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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish what constitutes a permissible use of force by an employee, and the employee's duties before, during, and after using force. The goal of every encounter is to resolve it without resorting to force, and using force in any case must be based on a careful assessment of the situation, including the threats, options, and risks faced by the employee.

The standards established by this Department policy are deliberately stricter than the Constitutional and legal minimums established by the Courts. These more rigorous standards for use of force must be complied with.

2. CORE PRINCIPLES

- A. **Sanctity of Human Life** – Employees shall make every effort to preserve human life in all situations.
- B. **Value and Worth of All Persons** – Employees shall respect and uphold the value, rights, liberty, and dignity of all persons at all times.
- C. **Use of Force: Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional** – Employees shall use only the force that is reasonable, necessary, and proportional to effectively and safely resolve an incident. The employee will immediately reduce the level of force as the threat or resistance diminishes.
- D. **De-Escalation** – Employees shall use de-escalation techniques and tactics when feasible to attempt to reduce any threat or gain compliance with lawful commands without the use of force. If that is not possible, the employee must reduce or eliminate the threat using the lowest level of force possible. Employees shall avoid action or language that escalates an encounter unless necessary to achieve a lawful purpose.
- E. **Continuous Assessment** – Employees shall continuously assess each situation and modify their response as the circumstances change—before, during, and after an employee uses force. Employees may be justified in using force at a particular moment but not justified in using force when circumstances change.
- F. **Reporting Use of Force** – Each employee who uses force, or observes another employee or employees use force, shall notify their supervisor as soon as practical, and will accurately complete the required Incident Report and/or any supplements by the end of their shift.
- G. **Duty to Intervene** – All employees shall intervene, with no fear of retaliation, when they know or should know another employee is using unreasonable force or is otherwise engaging in abusive behavior or misconduct.
- H. **Duty to Provide Medical Assistance** – As soon as practical after any Use of Force incident, employees are responsible for requesting medical treatment for injured subjects and rendering aid consistent with the employee's training.
- I. **Accountability** – Employees shall be held accountable for uses of force that violate law or policy. Employees have an absolute duty to report all misconduct, including but not limited to, the use of excessive force.
- J. **Retaliatory Force** – Employees shall not use force against persons to punish them for fleeing, resisting arrest, assaulting an employee, or for any other reason.

3. DEFINITIONS

A. Active Aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical actions of an attack or assault, including, but not limited to, taking a fighting stance, strikes, kicks, or attempted strikes or kicks with hands, fists, the head, elbows, or knees.
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B. Aggravated Aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actions of a person that present an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the employee or another person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggravated Aggression represents the least frequent but most serious threat to an employee or other person.
C. Chokehold / Neck Hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any hold or contact with the neck that may impair or prevent breathing by compressing the airway in the neck, may impair blood flow by compression of the blood vessels in the neck, or that applies pressure to the front, side, or back of the neck. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chokeholds/Neck Holds are prohibited unless the use of Deadly Force is justified (see below definition of Deadly Force). Brief, incidental contact with the neck that would not inhibit breathing or blood flow does not constitute a chokehold/neck hold for the purposes of this policy.
D. Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A weapon designed to discharge electrical impulses to temporarily immobilize a person.
E. Deadly Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any force likely to cause death or Serious Physical Injury, whether or not the employee intended to cause death or Serious Physical Injury. Deadly Force includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The discharge of a firearm; Strikes with any hard object such as a baton, flashlight, radio, weapon stock/handle, or Improvised Impact Weapon to the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys; Intentionally striking a person's head against a hard, fixed object such as a roadway, concrete floor, wall, or iron bars; Knee strikes or kicks to a person's head; Strikes to a person's throat; Knee drops on a person's head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys when the person is in a prone or supine position; Chokeholds/Neck Holds; Shooting a person in the head, neck, chest, or back, with a Less-Lethal Launcher at close range; and The use of force on a person whose health, age, condition, or other circumstances make it likely that death or Serious Physical Injury will result.
F. De-Escalation Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Techniques used to minimize the need to use force and increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance. These techniques may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> persuasion, warnings, creating space, use of physical barriers, slowing down the pace of an incident, and requesting additional resources.
G. Imminent Threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A situation in which a person has the means and ability to harm the employee or another person, and the employee reasonably believes the person intends to cause that harm.
H. Improvised Impact Weapon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A device or object that is not a department-approved weapon but is nonetheless capable of being used as an impact weapon (e.g., flashlight, radio, or stick). <p>NOTE: Such weapons may be unpredictable, ineffective, or inflict unexpectedly high levels of damage.</p>
I. Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical pain or impairment of physical condition greater than Temporary Pain but less than Serious Physical Injury.



