

BURLINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REVIEW

In accordance with Written Directive 01-6 Use of Force, an annual review and analysis of the Burlington County Sheriff's Office use of force incidents was conducted for the calendar year 2024. This review fulfills the directive requirement that every use of force be reported and receive a meaningful command-level review, culminating in an analysis by the law enforcement executive.

This comprehensive analysis included:

- A review of analytical reports generated from the Attorney General's Use of Force Portal.
- An audit of body-worn camera footage and other video recordings, selected on a risk-based and random basis.
- An examination of any internal affairs complaints related to use of force.
- An in-depth analysis of the department's use of force to ensure compliance with nondiscrimination policies, including assessment for any potential bias based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

The review also incorporated a detailed examination of departmental use of force policies and procedures to identify patterns or trends that could suggest training needs or the necessity for policy modifications.

This analysis underscores our commitment to transparency, accountability, and the equitable application of force



Use of Firearms Review and Analysis

In 2022, 2023, and 2024, use of firearm reports were used to document and review all accidental discharges, all destructions of animals by firearm, all pointing of firearms at individuals, and all other use of firearm incidents.

Use of Firearm Incidents

Use of Firearm	2022	2023	2024
Use of Firearm Incidents	4	3	4
Use of Firearm Reports	4	8	6

In 2024, four (4) use of firearm incidents occurred that resulted in six (6) use of firearm reports being filed. More reports were filed than a total number of incidents due to more than one officer using and/or pointing a firearm out of a single incident in some cases. In 2024, there was one use of a firearm incident involving multiple officers (3 total) pointing firearms.

Type of Use for Firearm (Based on Incidents)

Type of Use for Firearm	2022	2023	2024
Accidental Discharge	0	0	0
Destruction of Animal	0	0	0
Pointing Firearm	4	3	4
Other	0	0	0

Type of Firearm Used (Based on Reports)

Type of Firearm Used	2022	2023	2024
Handgun - 9mm	0	0	4
Handgun - .40	3	8	0
Shotgun	0	0	1
Rifle	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Not Reported/Not Documented	0	0	0

In 2024, the 9mm handgun, Issued by the Sheriff's Office, was the most used type of firearm by count of firearm report. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office issued a new 9mm handgun.

Circumstances of Firearm Use

In 2024, the circumstances surrounding the four (4) use of firearm incidents were further examined to identify any patterns or trends. Below was the breakdown of the circumstances:

- Warrant Service on Wanted individual = 2 incidents
- Suspect causing active dangerous circumstances = 1 incident
- Trespassing individual not complying with officer commands = 1 incident

The circumstances surrounding the four (4) incidents were determined to be within policy, procedures, and training. These incidents were reviewed at the Supervisors and Command Levels.

Use of Firearms Conclusion

All use of firearm incidents were reported, investigated, and reviewed by the chain of command. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office conducted bi-annual firearms qualifications and Mandatory in-service training for sworn personnel. The number of reports (not incidences) was reduced by 50% for pointing of firearms in 2024. It's recommended that the Sheriff's Office continue its mandatory firearms qualifications and training, at both a basic and advanced level.

Use of Conducted Energy Device (TASER) Review and Analysis

Use of Taser reports were used to document and review all accidental discharges, probe deployments, drive stuns, spark display, and pointing of Taser. The only exception to the officer reporting requirement is use of Taser under approved training conditions.

Use of Taser Incidents

Use of Taser Incidents	2022	2023	2024
Use of Taser Incidents	0	0	0
Use of Taser Reports Filed	0	0	0

Type of Use of Taser (Based on Incidents)

Type of Use for Firearm	2022	2023	2024
Accidental Discharge	0	0	0
Probe Deployment	0	0	0
Drive Stun	0	0	0
Spark Warning	0	0	0
Laser Display	0	0	0
Pointing of Taser Only	0	0	0

Use of Taser Conclusion

There were no Use of Taser incidents during 2022, 2023, 2024. In 2024, the Sheriff's Office issued a new taser, the Axxon X7. Training of officers who are issued a taser was conducted and completed

Use of Force Review and Analysis

Any time an officer uses force in an effort to gain compliance from a subject, that use of force shall be documented on the Use of Force report.

