

Policy
300

Berkeley Police Department
Policy Manual

Use of Force

Note: section numbers have been revised/inserted for discussion purposes only.

300.1 SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Berkeley Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the life, dignity, and liberty of all persons. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to protect and serve. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force. Officers must respect the sanctity of all human life, act in all possible respects to preserve human life, do everything possible to avoid unnecessary uses of force, and minimize the force that is used, while still protecting themselves and the public.

Commented [LK1]: Subcommittee 6-11-2020

Commented [KL2]: 1st 3 sentences from Perezvelez.

Commented [KL3]: Last sentence from Camden "Purpose" section.

300.1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Best Practice

~~This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial and reasonable manner.~~

This policy sets forth criteria governing the use of force. All officers are responsible for knowing and complying with this policy and conducting themselves in a manner that reflects the Berkeley Police Department's Use of Force Core Values for Core Principles, depending on the language used. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including and up to termination, and may subject the officer to criminal prosecution. Supervisors shall ensure that all personnel in their command know the content of this policy and operate in compliance with it.

Commented [LK4]: Subcommittee 6-15-2020. From Camden; Campaign Zero

Commented [LK5]: Edited 6-23 for consistency with 300.1.3.

300.1.2 USE OF FORCE STANDARD

~~Officers shall only use physical force when no other viable option is available. In all cases where physical force is used, officers shall use the minimum amount of force that is objectively reasonable, objectively necessary and proportional to effectively and safely resolve a conflict.~~

This directive recognizes constitutional principles, but aspires to go beyond them. The Fourth Amendment requires that an officer's use of force be "objectively reasonable." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). Under this standard, an officer may only use force that a reasonable officer would when facing similar circumstances. The objectively reasonable standard acknowledges the difficult decisions that officers are forced to make under rapidly evolving and often unpredictable

Commented [LK6]: Subcommittee 6-15-2020. (Erroneously appeared in 300.3 in 6-19 draft.)

~~circumstances, but it does not provide specific guidance on what to do in any given situation.~~

~~The Constitution provides a “floor” for government action. This Department aspires to go beyond *Graham* and its minimum requirements. Sound judgment and the appropriate exercise of discretion will always be the foundation of police officer decision making in the broad range of possible use of force situations. It is not possible to entirely replace judgment and discretion with detailed policy provisions. Nonetheless, this directive is intended to ensure that de-escalation techniques are used whenever feasible, that force is only used when objectively necessary, and that the amount of force used is proportionate to the situation that an officer may encounter.~~

~~Officers must continuously evaluate all the circumstances facing them in the field to determine whether force is appropriate and what amount is proportionate, keeping the sanctity of human life at the heart of every decision an officer makes.~~

[Ramsey proposal with F.Brown edits; Subcomm agreed 6-24-2020]

In dealing with suspects, officers shall strive to use alternatives to physical force whenever reasonably possible. In all cases where physical force is used, officers shall use the minimum amount of force that is objectively reasonable, objectively necessary, and proportional to effectively and safely resolve a conflict.

The United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), held that, in order to comply with the U.S. Constitution, an officer’s use of force must be objectively reasonable under the totality of circumstances known to the officer at the time. Additionally, Penal Code section 835(a) imposes further restrictions on an officer’s use of force. But these standards merely set the minimum standard for police conduct, below which an officer’s conduct would be regarded as unlawful.

In fulfilling this Department’s mission to safeguard the life, dignity, and liberty of officers themselves and all members of the community they are sworn to protect and serve, this policy requires more of our officers than simply not violating the law. As a result, this policy is more restrictive than the minimum constitutional standard and state law in two important respects.

First, it imposes a higher duty upon officers to use the minimal amount of force objectively necessary to safely achieve their legitimate law enforcement objective. And, second, this policy imposes a stricter obligation on officers to exert only such force that is objectively proportionate to the circumstances, requiring a consideration of the seriousness of the suspected offense, the availability of de-escalation and other less aggressive techniques, and the risks of harm presented to members of the public and to the officers involved.

Additionally, Penal Code section 835(a) imposes further restrictions on an officer’s use of force

300.1.32 CORE PRINCIPLES

A. DE-ESCALATION AND FORCE MINIMIZATION. Every officer’s goal, throughout an encounter with a member of the public, **should be** to de-escalate wherever possible and resolve the encounter without resorting to the use of force. Whenever possible, officers shall employ de-escalation techniques to increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance with law enforcement

Commented [LK7]: Subcommittee 6-17-2020

Commented [LK8]: From Ramsey 6-19, a.m.

requests or directives and, thereby, decrease the likelihood that a use of force will become necessary during an incident. Further, in any encounters that do call for applying force, officers must always strive to use the minimal amount of force that is objectively reasonable and objectively necessary to safely achieve their legitimate law enforcement objective.

B. PROPORTIONALITY. When determining the appropriate level of force, at all times officers shall, [removing the mitigation language feasible] balance the severity of the offense committed and the level of resistance based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time. It is particularly important that officers apply proportionality and critical decision making when encountering a subject who is armed with a weapon other than a firearm.

