appropriate.

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