- Physical force shall be documented on a Use of Force report.
- Minor hand to hand control techniques, such as those used in handcuffing, physically touching, or gripping to overcome minor resistive tension shall be reported on an incident report or narrative of the arrest form and are not considered a use of force.
- Any bodily physical force resulting in an alleged injury must be reported on a Use of Force Report.
- Use of Force Reports are also used to document the use of lethal and/or less lethal weapon (in the course of a use of force). This includes: firearm, specialty impact munitions, expandable baton, chemical agent (Oleoresin Capsicum), and conducted energy devices (Taser).

Response to Use of Force Incidents

Use of Force	2022	2023	2024
Use of Force Incidents	3	3	10
Use of Force Reports	7	6	24

In 2024, ten (10) Use of Force incidents occurred that resulted in twenty-four (24) Use of Force reports being filed. More reports were filed than total number of incidents due to more than one officer responding to use of force out of a single incident in some, but not all cases.

Injuries Resulting from Use of Force (based on incidents)

Injuries	2022	2023	2024
Officer Injured	0	0	5
Suspect Injured	0	0	4

In 2024, there were four (4) use of force incidents that resulted in an injury to an officer. Those injuries were considered minor in nature. In 2024, there were four (4) use of force incidents that resulted in injuries to suspects. A review of the injuries indicated that the injuries were generally minor in nature. It should be noted that in some cases, the suspect could have sustained injuries prior to the contact with the officer(s). No trends or patterns were detected in injuries to any persons, including officers, out of the ten (10) use of force incidents in 2024

Date of Use of Force Incidents for 2024

Incident Number	Date	Time	Nature of Call
2024-0463	1/22/2024	1258	Warrant Service
2024-2552	4/16/2024	1621	Pre-Planned Contact
2024-3460	5/17/2024	2145	Disturbance
2024-4030	6/11/2024	1003	Disturbance
2024-4627	7/3/2024	2145	Assault
2024-5746	8/12/2024	1038	Disturbance
2024-7296	10/3/2024	1444	Disturbance
2024-7451	10/9/2024	1625	Warrant Service
2024-8393	11/13/2024	1517	Pre-Planned Contact

In 2024, the ten (10) use of force incidents occurred between August 10th, 2023 and November 13th, 2024. No patterns or trends were detected in the date and time of response to resistance and subject control incidents.

Suspect Actions in Use of Force Incidents

Suspect Actions	2022	2023	2024
Weapon Used Against Officer	0	0	0
Attempted to Disarm Officer	0	0	0
Life Threat Weaponless Assault	0	0	0
Striking or Kicking Officer	0	0	2
Wrestling with Officer	0	0	0
Pushing Officer	0	0	0
Resisted Arrest	4	3	7
Refusing to Move	0	0	0
Not Responding to Commands	0	0	1
Physical Danger Cues	0	0	2
Verbal Danger Cues	0	0	1

In 2024, the most common suspect actions in use of force incidents included: 1) Resisting Arrest (7 incidents), 2) TIED - Striking or Kicking Officer (2 incidents) and Physical Danger Cues (2 incidents) and 3) TIED - Not Responding to commands (1 incidents) and Verbal Danger Cues (1 incidents).

Special Circumstances in Use of Force Incidents

Special Circumstances	2022	2023	2024
Closeness of Subject to Weapon	0	0	0
Officer Injury or Exhaustion	0	0	0
Officer on Ground	0	0	0
Distance from Subject	0	0	0
Special Knowledge	0	0	1
Previous Contact	0	0	0
Availability of Other Options	0	0	0
Other	1	0	2

In 2024, those special circumstances most encountered (top 2) were: 1) Other (2 incidents), 2) – Special Knowledge (1 incidents). In the past three years, the top special circumstances in response to resistance and subject control incidents: 1) other.

Reasons for the Use of Force (Incidents)

Reasons for Response	2022	2023	2024
Necessary to Effect Arrest	3	3	10
Defend Officer/Person	0	0	3
Other Mission-Specific Seizure	0	0	0

In 2024, the most common reasons for the use of force were: 1) Necessary to effect arrest (10 incidents) and 2) Necessary to Defend Officer/Person (3 incidents). Over the past three years, “Necessary to Effect Arrest” was the most common reason for use of force. In some cases, the numbers may not match up due to some reports having more than one description for the reason for use of force or none marked on the report.