C. MINIMIZING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE. Deadly force may only be used when the officer reasonably believes that such action is immediately necessary to protect the officer or another person from imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm. Officers shall not use deadly force if the officer reasonably believes that alternative techniques will eliminate the imminent danger and ultimately achieve the law enforcement purpose with less risk of harm to the officer or to other persons

Commented [KL9]:

Commented [KL10R9]: Subcomm. added 6-19 per Ramsey.

D. DUTY TO INTERVENE. Whenever possible officers shall intervene when they know or have reason to know that another officer is about to use, or is using, unnecessary force. Officers shall promptly report any use of unnecessary force and the efforts made to intervene to a supervisor.

ED. VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. The use of force against vulnerable populations – including children, elderly persons, pregnant women, people with physical and mental disabilities and people with limited English proficiency – can undermine public trust and should be used as a last resort, when all other reasonable means have been exhausted.

[From Leftwich 6-23-2020]

E. VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. Officers should be particularly sensitive when considering [evaluating?] the use of force against vulnerable populations, including children, elderly persons, pregnant women, people with physical and mental disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency.

Commented [KL11]: Leftwich: Rationale for the proposed change: the concept of undermining public trust is already discussed in the last principle, Fostering Community Relations, and the idea of exhausting other means and using force as a last resort applies generally, not just to vulnerable populations. The point of this core principle, as I understand it, is that officers need to have heightened sensitivity when dealing with certain populations.

~~**E. ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION.** Communication with non-compliant subjects is often most effective when officers establish rapport, use the proper voice intonation, ask questions and provide advice to defuse conflict and achieve voluntary compliance before resorting to force options.~~

Commented [LK12]: Leftwich. From Seattle.

Commented [KL13]: Subcomm. 6-19-2020 per Leftwich. From Seattle, Boston PD UOF policies; BPD Mission-Vision-Values.

~~**F. A Strong Partnership Between the Department and the Community Is Essential for Effective Law Enforcement and Public Safety.**~~ **FOSTER STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS.** The Berkeley Police Department understands that uses of force, even if lawful and proper, can have a damaging effect on the public's perception of the Department and the Department's relationship with the community. The Department is committed to fostering strong community relations by building on its historic tradition of progressive policing, ensuring accountability and transparency, and striving to increase trust with our community.

300.1.43 **DEFINITIONS** [6-19 Subcomm. observed definitions are grouped but lack
headings.]

[Federal]

Definitions related to this policy include:

~~Minimal amount necessary – The lowest level of force within the range of objectively reasonable force that is necessary to effect an arrest or achieve a lawful objective without increasing the risk to others. The least amount of force that is objectively reasonable and objectively necessary to safely effect an arrest or achieve some other legitimate law enforcement purpose. [6-19 BPD to propose alternative language]~~

Commented [LK14]: Perezvelez

Commented [LK15]: From Ramsey 6-19, a.m.

Commented [KL16]: Subcomm. 6-19-2020.

~~Deadly force - Any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, the discharge of a firearm (Penal Code § 835a). [To be further discussed.]~~

Commented [GA17]: 835a

Commented [OJ18]: Changes based on Lexipol update related to the new use of force law

~~Force - The application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed or restrained.~~

Commented [GA19]: New

~~Less-Than-Lethal Force – Any use of force which, due to possible physiological effects of application, presents less potential for causing death or serious injury than conventional lethal force options. Less-than-lethal force options include, but are not limited to, a specialized launcher, or other authorized device that can discharge, fire, launch or otherwise propel single or multiple flexible or non-flexible projectiles designed to cause physiological effects consistent with blunt force impact.~~

Commented [GA20]: Combines existing U-2 language

~~Non-Lethal Force – Any use of force other than lethal force or less-than lethal force.~~

Commented [GA21]: U-2

~~Compliant Suspect – Cooperative and/or responsive to lawful commands.~~

Commented [GA22]: New

Commented [KL23]: Subcomm. 6-19-2020

~~Passive Resistance – Noncompliance to lawful authority without physical resistance or mechanical enhancement.~~

Commented [GA24]: New

~~Active Resistance – Use of physical effort or mechanical resistance in achieving and/or maintaining noncompliance.~~

Commented [GA25]: New

~~[to be revisited (four definitions below)] [6-19: BPD to propose alternate language, to include definition of “combatant.”]~~

~~Passive Resistor: A person who is uncooperative and fails to comply in a non-movement way with verbal or other directions from an officer.~~

Commented [LK26]: Four new definitions from Ramsey, 6-19, a.m.

~~Active Resistor: A person who is uncooperative and fails to comply with directions from an officer and, instead, attempts to avoid physical control and/or arrest by distancing themselves from the officer. This type of resistance includes, but is not limited to, evasive movement of the arm, flailing arms, and full flight by running.~~

~~Threatening Assailant: A person who, with or without a weapon, in an aggressive manner that may cause physical injury, is using or threatening to use force against another person. Examples include: (1) a person who puts an officer in fear of a battery by advancing on the~~

Through 6-24-2020 meeting, for discussion 6-26-2020.

