

De-escalation is an integrated, system-based process of attempting to influence the outcome of a situation by using opportunities, knowledge, skills, and abilities to reduce the immediacy of the threat and resolve problems while minimizing harm, when possible, to everyone involved.

It is the policy of the Bellevue Police Department that when all of the known circumstances indicate that it is reasonably safe, prudent, and feasible to do so, officers shall attempt to slow down, reduce the exigency and/or stabilize the situation so that more time, options and resources may become immediately available for incident resolution.

When feasible, officers are expected to use all de-escalation techniques that are available and appropriate under the circumstances prior to using physical force or deadly force, unless doing so would create undue risk of harm to any person due to the exigency/threat of a situation. Selection of de-escalation options should be guided by the totality of the circumstances.

De-escalation tactics and techniques include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Gathering information about the incident
- b) Verifying information provided by dispatch
- c) Assessing risks
- d) Gathering resources (both personnel and equipment)
- e) Communicating with the subject- using communication skills and strategies intended to gain voluntary compliance
- f) Using time, distance and shielding to maximize tactical advantage
- g) Using available crisis intervention personnel and techniques
- h) Communicating and coordinating with other responding officers
- i) Leaving the area of the scene if there is no threat of imminent harm and no crime has been committed, is being committed, or is about to be committed

When time and circumstances reasonably permit, the officer(s) shall 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 including, but not limited to:

- a) Medical conditions
- b) Mental impairment
- c) Developmental disability
- d) Physical limitation
- e) Language barrier
- f) Drug and/or alcohol impairment
- g) Behavioral crisis

Medical aid, if necessary, will be provided as soon as feasible and when it is safe to do so.