

Santa Clara Police Department Use of Force/ Strategic Communication

April 2022







Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge of use of force laws
- Demonstrate knowledge of our use of force policies
- Demonstrate an understanding of force options including:
 - Reverence for human life
 - De-escalation and verbal commands
 - Rendering first-aid
 - Legal duty to intercede
 - Report excessive force to a superior officer



Use of Force Evolution

AB 392

- Amended 835a of the Penal Code
- Effective January 1, 2020
- POST video "AB 392: California's New Use of Force Standards: What You Need to Know"

SB 230

- Created Government Code 7286
- Effective January 1, 2021
- POST Use of Force Standards and Guidelines November 2020
 - 21 Standards based on PC 835a, PC 13519.10 & GC 7286



Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify him/herself 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 (Penal Code 835a).

If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers shall evaluate and use other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force. To the extent that it is reasonably practical, officers should consider their surroundings and any potential risks to bystanders prior to discharging a firearm (Government Code § 7286(b)).



The use of deadly force is only justified when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary 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.



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 \S 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).



Imminent Threat

Deadly Force = Must be **Imminent** Threat

Ability Opportunity Intent

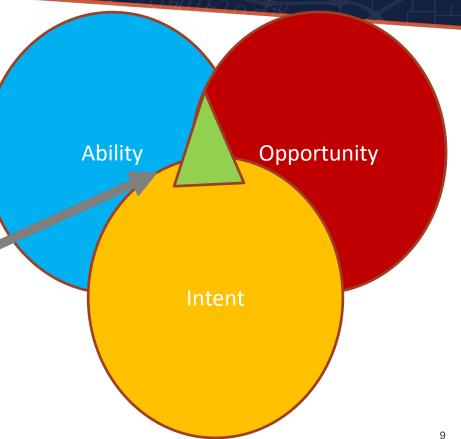
Must have all three



Imminent Threat

Are there times when an officer can add/remove "opportunity"?

Must have all three





On February 9, 2019, Vallejo Officers responded to a 911 call from a Taco Bell in the city regarding an unresponsive driver in the drive through lane of the restaurant. Upon arrival, officers discovered a car that was at the entrance of the drive through with a male in the driver seat of the vehicle. They also saw a gun on the lap of the driver. Officers called for backup.

Officers attempted to retrieve the gun from the driver's lap, quickly and without disturbing the driver. However, the door was locked. Officers attempted to secure the driver's car by placing a car in front and behind the driver to pin it in. While the second car was approaching to pin in the car, the driver awoke. Officers directed the driver to hold his hands up and show his hands. The driver was not cooperative to the orders. The driver then reached down for his gun and officers fired at the driver. He was then pulled from the car and officers began immediate medical procedures to save his life. Those efforts were not successful and the driver died.

There has been significant community interest in this officer involved shooting. Today, the Valleio Police Department is releasing video footage of the incident to provide transparency



Deadly Force

PENAL CODE 835(a)(2) As set forth below, it is the intent of the Legislature that peace officers use deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case, and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.

Accepted Definition of Necessary:

That no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appeared at the time and that the amount of force used was reasonable based on the department's policy and training to affect the lawful purposes intended.



Definitions

LEXIPOL 301.1.1 Definitions related to this policy include:

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 \S 835a).

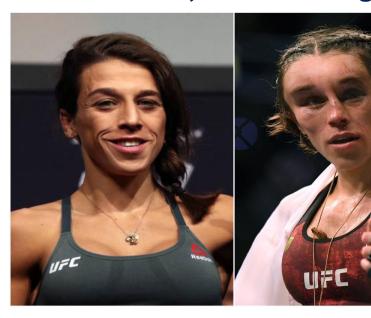
Force - The application of physical techniques, on a subject, beyond simple control holds, used to compel compliance. This would also include any force used which results in, or allegation of, physical injury or unconsciousness.



Definitions (Penal Code 243 (f)(4))

(4) "Serious bodily injury" means a serious impairment of physical condition, including, but not limited to, the following:







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LEXIPOL 300.4 (Fleeing Felon)

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

unless immediately apprehended.





PENAL CODE 835 (a)(e)(2)

A threat of death or serious bodily injury is "imminent" 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 peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is not merely a . but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly confronted and addressed.





LEXIPOL 300.4 Danger to Self or Others

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).



Issue Warnings

Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of deadly force, make reasonable efforts to identify him/herself 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 (Penal Code 835a)

Identify

"POLICE!"

Order

"DON'T MOVE!" Warning "OR FORCE WILL BE USED!"



Use of Force (Lexipol 303.3)

LEXIPOL 303.3 Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose (Penal Code \S 835a).

PENAL CODE 835(a)(e)(3) "Totality of the circumstances" means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force.