~~officer in a threatening manner or by closing the distance between the suspect and the officer, thereby reducing the officer's time to react and (2) a person who does not disarm, thereby increasing the suspect's ability to physically injure another person.~~

~~**Active Assailant:** A person who, with or without a weapon, in an aggressive manner that poses an imminent danger to an officer or another person, is using — or imminently threatening the use of — force against another person.~~

[Subcomm agreed on following language submitted by BPD 6-22:]

Passive Resistance: When an individual does not follow the lawful verbal commands of a police officer, but does not physically resist in any way.

Examples: A person who goes completely limp, sits down and refuses to stand or walk, or who may stand with arms at their sides without attempting to strike at or physically resist officers.

Active Resistance: An individual who is uncooperative and fails to comply with the lawful verbal commands of a police officer, and attempts to avoid physical control and/or arrest by physically struggling to free oneself from being restrained. The individual may also use verbal non-compliance (refusing a lawful order or direction).

Examples: A person who attempts to avoid physical control and/or arrest by pulling or pushing away from the officer, tensing arm or muscles, hiding from the officer, and/or fleeing.

Combative Resistance: An individual not only resists the officer, but poses a threat of harm to the officer or others, in an aggressive manner that may cause physical injury.

Examples: A person who violently attempts to or attacks an officer. This action is sometimes preceded by "pre-assault" cues such as taking a threatening stance (clenching fists, facial expressions, threats, etc.) and non-verbal non-compliance. [Corrected 6-23 per BPD.]

Control Techniques – Control holds, Personal Impact Weapons, and Take Downs.

Commented [GA27]: New

Personal Body Weapons - An officer's use of his/her body part, including but not limited to hand, foot, knee, elbow, shoulder, hip, arm, leg or head by means of kinetic energy transfer (impact) to gain control of a subject.

Commented [GA28]: New

Blue Team (BT) – Computer software that allows officers to enter use of force and other incidents from a Department computer.

Commented [GA29]: New

Concealment - Anything which conceals a person from view.

Commented [GA30]: New

Through 6-24-2020 meeting, for discussion 6-26-2020.

Cover - Anything which provides protection from bullets or other projectiles fired or thrown. Cover is subjective and its effectiveness depends upon the threat's ballistic capability (handgun, rifle, etc...).

Commented [GA31]: New

Blocking - The positioning of a police vehicle in the path of an occupied subject vehicle where contact between the vehicles is not anticipated or is anticipated to be minimal.

Commented [GA32]: New

Ramming - The use of a vehicle to intentionally hit another vehicle

Commented [GA33]: New

Serious Bodily Injury - A bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, causes serious, permanent disfigurement or results in a prolonged loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ. [\[revisit?\] \[6-22 : Ramsey wants to avoid confusion with definition of Serious Bodily Injury in PC 835a. Subcomm. finds this definition acceptable. See other uses of phrase, e.g., 300.4\]](#)

Commented [GA34]: New

Officer (or) Police Officer - Any sworn peace officer.

Commented [GA35]: Existing language

Authorized Employee - Any non-sworn employee who has received defensive tactics training and has been authorized by the Chief of Police to use non-lethal force.

Commented [GA36]: Existing language

Employee - Any non-sworn employee of the Berkeley Police Department, including those deemed "authorized employees."

Commented [GA37]: Existing language

[\[6-22. Pain Compliance Technique? See discussion at 300.3.5\]](#)

300.2 POLICY

Best Practice

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity, without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.

Commented [KL38]: On 6-19 was clarified that Subcomm. intended to delete in a prior meeting

300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE [and report] 6-19 Ramsey to propose language.

Federal

Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee or member of another department use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.

Commented [GA39]: Added from existing BPD U-2

[From Ramsey – Subcomm approved 6-22]

300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE/ INTERVENE AND DUTY TO REPORT

Any officer who observes another officer or member of the Berkeley Police Department using force that is clearly in violation of this policy shall immediately take reasonable action to attempt to mitigate such use of force. This may include verbal intervention or, when in a position to do so, physical intervention. Further, any officer who learns of a potentially unauthorized use of force, even if the officer did not witness it personally, shall promptly report this information to an on-duty sergeant or a command officer at the first opportunity.

Any officer who observes an employee or member of a different law enforcement agency use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law shall promptly report these observations to an on-duty sergeant or a command officer at the first opportunity.

300.3 USE OF FORCE

Federal

~~Officers shall use only that amount of force that is objectively reasonable given the facts and totality of the circumstances known or perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the safety of the officer and others. (Penal Code § 835a)~~

Commented [GA40]: Changes based on Lexipol/new use of force law

~~The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident, rather than with the 20 / 20 vision of hindsight. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. This policy takes into consideration that there are a range of reasonable responses to each situation. (Graham v. Connor 490 U.S. 386 (1989))~~

Commented [GA41]: Added citation

~~The decision to use force “requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.” (Graham v. Connor 490 U.S. 386 (1989))~~

Commented [GA42]: Added citation

~~In deciding what type of reasonable force to use, officers and employees must use sound judgment and their training to assess the degree of threat in a given situation, and to determine what departmentally authorized force technique or weapons will bring the situation under control in a reasonable manner.~~

~~It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be reasonable and utilized only to the degree that~~

~~reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.~~

~~While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.~~

~~[Note: Subcommittee's new language from 6-15 meeting that is now in 300.1.2, Use of Force Standard, formerly appeared here (erroneously)].~~

300.3.1 USE OF FORCE TO EFFECT AN ARREST

State

Any peace officer may use reasonable force to effect an arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance. A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his/her efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance on the part of the person being arrested; nor shall an officer be deemed the aggressor or lose his/her right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest, prevent escape or to overcome resistance (Penal Code § 835a).