Subject Suspected to be Under – Use of Force Incidents

Subject Suspected to be Under	2022	2023	2024
Mental Distress	1	0	2
Alcohol and/or Drugs	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Assault/Attempting Assault LEO	0	0	1

In 2024 use of force incidents, subjects were suspected of being under the influence of, suffering from, or having the intent to: 1) Mental Distress (2 incidents), and 2) Assaulting or Attempting to Assault a Law Enforcement Officer (1 incidents *Note: Assaulting or Attempting to Assault a Law Enforcement Officer was added to the data collection in 2024. In some cases, the numbers may not match up due to some reports having more than one description for the subject suspected to be under or none marked on the report.

Charges – Use of Force Incidents

Charges	2022	2023	2024
Suspect Under Arrest at Time of Incident	0	0	2
Suspect Subsequently Arrested/Charged	2	3	10

In 2024, the suspect was under arrest at the time of the incident in two (2) incidents. In 2024, the suspect was subsequently arrested/charged in 10 (10) incidents. In some cases, the suspect was not arrested, but rather transported to a facility for an emergency mental health evaluation. In some cases, the suspect was a school aged child who was not charged. *Note: The numbers may not

Officer's Response Options

Officer's Response Options	2024
Presence - Uniform	7
Presence - Partial Uniform	0
Presence - Plain Clothes	0
Verbal Commands	17
Compliance Techniques	3
Chemical Spray/Chemical Agent	0
Electronic Control Device	0
Impact Weapon	0
Point a Firearm	4
Deadly Force	0
Other	0

This category was added to this report in 2024. In all incidents, the involved officers were in uniform.

Officer's Response – Use of Force Incidents

Officer's Response	2022	2023	2024
Other	0	0	0
Firearm/Other Deadly Force	0	0	0
Specialty Impact Weapons	0	0	0
Kicking/Striking/Punching	0	0	0
O.C. Spray	0	0	0
Taser Deployment	0	0	0
Baton Techniques	0	0	0
Pressure Points	0	1	0
Takedowns	0	1	3
Joint Manipulation	3	1	2
Balance Displacement	0	0	0
Escort Position	0	0	0
Assistance from Other Officers	0	0	0
Verbal or Physical Manipulation	0	0	1
Officer Presence	0	0	0

In 2024, the most common officer use of force incidents included: 1) Takedowns (3 incidents), 2) Joint Manipulation (2 incidents), and 3) Verbal or Physical Manipulation (1 incident). Over the past three years, Officer Presence, Verbal or Physical Manipulation, and Assistance from Other Officers have been the top three use of force techniques.

In some cases, the numbers may not match up due to some reports having more than one officer response or none marked on the report.

Gender, Race, and Age of Subjects Involved in Use of Force Incidents

Incident Number	Gender	Race	Age	Nature of Call
2024-0463	Male	White	31	1258
2024-2552	Male	White	20	1621
2024-3460	Female	Black	13	2145
2024-4030	Male	Black	32	1003
2024-4627	Female	Black	16	2145
2024-5746	Male	Black	31	1038
2024-7296	Male	White	26	1444
2024-7451	Male	Black	13	1625
2024-8393	Male	Black	13	1517

In 2024, out of the nine (9) use of force incidents:

- Two (2) were female and seven (7) were male.
- Three (3) were described as White, six (6) were described as Black.
- The age range was between 13 and 32 years of age.
- Four (4) were juveniles under the age of 18.

Impact on Findings on Policies, Practices, Equipment, and Training

According to PowerDMS, internal communications, memoranda, emails, and guidance no policies or procedures related to response to resistance and subject control were updated in 2024. Information about department training is listed in the sections on use of firearm, use of Taser, and response to resistance and subject control.

Use of Force – Juveniles

In 2024, there were ten (10) use of force incidents. Only four (4) of the ten (10) incidents involved a juvenile. Out of those four (4) incidents, eleven (11) use of force reports were filed. More reports were filed than total number of incidents due to more than one officer being involved in responding to the use of force incident.

