



MEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE



POLICY#: 24
SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 11, 2020
DISTRIBUTION: Law Enforcement Personnel
PAGES: 3

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers of this agency with guidelines for the use of deadly and non-deadly force.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this law enforcement agency that officers use only the force that reasonably appears necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others. It must be stressed that the use of force is not left to the unfettered discretion of the involved officer. This is not a subjective determination. The use of force must be objectively reasonable. The officer must only use that force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.

III. DEFINITIONS

Deadly Force: The intentional use of a firearm or other instrument, which the use of has a high probability to cause death or great bodily harm.

Imminent Threat and Justification: Behavior that has caused or is about to cause death or great bodily harm to the officer, another human being or persons.

Objectively Reasonable: This term means that, in determining the necessity for force and the appropriate level of force, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the known circumstances, including, but not limited to, the seriousness of the crime, the level of threat or resistance presented by the subject, and the danger to the community.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Use of Deadly Force

1. Law enforcement officers are authorized to use deadly force when one or both of the following apply:
 - a. To protect the officer or others from what is reasonably believed to be a threat of death or great bodily harm.
 - b. To prevent the escape of a fleeing violent felon who the officer has probable cause to believe will pose a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others. Where practicable prior to discharge of the firearm, officers shall identify themselves as law enforcement officers and state their intent to shoot.

B. Deadly Force Restrictions

1. Officers may use deadly force to destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety, or as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured, when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force can be used without harm to the officer or others.
2. Generally, warning shots should not be fired.
3. Firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force by means other than the vehicle. The moving vehicle itself shall not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies an officer's use of deadly force. An officer threatened by an oncoming vehicle shall move out of its path instead of discharging a firearm at it or any of its occupants.

C. Use of Non-deadly Force

1. Where deadly force is not authorized, officers may use only that level of force that is objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control.
2. Officers are authorized to use department approved, non-deadly force techniques and issued equipment when one or more of the following apply:
 - a. To protect the officer or others from physical harm.
 - b. To restrain or subdue a resistant individual
 - c. To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

D. Prohibited

1. The use of choke holds is prohibited, except in those situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law.

E. Training

1. In addition to training required for firearms qualification, officers shall receive agency-authorized training designed to simulate actual shooting situations and conditions and, as otherwise necessary, to enhance officers' discretion and judgment in using deadly and non-deadly force in accordance with this policy.

INTERVENTION OPTIONS

Mode	Tactic	Purpose
I. Presence	Professional Presence	To present a visible display of authority
II. Dialog	Tactical Communication	To verbally persuade
III. Control Alternatives	Escort Holds	To safely initiate physical contact
	Compliance Holds	To overcome passive resistance
	Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) Aerosol Spray	To overcome active resistance or its threat
	Electronic Control Device (Trained officers only)	To overcome active resistance or its threat
	Passive Countermeasures	To decentralize
IV. Protective Alternatives	Strikes, active countermeasures, Incapacitating Techniques (Baton)	To overcome continued resistance, assaultive behavior or its threats.
V. Deadly Force	Firearm	To stop the threat