300.3.2 USE OF FORCE TO SEIZE EVIDENCE

In general, officers may use reasonable force to lawfully seize evidence and to prevent the destruction of evidence. In the instance when force is used an officer shall not intentionally use any technique that restricts blood flow to the head, restricts respiration or which creates a reasonable likelihood that blood flow to the head or respiration would be restricted. Officers are encouraged to use techniques and methods taught by the department for the specific purpose of collecting evidence.

300.3.3 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

Federal

When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The apparent immediacy and severity of the threat to officers or others (Penal Code § 835a).
- (b) The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time.
- (c) Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue, the number of officers available vs. subjects).
- (d) The conduct of the involved officer (Penal Code § 835a).
- (e) The effects of drugs or alcohol.
- (f) The individual's apparent mental state or capacity (Penal Code § 835a).
- (g) The individual's apparent ability to understand and comply with officer commands (Penal Code § 835a).
- (h) Proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices.

Commented [GA43]: Items in below listed with the PC 835a citation are new to the law.

- (i) The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.
- (j) The availability of other **reasonable and feasible** options and their possible effectiveness (Penal Code § 835a).
- (k) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual.
- (l) **Training and experience of the officer.**
- (m) Potential for injury to officers, suspects, and others.
- (n) Whether the person appears to be resisting, attempting to evade arrest by flight, or is attacking the officer.
- (o) The risk and reasonably foreseeable consequences of escape.
- (p) The apparent need for immediate control of the subject or a prompt resolution of the situation.
- (q) Whether the conduct of the individual being confronted no longer reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the officer or others.
- (r) Prior contacts with the subject or awareness of any propensity for violence.
- (s) Any other exigent circumstances.

300.3.4 DE-ESCALATION TACTICS

[Revisions proposed by Perezvelez; discussed 6-24. Subcomm. agreed except for collapsing categories (a) – (j)?]

De-escalation tactics and techniques are actions ~~which may be~~ used by officers which seek to minimize the need to use force during an incident. Such tactics and techniques may increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance when employed and ~~should shall~~ be used when it is safe to do so, without compromising law enforcement objectives and priorities. De-escalation tactics emphasize slowing an incident down to allow time, distance and flexibility for the situation to resolve. Officers shall, when feasible, continually assess the dynamics of a situation, and modulate their response and actions appropriately. Officers may be justified in using force at one moment, but not justified in using force the next moment due to a change in dynamics.

The application of these tactics is intended to increase the potential for resolution with a minimal reliance on the use of force, or without using force at all.

If immediate action is not necessary, an officer(s) ~~should shall~~ attempt to use verbal de-escalation techniques. When available and when practicable, a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer, crisis negotiator, or Berkeley Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team member ~~should shall~~ be called upon as a resource.

~~When reasonable under the totality of circumstances, o~~Officers ~~should shall~~ gather information about the incident, assess the risks, assemble resources, attempt to slow momentum and communicate and coordinate a response. In their interaction with subjects, officers should use advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion and other tactics and alternatives to ~~higher any~~ levels

Commented [OJ44]: Lexipol updated this list based on changes in the law. The main changes are d) and g). Added "apparent" to sections a) and f) and included language referencing Penal Code section 835a, to certain sections.

Commented [GA45]: New language-BPD Unique

Commented [MC46]: I think when feasible should be removed here. As a matter of practice, officers should at all times process proportionality and de-escalation

of force. Officers ~~may~~shall move to a position that is tactically more secure or allows them greater distance to consider or deploy a greater variety of force options.

- a) ~~De-escalation techniques may include verbal persuasion, warnings and tactical de-escalation techniques, such as: slowing down the pace of an incident; "waiting out" subjects; creating distance (and thus the reactionary gap) between the officer and the threat; and requesting additional resources (e.g., specialized units, mental health care providers, negotiators, etc.) to resolve the incident.~~
- b) ~~Officers should recognize that they may withdraw to a position that is tactically advantageous or allows them greater distance to de-escalate a situation.~~
- c) ~~Officers should consider a variety of options, including lesser force or no force options. ~~3-~~ Officers should perform their work in a manner that avoids unduly jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others. ~~D~~~~
- d) ~~Officers shall not intentionally and unnecessarily escalate and/or create a need to use force.~~
- e) ~~Officers should attempt to understand and consider possible reasons why a subject may be noncompliant or resisting arrest.~~
- f) ~~A subject may not be capable of understanding the situation because of a medical condition; mental, physical, or hearing impairment; language barrier; drug interaction; or emotional crisis, and have no criminal intent. These situations may not make the subject any less dangerous, but understanding a subject's situation may enable officers to calm the subject and allow officers to use de-escalation techniques while maintaining public and officer safety.~~
- g) ~~Officers should continue de-escalation techniques, when feasible and appropriate, and take as much time as reasonably necessary to resolve the incident, in effort to avoid and/or minimize the use force.~~
- h) ~~When an officer recognizes that mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol and/or drug addictions, or other health issues are causing an individual to behave erratically, the officer shall, when feasible and appropriate, try to de-escalate the situation using de-escalation and/or crisis Intervention techniques.~~
- i) ~~Establishing Communication with non-compliant subjects is often most effective when officers establish rapport, use the proper voice intonation, ask questions and provide advice to defuse conflict and achieve voluntary compliance before resorting to force options.~~
- j) ~~The officer's physical actions may also de-escalate a potentially volatile/violent situation; e.g., exhibiting relaxed body language.~~