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<p>J. Irritants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substances that irritate the eyes and mucous membranes of anyone exposed to the substances. Irritants include but are not limited to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, Repuls, CN/CS gas, PepperBall, Mk-9 Pepper Fogger, and Smoke
<p>K. Less-Lethal Force</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Force that is not likely to cause death or Serious Physical Injury. Devices that can be used to apply Less-Lethal Force may include, but not be limited to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PepperBall rounds, batons/impact weapons, OC spray, and CEW. <p>NOTE: Less-Lethal Force devices, if used contrary to their purpose and relevant training, may constitute the use of Deadly Force.</p>
<p>L. Less-Lethal Launchers / Munitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A delivery tool that, when used as designed and intended, is less likely to cause death or Serious Physical Injury than a weapon (such as a firearm designed to apply deadly force). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less- Lethal Launchers/Munitions are only approved for use by certified employees
<p>M. Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of Force is authorized only when it is Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional in light of the Totality of the Circumstances that were known, or should have been known, to the employee, and in light of the mandates of PPD Policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable — Force is reasonable when the employee uses no more force than required to achieve a lawful purpose. Necessary — Force is necessary when no reasonably effective alternative exists. When force is necessary, employees shall use force in a manner that avoids unnecessary injury or risk of injury to employees and civilians. Proportional — Force is proportional when it is rationally related to the level of resistance or aggression confronting the employee. <p>NOTE: Employees who use force that is not Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional will be subject to corrective action, possible discipline, possible criminal prosecution, and/or civil liability.</p>
<p>N. Reportable Force</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Force that rises to a Level 1, 2, or 3, as defined below, constitutes a reportable use of force. Reportable Force is referred to as “Use of Force” in this policy.
<p>O. Resistance: Active and Passive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees may face the following types of resistance to lawful directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Resistance — Physical actions that attempt to prevent an employee’s control but do not constitute Active Aggression against the employee or another person. Examples may include attempts to leave the scene, fleeing, hiding from detection, physical resistance to being handcuffed, or pulling away from the employee’s grasp. Verbal statements, a person’s reaction to pain caused by an employee, or purely defensive reactions to force do not constitute Active Resistance. <p>NOTE: Absent other factors, solely bracing, tensing, linking arms, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into custody constitutes Passive Resistance, not Active Resistance.</p> Passive Resistance — Failure to comply with an employee’s commands without attempting to flee. Passive Resistance may include, but is not limited to, a person going limp; standing still and not moving in response to lawful direction; and/or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into custody.
<p>P. Serious Physical Injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodily injury that creates a reasonable risk of death, causes serious and permanent disfigurement, or results in long term loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ.



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Q. Temporary Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any pain that is brief, does not result in injury, and is inflicted as a means to gain compliance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Pain may result from the application of, but is not limited to, elbow grips, wrist grips, shoulder grips, pressure point techniques, and/or forcible takedowns.
R. Totality of the Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All facts and circumstances surrounding any event. The facts and circumstances may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether an offense has been committed; Nature of the offense; Seriousness of the offense; Number, size, and strength of the persons involved and on the scene; Weapons and devices available to the persons involved in the offense; Force options available to the employee; Non-force options available, including additional resources, tactical repositioning, taking cover, or other De-Escalation techniques; Whether the person exhibits signs of mental illness or a behavioral health crisis; Whether the person appears to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A medical or behavioral health disability, A physical or hearing impairment, An impairment due to alcohol or drug use, or A language barrier that may contribute to non-compliance; Environmental factors; Suspect's actions and behaviors; and Potential violence of the suspect.

4. MINIMAL FORCE AND LEVELS OF REPORTABLE FORCE

A. Minimal Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical interaction meant to escort, handcuff, separate, guide, and/or control subjects that is not intended to or is not reasonably likely to cause Temporary Pain or Injury does not constitute a reportable Use of Force for the purposes of this policy.
B. Use of Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any force greater than Minimal Force constitutes a reportable Use of Force. Reportable force is divided into Levels 1, 2, and 3.
C. Level 1 Use of Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of physical control techniques that cause Temporary Pain or complaint of Temporary Pain, including, but not limited to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wrist locks, joint locks, pressure points, the smear, and the harness. <p>NOTE: Force under this category is not reasonably expected to cause Injury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints of Injury where the subject is evaluated by medical personnel and no medical treatment or first aid is administered Use of physical restraint devices beyond handcuffing, including the Ripp restraint and the Department-approved spit sock Forcible takedowns, including tackling or tripping, that do not result in Injury or complaint of injury Pointing a firearm or Less-Lethal Launchers <p>Exception: Specialty Units and employees assigned to work on a federal task force will not be required to report the pointing of a firearm at a person as a Use of Force during the execution of their duties.</p>