Break Time

Case Law Scenarios



Hayes vs. County of San Diego

- Quick synopsis:
 - Reason for contact
 - Suspect's actions
 - Officer's actions
- · Case law:
 - What did the courts say (opinion)
 - What laws changed





Young vs. County of Los Angeles, et al

- Quick synopsis:
 - Reason for contact
 - Suspect's actions
 - o IOW?
 - Officer's actions
- · Case law:
 - What did the courts say (opinion)
 - What laws changed





Zion vs Orange County

- Quick synopsis:
 - Reason for contact
 - Suspect's actions
 - Officer's actions
- · Case law:
 - What did the courts say (opinion)
 - What laws changed





Nehad vs Browder

- Quick synopsis:
 - Reason for contact
 - Suspect's actions
 - Officer's actions
- · Case law:
 - What did the courts say (opinion)
 - What laws changed









Surveillance Video: Alley Cameras 10 & 8

Audio: SDPD Communications with Subtitles

(***) VOICE of SAN DIEGO



Objectively Reasonable Standard

Graham vs. Conner

Balancing the nature of the 4th Amendment intrusion against the "3 prong test":

- Severity of the Crime
- Threat to Officers or Others
- Whether the suspect is actively resisting, attempting to escape, or evade arrest

C.T.R.E.E

Crime Threat Resist Escape Evade



LEXIPOL 300.3.3

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 (Government Code \S 7286(b)). These factors include but are not limited to:



Severity & immediacy of threat Conduct of suspect & officer Officer & suspect's age, size, strength, skill level, injuries/fatigue/exhaustion, & number of individuals



Effects of alcohol or drugs
Suspect's mental state
Proximity to weapons
Suspect's ability to
understand or comply
to commands



Ability to resist while being restrained Availability of other options





Seriousness of suspected offense (crime) or reason for contact

Training/experience of officer

Potential injury to officers, suspects, or others

Suspect resisting, evading, or attacking

Risk & foreseeable consequence of escape



Need for immediate control or prompt resolution to situation



Suspect does not pose an imminent threat to officer or others Prior contacts or knowledge of propensity for violence

Other exigent circumstances



Graham vs Conner Guidelines

Guidelines in determining reasonableness of officer's UOF response:

- 1) Judged through the perspective of a reasonable officer
 - a. Officer with same or similar training and experience
 - b. Facing similar circumstances
 - c. Act the same way or use similar judgment





Graham vs Conner Guidelines

Guidelines in determining reasonableness of officer's UOF response:

- 2) Based on the totality of the facts known to the officer at the time the force was applied.
 - a. No matter how compelling the evidence is to be found later
 - b. No hindsight evaluation
- 3) Based on the facts known to the officer without regard to the underlying intent or motivation
- 4) Based on the knowledge the officer acted properly under established law at the time



Objectively Reasonable Standard

Penal Code 835(a)(2)

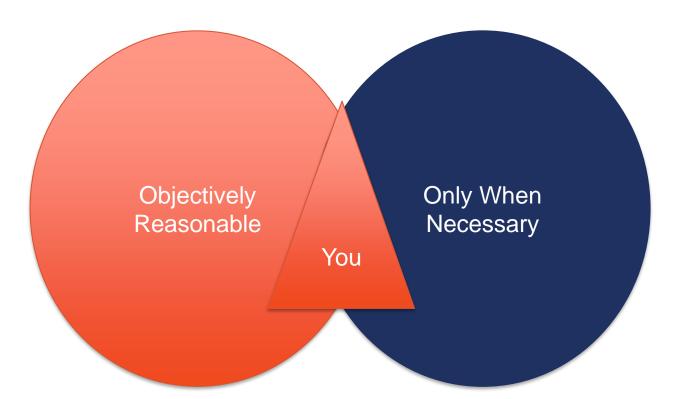
As set forth below, it is the intent of the Legislature that peace officers use deadly force only, when necessary, in defense of human life. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer.

Penal Code 835 (a)(4)

That the decision by a peace officer to use force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using force.



4th Amendment vs Penal Code 835 (a)





Break Time

Table Top Scenarios



LEXIPOL 300.3.5 RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CAROTID CONTROL HOLD

Officers of this department are not authorized to use a carotid restraint hold. A carotid restraint means a vascular neck restraint or any similar restraint, hold, or other defensive tactic in which pressure is applied to the sides of a person's neck that involves a substantial risk of restricting blood flow and may render the person unconscious in order to subdue or control the person (Government Code § 7286.5)





LEXIPOL 300.3.6 RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF A CHOKE HOLD

Officers of this department are not authorized to use a choke hold. A choke hold means any defensive tactic or force option in which direct pressure is applied to a person's trachea or windpipe (Government Code § 7286.5).