When time and circumstances allow, officers ~~should~~shall consider the following tactical principles:

- (a) Make a tactical approach to the scene.
- (b) Maintain a safe distance.
- (c) Use available cover or concealment and identify escape routes.
- (d) Stage Berkeley Fire Department.

- (e) Control vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- (f) Establish communication, preferably with one officer.
- (g) Create an emergency plan and a deliberate plan with contingencies.
- (h) The officer's physical actions may also de-escalate a potentially volatile/violent situation; e.g., exhibiting relaxed body language.

~~When time and circumstances reasonably permit, officers should consider whether a subject's lack of compliance is a deliberate attempt to resist or is the result of an inability to comply based on factors such as:~~

- ~~(a) Medical conditions~~
- ~~(b) Mental impairment~~
- ~~(c) Developmental disability~~
- ~~(d) Physical Disability~~
- ~~(e) Physical limitation~~
- ~~(f) Language barrier~~
- ~~(g) Drug interaction~~
- ~~(h) Behavioral crisis~~

300.3.5 PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES

Best Practice

6-22 Leftwich thought definition needed. BPD provided definition from Policy 428 First Amendment Assemblies and proposed revision 6-24: "Any A pressure point control hold technique designed to inflict pain for the purpose of motivating a person to comply with verbal commands (e.g., buckle nerve, gum nerve, sternum rub)." Subcomm wants to know when these techniques can be used. BPD to supply some language.

6-24 BPD revisions shown below. Discussed; no agreement.

Pain compliance techniques may be effective in controlling a physically or actively resisting individual. Officers may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which they have successfully completed department-approved training. Pain compliance techniques are defined as pressure point control holds, and for the purpose of this policy, include control hold application. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider:

- (a) The degree to which the application of the technique may be controlled given the level of resistance and the threat posed by the person.
- (b) Whether the person can comply with the direction or orders of the officer.
- (c) Whether the person has been given sufficient opportunity to comply.

The purpose of pain compliance is to direct the actions of the person. The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been

achieved.

300.3.6 USE OF NON-LETHAL FORCE

When lethal force and less-than-lethal force are not authorized, officers and authorized employees may use reasonable approved non-lethal force techniques and weapons in the following circumstances:

- a) To protect themselves or another person from physical injury;
- b) To restrain or subdue a resistant individual; or
- c) To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

300.3.7 ~~CAROTID CONTROLCHOKE~~ HOLD PROHIBITION

The use of a Carotid Restraint Hold is prohibited. Carotid Restraint Hold: Council Resolution No. 52,605 - N.S., February 14, 1985, "Prohibiting use of 'chokehold' for law enforcement purposes in the City of Berkeley" states: "Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows: That the chokehold, including but not limited to the carotid restraint and the bar-arm hold, is hereby banned from use for law enforcement purposes in the City of Berkeley."

Commented [GA47]: Longstanding Berkeley City Council Resolution

The term bar-arm refers to a variety of techniques. The use of any chokehold is strictly prohibited. A chokehold is any hold or contact with the neck – including a carotid restraint -- that may inhibit breathing by compression of the airway in the neck, may inhibit blood flow by compression of the blood vessels in the neck, or that applies pressure to the front, side, or back of the neck. As defined in the City Council Resolution, "bar-arm hold" refers to *any* use of the forearm to exert pressure against the front of the neck. However, other types of arm hold techniques (e.g., those that involve control of the arm, wrist or elbow) remain authorized.

Commented [KL48]: Subcomm. revised w/ BPD agreement 6-19-2020.

Revision proposed by Perezvelez

The use of the carotid restraint or any other chokeholds is strictly prohibited. A Chokehold or Neck hold is any hold or contact with the neck that may inhibit breathing by compression of the airway in the neck, may inhibit blood flow by compression of the blood vessels in the neck, or that applies pressure to the front, side, or back of the neck.

300.4 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS

Federal

If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers should evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force. The use of deadly force is only justified in the following circumstances (Penal Code § 835a):

- (a) An officer may use deadly force to protect him/herself or others from what he/she

reasonably believes is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.

- (b) An officer may use deadly force to apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

Officers shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to him/herself, if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person (Penal Code § 835a).