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D. Level 2 Use of Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of techniques that cause or could reasonably be expected to cause Injury greater than Temporary Pain, including the following, when they do not rise to a Level 3 Use of Force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Discharge of a CEW in Drive-Stun or Probes Deployment, in the direction of a person; * Use of Irritants, including OC spray, Repuls, MK9, Pepperball, CN/CS gas; * Weaponless defense techniques including, but not limited to, elbow or closed fist strikes, open hand strikes, and kicks; * Discharge of a Less-Lethal Launcher/Munitions in the direction of a person; * Canine-inflicted injuries; and * Complaints of Injury resulting in the administration of medical aid or treatment but not requiring hospitalization.
E. Level 3 Use of Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses of Deadly Force • Uses of Force resulting in death, Serious Physical Injury, loss of consciousness, or Injury requiring hospitalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hospitalization refers to admission to the hospital and does not include treatment and release in the emergency department, regardless of how long the stay. • Applications of more than three (3) CEW cycles to a person during a single encounter • CEW application for longer than 15 seconds during an encounter • Intentional use of a police vehicle to strike a pedestrian, cyclist, or occupied vehicle

5. GENERAL POLICY

A. Use of Force

- (1) Sworn and civilian employees acting in an enforcement capacity have the authority to use Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional force when necessary to accomplish lawful objectives.
 - (a) This authority is limited by the United States Constitution, federal law, laws of the State of Arizona, and the provisions of this policy.
 - (b) Employees must conform their actions to the requirements of these sources of lawful authority.
 - (c) When employees use force, they shall exercise the utmost restraint.
 - (d) Employees should announce that force will be utilized prior to the application of such force unless it is impractical to do so.
- (2) Employees shall prevent or stop the illegal, inappropriate, or excessive Use of Force by other employees. Failure to intervene may subject an employee to disciplinary action.
- (3) Only Department-issued or approved weapons, equipment, and irritants are authorized.

EXCEPTION: Employees may use Improvised Impact Weapons only in rare, emergency conditions where they lack an authorized baton or other approved less-lethal alternatives, and use of an Improvised Impact Weapon is Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional to defend against a person displaying Active or Aggravated Aggression.



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B. De-Escalation

- (1) Whenever possible, employees shall attempt to avoid the Use of Force by using De-Escalation Techniques, which include the following:
 - Verbal persuasion, commands, and warnings;
 - Slowing down the pace of an incident, including waiting;
 - Using barriers;
 - Creating distance between the employee and the threat;
 - Withdraw from the scene; and
 - Requesting additional resources such as specialized units, CIT trained employees, behavioral health care providers, or negotiators.
- (2) Employees shall perform their work in a manner that avoids unduly jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others through poor tactical decisions including, but not limited to,
 - approaching a person without proper evaluation of the situation,
 - failing to leave sufficient space between the employee and the person, or
 - escalating a situation.
- (3) Employees shall not use tactics that unnecessarily escalate an encounter or create the need for force.
- (4) Even when confronted with Aggravated Aggression, the employee is required to make every reasonable effort to De-escalate and to continue to assess the situation and modify the employee's Use of Force consistent with any change of circumstances.
- (5) If the employee has no alternative to using force, the employee shall use only the amount of force that is Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional to respond to the threat.
- (6) Employees shall immediately reduce their level of force as the threat diminishes or resistance decreases.

C. Critical Thinking

- (1) Prior to using force, employees shall use a critical thinking and decision-making framework to analyze and respond to incidents; this framework will help employees to stabilize a situation by:
 - Assessing the situation, threats, and risks;
 - Gathering relevant facts about the incident;
 - Considering police powers and PPD policy;
 - Identifying options and determining the best course of action in the interests of the Department and the community; and
 - Acting, reviewing, and re-assessing the situation.

D. Restrained Persons

- (1) Employees shall not use force against persons who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained, except in exceptional circumstances where the Totality of Circumstances makes it Necessary to prevent Injury or escape.
- (2) Employees shall not position a restrained person face-down; restrained persons are to be seated or placed on their side.