Response to Resistance and Subject Control Incidents

Use of Force	2024
Use of Force Incidents	4
Use of Force Reports	11

Gender, Race, and Age of Subjects Involved in Use of Force Incidents

Incident Number	Gender	Race	Age	Nature of Call
2024-3460	Female	Black	13	Disturbance
2024-4627	Female	Black	16	Assault
2024-7451	Male	Black	13	Warrant Service
2024-8393	Male	Black	13	Pre-Planned Contact

Injuries Resulting from Use of Force (based on incidents)

Injuries	2024
Officer Injured	3
Suspect Injured	0

Date of Use of Force Incidents for 2024

Incident Number	Date	Nature of Call
2024-3460	5/17/2024	Disturbance
2024-4627	7/3/2024	Assault
2024-7451	10/9/2024	Warrant Service
2024-8393	11/13/2024	Pre-Planned Contact

Suspect Actions in Use of Force Incidents

Suspect Actions	2024
Weapon Used Against Officer	0
Attempted to Disarm Officer	0
Life Threatening Weaponless Assault	0
Striking or Kicking Officer	2
Wrestling with Officer	0
Pushing Officer	0
Resisting Arrest	2
Refusing to Move	0
Not Responding to Commands	0
Physical Danger Cues	0
Verbal Danger Cues	0

In 2024, there were four (4) use of force incidents involving juveniles (11 reports):

- Active Resistance = 2
- Active Aggression/Assaultive/High Risk = 2

Special Circumstances in Use of Force Incidents

Special Circumstances	2024
Closeness of Subject to Weapon	0
Officer Injury or Exhaustion	0
Officer on Ground	0
Distance from Subject	0
Special Knowledge	0
Previous Contact	0
Availability of Other Options	0
Other	0

Reasons for the Use of Force (Incidents)

Reasons for Response	2024
Necessary to Effect Arrest	2
Necessary to Defend Officer/Person	1
Other Mission-Specific Seizure	0

Subject Suspected to be Under – Use of Force Incidents

Subject Suspected to be Under	2024
Mental Distress	0
Alcohol and/or Drugs	0
Other	0
Assaulting or Attempting Assault a LE Officer	0

Charges – Use of Force Incidents

Charges	2024
Suspect Under Arrest at Time of Incident	0
Suspect Subsequently Arrested/Charged	2

Officer's Response Options

Officer's Response Options	2024
Presence - Uniform	1
Presence - Partial Uniform	3
Presence - Plain Clothes	3
Verbal Commands	3
Compliance Techniques	0
Chemical Spray/Chemical Agent	0
Electronic Control Device	0
Impact Weapon	0
Point a Firearm	0
Deadly Force	0
Other	0

Officer's Response – Use of Force Incidents

Officer's Response	2024
Other	0
Firearm/Other Deadly Force	0
Specialty Impact Weapons	0
Kicking/Striking/Punching	0
O.C. Spray	0
Taser Deployment	0
Baton Techniques	0
Pressure Points	1
Takedowns	5
Joint Manipulation	2
Balance Displacement	0
Escort Position	0
Assistance from Other Officers	0
Verbal or Physical Commands	5
Officer Presence	0

Officer's Response – Use of Force Incidents

In reviewing the twenty-four (24) use of force reports out of the then (10) use of force that occurred in 2024, it was determined that all policies regarding use of force were followed (consistent with policy and training).

All ten (10) use of force incidents had a meaningful review conducted.

Use of Force training was conducted with sworn personnel in 2024 as part of the police department's annual mandatory training cycle. Based on this analysis use of force training will continue to be a part of the police department's annual mandatory in-service training for sworn personnel.

The following should be reviewed by the executive command staff, Defensive Tactics Supervisor and instructors to determine if any further training or policy should be developed and/or implemented:

- Over the past three years, from the perspective of individual officer use of force techniques, the following were the top three "techniques" used:
 1. Takedown
 2. Joint Manipulation
 3. Other
- No Tasers were used in the past three years.
- No Specialty Impact Munitions (SIMS) were used in the past three years.

Policy Review

In 2024, it was identified that the Burlington County Sheriff's Office Use of Force Policy 01-6, published on 01/22/2021, was not in accordance with New Jersey Attorney General Use of Force Policy, published in April of 2022. An updated Use of Force Policy was drafted in October of 2024 and set to be published in 2025.

Equipment Review

As of 2024, the Burlington County Sheriff's Office has maintained equipment quality and inventory at levels that satisfactorily meet the operational requirements and service needs of the department.

Overall Summary

This analysis of Use of Force, use of Taser, and use of firearm reports/incidents revealed no major patterns or trends that would require any further training needs or policy modifications beyond what is contained in this report. At this time, no further review of the 2024 response to resistance and subject control, use of Taser, and/or use of firearms is necessary.

The identification of the Burlington County Sheriff's Office Use of Force Policy not aligning with the policy of the New Jersey Attorney General is set to be remedied in 2025.

Prepared by:
Undersheriff Carr

For:
Sheriff Kostoplis

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