An "imminent" threat of death or serious bodily injury exists when, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person. An officer's subjective fear of future harm alone is insufficient as an imminent threat. An imminent threat is one that from appearances is reasonably believed to require instant attention (Penal Code § 835a).

Proposed by Leftwich; not yet discussed

Use of Deadly Force

Deadly force may only be used as a last resort when a threat of death to the officer of others is imminent. An officer shall not use deadly force against another person unless all of the following conditions are met:

- The officer has an objectively reasonable belief that deadly force is necessary to protect the officer or another person from a subject who is posing a current, active and immediate threat of death;
- The officer has exhausted all reasonable alternatives to the use of force, including de-escalation, other reasonable means of apprehending the subject, self-defense or defense of others; and
- The officer objectively and reasonably believes that using deadly force would not unnecessarily endanger innocent people.

Lethal force is prohibited when its sole purpose is to affect an arrest, overcome resistance or prevent a subject from escaping when the subject does not present an immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury. Lethal force is also prohibited solely to prevent property damage, prevent

Commented [OJ49]: Our policy used Lexipol language verbatim. This is the updated version from Lexipol that incorporates the new law that goes into effect in 2020. The most significant change is the second to last paragraph prohibiting the use of deadly force against someone who is only a danger to him or herself.

Through 6-24-2020 meeting, for discussion 6-26-2020.

the destruction of evidence, disable a moving vehicle or against a person who only poses a threat to him/herself and not to others.

300.4.1 DIRECTED FIRE

Officers may use controlled gunfire that is directed at the suspect, reducing the suspect's ability to return fire while a group or individual movement is conducted.

Officers may employ this tactic when dealing with a suspect who poses an immediate and ongoing lethal threat and only under circumstances where the use of deadly force is legally justified. Target acquisition and communication are key elements in the successful use of this tactic. Officers remain accountable for every round fired under these circumstances.

Commented [GA50]: BPD Language

300.4.2 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES [see Leftwich proposed language below]

Best Practice

Firearms should not be discharged at a stationary or moving vehicle, the occupants of a vehicle, or the tires of a vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is imminently threatening an officer or another person present with deadly force. The moving vehicle alone does not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies the use of deadly force.

Officers shall not move into, remain, or otherwise position themselves in the path of a vehicle in an effort to detain or apprehend the occupants. Any officer in the path of a moving vehicle shall immediately attempt to move to a position of safety rather than discharging a firearm at the vehicle or any of the occupants.

Because this policy may not cover every situation that may arise, a deviation from this policy may be reasonable, depending on the circumstances. A deviation from this policy would, for instance, be justified if the officer used a firearm in an attempt to stop an imminent vehicle attack on a crowd or a mass casualty terrorist event.

Factors that may be used to evaluate the reasonableness of the use of a firearm against a vehicle include:

- (a) The availability and use of cover, distance and / or tactical relocation
- (b) Incident command and personnel placement
- (c) Tactical approach
- (d) Regard for viable target acquisition and background including location, other traffic, the presence of innocent persons, and police officers

[Proposed by Leftwich 6-22 in separate document; incorporated here 6-23.]

Officers shall not discharge firearms from a moving vehicle. Officers shall not discharge firearms at a stationary or moving vehicle, the occupants of a vehicle, or the tires of a vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is imminently threatening an officer or another person present with deadly force and no other means are available at that time to avert or eliminate the danger. The moving vehicle alone does not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies the use of deadly force unless it is being used in an imminent attack on a crowd or a mass casualty terrorist event.

Officers shall not move into, remain, or otherwise position themselves in the path of a vehicle in an effort to detain or apprehend the occupants. Any officer in the path of a moving vehicle shall immediately attempt to move to a position of safety rather than discharging a firearm at the

vehicle or any of the occupants.

300.5 USE OF VEHICLES

Officers shall not use police vehicles to ram or block other vehicles, persons, or moving objects in a manner that reasonably appears to constitute the use of lethal force, except under circumstances outlined in section 300.4 and in Policy V-6 that covers vehicle operations.

Commented [GA51]: BPD Language

The Vehicle Containment Technique (VCT) is the positioning of a police vehicle in the path of a suspect vehicle where contact between the vehicles is not anticipated or is anticipated to be minimal. VCT shall only to be used on vehicles that are either stationary or moving at a slow speed. This technique is designed to contain a suspect vehicle to a single stationary location, thereby preventing a pursuit from initiating, or a potentially violent situation (e.g. a hostage situation or person barricaded inside a vehicle) from becoming mobile.

When properly utilized, the VCT can give officers time, distance, and cover in order to safely and effectively resolve a situation.

300.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Best Practice

BPD language updated/reaffirmed 6-24-2020:

Any use of force described in 300.6.2 shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. Whenever an officer or employee uses Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) he or she must also complete a "Use of Pepper Spray Report."

Any incident involving deadly force will be investigated under the protocols outlined in Policy P-12.

A use of force report is not required when a person is handcuffed, searched, or subject to a control hold and there is no injury or complaint of injury.

Absent any factors outlined in Section 306.2 officers shall document the following actions in a police report, citation, Field Interview, and / or CAD entry. Supervisors will review police report narratives for approval:

- Control Hold / Pressure point application
- Grab
- Application of bodyweight
- Lowering a subject to a seated position or to the ground while partially or complete supporting the person's body weight.