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E. Use of Deadly Force

- (1) The use of Deadly Force shall always be the last resort.
- (2) Employees shall not use Deadly Force unless:
 - They have exhausted De-escalation and Less-Lethal Force options;
 - These alternatives have been tried and failed; or
 - These alternatives are not safe based on the Totality of Circumstances.
- (3) Employees may use Deadly Force when they reasonably believe such action is immediately Necessary to protect an employee or another person from an Imminent Threat of death or Serious Physical Injury.
- (4) Prior to the decision to employ Deadly Force, employees shall consider environmental considerations such as field of fire, backdrop, bystanders, potential for ricochet, possibility of over- penetration, and other risks to life.
- (5) Where safety permits, employees should identify themselves as a law enforcement officer and state their intention to use Deadly Force before using a firearm or employing Deadly Force.
- (6) An employee may use Deadly Force to prevent the escape of a fleeing person if force is authorized and no reasonable force alternative exists, provided that:
 - There is probable cause to believe that the person has committed or is in the process of committing a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of Serious Physical Injury or death, **and**
 - The escape of the person would pose an Imminent Threat of death or Serious Physical Injury to the employee or another unless the person is apprehended without delay, **and**
 - If time, safety, and circumstances permit, employees have identified themselves as law enforcement officers, have stated their intention to use Deadly Force, and have given the person a reasonable opportunity to comply voluntarily.

F. Restrictions on the Use of Deadly Force

- (1) Deadly Force shall not be used to subdue persons whose conduct is a threat only to property.
- (2) Deadly Force shall not be used against persons whose conduct is a threat only to themselves.
- (3) **The following are prohibited** unless the use of Deadly Force is authorized and no reasonable alternatives exist:
 - Discharge of a firearm at a person;
 - Strikes with any hard object, such as a baton, flashlight, radio, or weapon stock/handle to the person's head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys;
 - Intentional strikes of a person's head against a hard, fixed object including, but not limited to, a roadway, concrete floor, wall, or iron bars;
 - Kneeing or kicking a person's head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys;
 - "Knee drops" onto a person in a prone or supine position;
 - Application of Chokeholds/Neck Holds;
 - Discharge of a Less-Lethal Launcher to the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys at close range



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- The use of any force on a person whose health, age, condition, or circumstances make it likely that death or Serious Physical Injury will result;
- The intentional use of a police vehicle against a subject on foot or on a bicycle; and
- The deliberate collision with other vehicles or use of a police vehicle to force any vehicle off the roadway

EXCEPTION: Employees “pinning” a vehicle as part of a planned tactical event.

EXCEPTION: Employees trained and authorized in the precision immobilization technique (PIT) maneuver.

(4) Warning shots are prohibited.

(5) Firing into crowds is prohibited.

(6) Employees shall not fire any weapon from or at a moving vehicle, except:

- To counter an immediate threat of death or Serious Physical Injury to an employee or another person, by a person in the vehicle using means other than the vehicle itself (e.g., firearms).
- To counter a situation where an employee or another person is unavoidably in the path of the vehicle and cannot move to safety.

NOTE: Employees shall not position themselves in the path of a moving vehicle or one capable of immediate movement so that the employee avoids creating a situation in which they may have no option other than to use Deadly Force.

6. REQUIRED ACTIONS

A. Duty to Intervene

(1) Employees shall intervene to stop any employee from using excessive force and/or engaging in abusive behavior or other forms of misconduct; intervention may be verbal and/or physical.

B. Duty to Provide Medical Assistance

(1) As soon as practical, when there is a visible injury, complaint of injury, signs of medical distress, or when medical attention is requested by any person, employees shall render aid consistent with their training.

(a) When safe to do so, the employee shall promptly request that medical personnel respond to the scene.

(b) The employee shall then notify their supervisor.

(2) If a person has been subjected to impact by any type of Less-Lethal Force, including CEW, impact weapons, or impact projectiles, the person will be provided with medical treatment.

NOTE: If the person refuses medical treatment or leaves the location (e.g., persons of an unlawful gathering dispersed by Less-Lethal Force that may voluntarily leave without aid), employees must document the actions taken to identify and render aid to the person.

C. Children and Youth

(1) Force that may be Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional when used on an adult may not be Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional when used on a child or youth. When interacting with children and youth, employees shall:

- When feasible, recognize and employ developmentally appropriate techniques including, but not limited to, using a calm and natural demeanor, removing the child from the line of sight of other people, and avoiding threatening language;



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- Recognize that depending on age and/or developmental status, children may experience shock, fear, anxiety, or anger during an encounter with law enforcement; a child's fear-based reactions may appear like resistance;
- When force against a child or young person is Necessary, consider the specific characteristics of the child or young person including apparent age, body size, and relative strength of the child or young person compared to the employee and the risk posed by the child or young person; and
- In the case of injury resulting from a Use of Force on a child or young person, the employee will notify the child or young person's parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.

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