LEXIPOL 300.3.7 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Terms such as "positional asphyxia," "restraint asphyxia," and "excited delirium" continue to remain the subject of debate among experts and medical professionals, are not universally recognized medical conditions, and frequently involve other collateral or controlling factors such as narcotics or alcohol influence, or pre-existing medical conditions. While it is impractical to restrict an officer's use of reasonable control methods when attempting to restrain a combative individual, officers are not authorized to use any restraint or transportation method which might unreasonably impair an individual's breathing or respiratory capacity for a period beyond the point when the individual has been adequately and safely controlled. Once controlled, the individual should be placed into a recovery position (e.g., supine or seated) and monitored for signs of medical distress (Government Code § 7286.5).



LEXIPOL 300.3.8 USE OF FORCE TO SEIZE EVIDENCE

In general, officers may use reasonable force to lawfully seize evidence and to prevent the destruction of evidence. However, officers are discouraged from using force solely to prevent a person from swallowing evidence or contraband. In the instance when force is used, officers should 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 Santa **Clara Police Department for this specific purpose.**



LEXIPOL 300.4.1 SHOOTING AT OR FROM MOVING VEHICLES

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective and may involve additional considerations and risks. When feasible, officers should take reasonable steps to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the imminent threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is

directed at the officer or others (Government Code § 7286(b)).

Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle.



LEXIPOL 300.4.2 DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS

Given that individuals might perceive the display of a firearm as a potential application of force, officers should carefully evaluate each tactical situation and use sound discretion when drawing a firearm in public by considering the following guidelines (Government Code § 7286(b)):

Does not initially perceive threat, but potential for threat exists (Low Ready or not directed at individual)

Threat exists such as high risk stops, tactical entries, armed encounters, etc (Can be pointed at suspect)

When safe, firearm should be secured



LEXIPOL 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, properly trained officers should promptly provide or procure medical assistance for any person injured or claiming to have been injured in a use of force incident (Government Code § 7286(b)).





LEXIPOL 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, who has sustained visible injury, expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or who was rendered unconscious. Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter should be continuously monitored until he/she can be medically assessed.





LEXIPOL 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

Based upon the officer's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff, or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practicable, should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included in the recording, if possible.





LEXIPOL 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

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. This notification shall include a description of the force used and any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the subject (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).





LEXIPOL 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATION

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 assistance as soon as practicable and have medical personnel stage away if appropriate.

See the Medical Aid and Response Policy for additional guidelines.





Duty to Act/Special Relationships

Do the police have a legal obligation to protect others?

"a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any particular individual citizen. The duty to provide public services is owed to the public at large, and, absent a special relationship between the police and an individual, no specific legal duty exists."

Warren v. District of Columbia, 444 A.2d 1, 8 (D.C. 1981)

"A person does not, by becoming a police officer, insulate himself from any of the basic duties which everyone owes to other people, but neither does he assume any greater obligation to others individually. The only additional duty undertaken by accepting employment as a police officer is the duty owed to the public at large."

Warren v. District of Columbia, 444 A.2d 1, 8 (D.C. 1981)



Duty to Act/Special Relationships

Do the police have a legal obligation to protect others?

"As a general rule, law enforcement officers do not owe a duty of care to protect members of the general public."

Williams v. State of California (1983)

Neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable for failure to provide police protection service or, if police protection service is provided, for failure to provide sufficient police protection service.

CA Government Code 845



Duty to Act/Special Relationships

If so, who are they obligated to protect?

#1 - Where the officer makes a representation (express or implied) that is detrimentally relied upon and causes a foreseeable harm. Examples?

5150 in house & telling neighbors it's safe

#2 - Where the officer engages in an affirmative act that increases the foreseeable risk of harm and does in fact harm the individual. Examples?

Placed suspect in handcuffs and do not seat belt



Vulnerable Populations

PENAL CODE 835 (a)(5)

That individuals with physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities are significantly more likely to experience greater levels of physical force during police interactions, as their disability may affect their ability to understand or comply with commands from peace officers. It is estimated that individuals with disabilities are involved in between one-third and one-half of all fatal encounters with law enforcement.

- (d) The conduct of the involved officer leading up to the use of force
- (f) The individual's apparent mental state or capacity
- (g) The individual's apparent ability to understand and comply with officer commands
- (j) The availability of other reasonable and feasible options and their possible effectiveness



Duty to Intercede (Lexipol 300.2.2)

Any officer present and observing another law enforcement officer or an employee using force that is clearly beyond that which is necessary, as determined by an objectively reasonable officer under the circumstances, shall, when in a position to do so, intercede (as defined by Government Code \S 7286) to prevent the use of unreasonable force.

When observing force used by a law enforcement officer, each officer should take into account the totality of the circumstances and the possibility that other law enforcement officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by the subject (Government Code § 7286(b))

This applies to pre-incident conduct

What could've been one of the driving factors for this law?