300.6.1 INTENTIONALLY POINTING A FIREARM AT AN INDIVIDUAL

Whenever an officer intentionally points a firearm at an individual they shall document the occurrence on a Blue Team report. Officers shall articulate the facts that lead them to point a firearm at an individual and advise a supervisor prior to the end of shift so they can review the report documenting the incident.

Commented [GA52]: BPD Language

Commented [OJ53]: Requires us to be live on Blue Team.

Officers are not required to document drawing or deploying a firearm if they do not intentionally point it at a subject.

300.6.2 NOTIFICATION TO SUPERVISORS

Best Practice

Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as practicable following the application of force in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The application caused a visible injury.
- (b) The application would lead a reasonable officer to conclude that the individual may have experienced more than momentary discomfort.
- (c) The individual subjected to the force complained of injury or continuing pain as a result of the use of force.
- (d) Any application of less than lethal munitions or pepper spray.
- (e) The individual was struck by a baton
- (f) The individual subjected to the force was rendered unconscious.
- (g) The individual was struck with a personal body weapon or was subjected to a take-down.
- (h) An individual alleges any of the above has occurred.

[Revision proposed by Perezvelez; discussed 6-22, 6-24 without resolution. Leftwich/Perezvelez to propose language]

300.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Upon receiving notification of a use of force, a supervisor who was not involved in the use of force incident, will determine the level of investigation and documentation. The following categories and parameters will explain levels of force and the respective reporting, investigation, documentation, and review requirements.

Incidents will be categorized as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4.

Level 1: Documentation in a Police Report Only Level 1 Incident Parameters:

- (a) Subject allowed him/herself to be searched, escorted, and/or handcuffed. The officer did not use force to overcome resistance, nor did the officer use force in the absence of resistance.
- (b) Officer used any of the following, and the circumstances of the application would lead a reasonable officer to conclude that the subject did not experience more than momentary discomfort:
 - 1. Control holds/pressure point application
 - 2. Leverage
 - 3. Grab

4. Bodyweight

5. The officer lowered the subject to a seated position or to the ground while partially or completely supporting the person's bodyweight.

(c) Officer used any of the following:

1. Professional presence and/or verbalization
2. Drawn/deployed firearm, but no suspect contacted or arrested

(d) Subject has no visible injury due to interaction with the officer.

(e) Subject has no complaint of injury or continuing pain.

(f) Subject does not indicate intent to pursue litigation.

(g) Subject was not rendered unconscious due to interaction with the officer.

(h) No allegation of misconduct against the officer, regarding force.

(i) Officer body camera was activated in a timely manner, prior to the enforcement contact, per policy. Level 1 Incidents should be documented by an officer in an appropriate police report, citation, Field Interview, and/or CADS entry. Supervisors will review police report narratives for approval.

Level 2: Use of Force Level 2 Incident Parameters:

(a) No suspect injury or complaint of continuing pain due to interaction with officer.

(b) No allegation of misconduct against officer, regarding force.

(c) Officer body camera was activated in a timely manner, prior to the enforcement contact, per policy.

(d) Officer's use of force was limited to the following:

1. Any takedown that did not appear to cause more than momentary discomfort.
2. Firearm drawn/deployed but not fired, suspect contacted
3. Control hold, pressure point, leverage, grab, and/or bodyweight, and the application would lead a reasonable officer to conclude that the individual may have experienced more than momentary discomfort. An uninvolved supervisor will respond to the scene and conduct a Use of Force Investigation, ensuring that statements are taken from the suspect and witnesses, and that photos are taken of the involved parties. If the incident fits the parameters for a Level 2 incident, the supervisor will enter all applicable data into Blue Team and attach a completed Use of Force Investigation Checklist **(must be generated)** with a brief summary.

Witness statements from fire and medical personnel are not required under the following circumstance: an officer assists medical personnel to restrain and/or secure a subject to a gurney for medical transport in a non-criminal detention, and all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The officer only used force options limited to the following: grab, hold, leverage, and/ or bodyweight.
- (b) No subject injury or complaint of continuing pain due to interaction with the officer.
- (c) No allegation of misconduct against the officer, regarding force.
- (d) Officer body camera was activated in a timely manner, per policy.
- (e) The unit number for the fire and medical personnel is obtained.

Level 3: Use of Force Level 3 Incident Parameters:

- (a) Would have otherwise been classified as a Level 2, except one or more of the following apply:
 - 1. Suspect injury or complaint of injury or continuing pain due to interaction with the officer.
 - 2. Allegation of misconduct against officer, regarding force.
 - 3. Officer body worn camera was not activated in a timely manner, prior to the enforcement contact, per policy.
- (b) The use of force is Level 3 if the officer used any of the following force options:
 - 1. Any takedown that appears to have caused more than momentary discomfort.
 - 2. Chemical Agents/Munitions
 - 3. Impact Weapon Strikes
 - 4. Personal Body Weapons

An uninvolved supervisor will respond to the scene and conduct a Use of Force Investigation, ensuring that statements are taken from the suspect and witnesses. If the incident fits the parameters for a Level 3 incident, the supervisor will enter all applicable data into Blue Team and attach a completed Use of Force Investigation Checklist. The supervisor will also complete a Use of Force Investigation Report narrative for review through the Use of Force Review process. Suspect and witness statements from the crime report will be attached to the use of force investigation.

