

Lee, Katherine

From: George Perezvelez <georgeperezvelez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Lee, Katherine
Subject: Use of Force Continuum Language

Language

Use of Force Continuum

a) The Department uses a “use of force continuum” that refers to the concept that there are reasonable responses for every threat an officer faces in a hostile situation. The “spoked wheel” is one visual concept of the various options that an officer should consider in a threatening situation.

(b) The force utilized need not be sequential (e.g., gradual or preceded by attempts at lower levels of force) if those lower levels are not appropriate. The Use of Force must move progressively along a continuum requiring that officers use the (including here minimal or subjectively necessary) to accomplish their law enforcement goal.

c) All Uses of Force must be proportional. All progressions must rest on the premise that officers shall escalate and de-escalate their level of force in response to the subject's actions.

Five levels of Continuum

- **Officer Presence — No force is used. Considered the best way to resolve a situation.**
 - The mere presence of a law enforcement officer works to deter crime or diffuse a situation.
 - Officers' attitudes are professional and nonthreatening.
- **Verbalization — Force is not-physical.**
 - Officers issue calm, nonthreatening commands, such as "Let me see your identification and registration."
 - Officers may increase their volume and shorten commands in an attempt to gain compliance. Short commands might include "Stop," or "Don't move."
- **Empty-Hand Control — Officers use bodily force to gain control of a situation.**
 - *Soft technique.* Officers use grabs, holds and joint locks to restrain an individual.
 - *Hard technique.* Officers may use punches and kicks to restrain an individual.
- **Less-Lethal Force Methods — Officers use less-lethal technologies to gain control of a situation.**
 - *Blunt impact.* Officers may use a baton or projectile to immobilize a combative person.
 - *Chemical.* Officers may use chemical sprays or projectiles embedded with chemicals to restrain an individual (e.g., pepper spray).
- **Lethal Force — Officers use lethal weapons to gain control of a situation. Should only be used if a suspect poses a serious threat to the officer or another individual.**
 - Officers use deadly weapons such as firearms to stop an individual's actions

Footnotes:

1. U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Use of Force By Police

Overview of National and Local Data
National Institute of Justice
Research Report
Jointly published with the Bureau of Justice Statistics
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles1/nij/176330.txt>

2. National Institute of Justice

<https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/overview-police-use-force>

3. Berkeley U-2 Policy

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Police/Level 3 - General/U-2%20Use%20of%20Force%20March%202017.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Police/Level%203%20-%20General/U-2%20Use%20of%20Force%20March%202017.pdf)

4. Use of Force Continuum

<https://www.policetest.info/force-continuum>

5. <https://ccwsafe.com/blog/the-civilian-use-of-force-continuum>

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