

Drawing/Pointing Firearm

Officers will not draw or point their firearm unless circumstances create reasonable cause to believe that it may be necessary to use the weapon.

Deadly Force

A police officer is authorized and has the duty to prevent death or serious physical injury to themselves, a fellow officer, or another person by utilizing whatever force is reasonably necessary, including the use of firearms. In determining whether the use of a firearm is necessary, officers shall:

- ❖ Evaluate each situation considering the totality of the circumstances to determine that no reasonably effective alternative to the use of a firearm exists to protect against an immediate threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person;
- ❖ Evaluate that the use of a firearm is a reasonable and proportional response to the immediate threat of death or serious physical injury posed to the officer and/or others;
- ❖ When feasible, use all de-escalation tactics that are available and appropriate under the circumstances before using physical force;
- ❖ When feasible, use less lethal alternatives that are available and appropriate under the circumstances before using deadly force.
- ❖ If feasible, and if doing so would not increase the danger to the officer or others, the officer should give a verbal warning prior to using deadly force.

An officer may discharge a firearm in the performance of their official duties when necessary:

- ❖ To protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury.
- ❖ To prevent a crime where the subject's actions are reasonably believed to place the person(s) in immediate jeopardy of death or serious physical injury.
- ❖ To effect an arrest or prevent an escape when the officer reasonably believes the subject to be arrested poses an immediate threat to cause death or serious physical injury if apprehension is delayed.

Firing Range

Officers may also discharge a firearm in the performance of a police duty at an approved firing range.

Destruction of Animals

An officer may discharge a firearm in the performance of a police duty to destroy an animal that is either:

- ❖ Dangerous to the public safety; or
- ❖ Grievously injured and obviously suffering pain.

The on-duty field supervisor will respond to the scene and provide authorization before destroying any animal unless immediate action is required to prevent harm to the officer or a member of the public.