Level 4: Use of Deadly Force Level 4 Incident Parameters:

- (a) Use of firearm, officer involved shooting.
- (b) Or any force likely to cause death or serious bodily injury. An uninvolved supervisor will respond to the scene. The incident will be investigated, documented, and reviewed in adherence to Policy 300.

EMPLOYEES WHO USE FORCE WHILE ON A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT When a Berkeley Police employee has a use of force as defined in this policy, the use of force must be reported to a Berkeley Police supervisor and investigated in accordance with this policy. When two or more Berkeley Police officers are temporarily assigned to assist an outside agency or multi-agency task

force in the performance of law enforcement activities, a [BART Berkeley Police supervisor should also be present](#).

300.6.3 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

State

Statistical data regarding all officer-involved shootings and incidents involving use of force resulting in serious bodily injury is to be reported to the California Department of Justice as required by Government Code § 12525.2. See the Records Management policy.

300.7 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

Best Practice

When an officer or employee uses force that results in injury, or when a subject complains that an injury has been inflicted, the officer or employee shall ensure that the subject receives appropriate medical care.

The on-scene supervisor or, if the on-scene supervisor is not available, the primary handling officer shall ensure that any person providing medical care or receiving custody of a person following any use of force is informed that the person was subjected to force.

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics and imperviousness to pain (sometimes called “excited delirium”), or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death. Calls involving these persons should be considered medical emergencies. Officers who reasonably suspect a medical emergency should request medical evaluation as soon as practicable and have medical personnel stage away if appropriate.

[BPD reaffirmed 6-24-2020]

300.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

Best Practice

When a supervisor is able to respond to an incident in which there has been a reported application of force as defined in 300.6.2 and the scene is secure, the supervisor is expected to:

- (a) Obtain the basic facts from the involved officers. Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.
- (b) Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated.
- (c) Once any initial medical assessment has been completed or first aid has been rendered, ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain, as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas. These photographs should be retained until all potential for civil litigation has expired.
- (d) Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.

Through 6-24-2020 meeting, for discussion 6-26-2020.

- (e) Review and approve all related reports
- (f) Review body worn camera footage related to the incident.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

300.9 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

Best Practice

The Watch Commander shall review each use of force by any personnel within his/her command to ensure compliance with this policy and to address any training issues.

300.10 USE OF FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The Division Captain shall review the Use of Force Report (and when applicable, Use of Pepper Spray Report) and route the report to the Chief of Police with a recommendation of findings. The Chief of Police may convene a Review Board as outlined in Policy 301 instead of utilizing Division Captain Review.

The Chief of Police will make a finding that the use of force was either within policy or initiate additional administrative review/investigation as may be appropriate.

Any determination concerning the propriety of force used will be based on the facts and information available to the officer at the time the force was employed, and not upon information gained after the fact.

All Use of Force Reports will be reviewed to determine whether Departmental use of force regulations, policies, or procedures were: 1) violated or followed; 2) clearly understood, effective, and relevant to the situation; and/or, 3) require revision or additional training.

Use of Force Reports will be held in file for at least five (5) years

300.11 TRAINING

Best Practice

Officers will receive periodic training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

300.12 USE OF FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ANALYSIS

Best Practice

[Revisions proposed by Chief Greenwood after 6-22 meeting.]

The Professional Standards Division Captain or his or her designee shall prepare an analysis report on use of force incidents to be ~~included-incorporated~~ as part of the Police Department's Annual Crime Report to Council. The report shall not contain the names of officers, suspects or case numbers, and should include:

- (a) An analysis of use of force incidents with demographic details of the individual impacted and type of force used

Commented [KL54]: Confirmed title correction with Sgt. Ledoux 6-19.

Commented [OJ55]: Changed language so the information is included as part of the Crime Report.

Through 6-24-2020 meeting, for discussion 6-26-2020.

- (b) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members.
- (c) Training needs recommendations.
- (d) Equipment needs recommendations.
- (e) Policy revisions if any.

On a monthly basis, the department will submit a monthly version of the same report to the Police Review Commission, to include the information in (a) – (e) above.

[Revision proposed by Perezvelez; discussed 6-22. Chief to suggest language (see above).]

~~Annually, the Training and Standards Division Captain will generate a report on use of force incidents. The report should be submitted to the Chief of Police, City Council and the Berkeley Police Review Commission.~~

Monthly, the department will generate a Use of Force report for review by the Berkeley Police Review Commission

The report should not contain the names of officers, suspects or case numbers, and should include:

- (a) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members.
- (b) Any statistical data and demographics related to race, gender, age or as requested by the Berkeley Police Review Commission, and in line with any and all Impartial Policing reporting standards
- (c) Training needs recommendations.
- (d) Equipment needs recommendations.
- (e) Policy revision recommendations.