Duty to Report (Lexipol 300.2.4)

Any officer who observes a law enforcement officer or an employee use force that potentially exceeds what the officer reasonably believes to be necessary shall immediately report these observations to a supervisor (Government Code § 7286(b)).

As used in this subsection, "immediately" means as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.



Reporting Use of Force (Lexipol 300.5.1)

Any use of force by an officer shall be reported immediately to a supervisor, including but not limited to the following circumstances (Penal Code § 832.13):

- Caused a visible injury
- Experienced more than momentary discomfort
- Complained of injury or continuing pain
- Intent to pursue litigation
- Use of CEW or control device
- Restraint device other than handcuffs, shackles, or belly chains
- Rendered unconscious
- Struck or kicked
- Alleges unreasonable force was used



Supervisor Responsibility (Lexipol 300.7)

A supervisor should respond to any reported use of force, if reasonably available. The responding supervisor is expected to (Government Code § 7286(b)):

- 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. When possible, separately obtain a recorded interview with the subject upon whom force was applied. If this interview is conducted without the person having voluntarily waived his/her Miranda rights, the following shall apply:
 - 1. The content of the interview should not be summarized or included in any related criminal charges.
 - 2. The fact that a recorded interview was conducted should be documented in a property or other report.
 - 3. The recording of the interview should be distinctly marked for retention until all potential for civil litigation has expired.



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Supervisor Responsibility (Lexipol 300.7)

- d. 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.
- e. Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.
- f. Review and approve all related reports.
- g. Determine if there is any indication that the subject may pursue civil litigation.
 - 1. If there is an indication of potential civil litigation, the supervisor should complete and route a notification of a potential claim through the appropriate channels.
- h. Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the incident and initiate an administrative investigation if there is a question of policy non-compliance or if for any reason further investigation may be appropriate.

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.



Break Time

Simunition Scenarios



Definitions (P.O.S.T.)

"De-escalation is the process of using strategies and techniques intended to decrease the intensity of the situation."

What are some examples of:

Good Tactics

VS

Bad Tactics



The "Four" Filters

1. Solo Barricade: We can possibly create time, distance,

& cover to allow us the opportunity to

offer de-escalation to the subject.

2. Hostage Barricade: Attempt to de-escalate/contain problem

but incident might immediately turn

deadly.

3. Active Shooter: Priority #1 Stop the Killing

Priority #2 Stop the Dying

4. Fleeing Suspect: Chasing to apprehend vs Containment



7 Suspect Actions



Mental Illness vs Persons in Crisis

Mental Illness

May be having a breakdown, possibly violent due to mental illness, but not suicidal
 Persons in Crisis

- Criminal Crisis
 - Committed a crime and encountered police
 - Desperation led to violence
 - May have mental health
- Suicidal Crisis
 - Possibly no prior mental health issues, but arrived at suicide as only option (or using threat as cry for help) due to their life situation



Mental III Subject

What to do

What to avoid



Suicidal Person in Crisis

- Commitment
- Effective communication
- Problems to overcome
- Consider asking for help from MCRT or like resource (they will not take over for person in active crisis)





Criminal Suspect in Crisis

- Safety first
- Resources
- Verbal containment
- Effective communication
- Challenges to overcome





Some Indicators of Progress

- Shift from threatening/violent to nonthreatening language
- Reduction in violent behavior
- Release of hostage*
- Indicates he doesn't want to hurt anyone
- Deadlines pass without incident
- Shift from emotional to rational content
- Conversations increasing in length
- Willingness to speak with authorities
- Discusses topics unrelated to incident

- Rapport between authorities and subject
- Discloses personal information
- Lower voice or slower speech level
- Asks what will happen when he comes out
- Discusses surrender process



Some Indicators of High-Risk Factors

- Commits actions which will likely cause response/confrontation from police
- Victim known by subject, especially in involved romantically or family member
- History/allegations of spousal/child abuse and/or complaints/restraining orders
- Direct threats or actual injury to victim with no "substantive" demand
- Experienced multiple recent stressors (financial/job loss, emotional loss, etc)

- History of similar incidences
- Subject's cultural background emphasizes male dominance in relationships or significance in "loss of face"
- Lack of familial/social support system
- Verbalization of intent to commit suicide
- Given verbal will or set their affairs in order



Additional Risk Indicators

- Unwilling to remove method of suicide (step away from ledge or drop weapon)
- Insists on "face to face" negotiation
- Deadline/countdown for someone's death
- Refusal to negotiate
- Insists particular person be brought to scene
- Isolation/dehumanization of hostages
- Excessive weapons, ammo, or explosives
- Alcohol and/or drug use



Break Time

Simunition Scenarios