



TRUMBULL POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

	POLICY TITLE: Use Of Force		POLICY NUMBER: 7.4.6
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	APPROVAL AUTHORITY SIGNATURE: 		

I. Purpose

To establish Trumbull Police Department's guidelines and limitations concerning the appropriate and acceptable use of deadly and non-deadly force.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the Trumbull Police to provide clear procedures to sworn officers regarding the use of force in the performance of their duties. The safety of innocent persons and officers is of paramount importance.

The main responsibility of the Department officers is to protect the life and property of civilians. In compliance with applicable laws, officers shall use only the amount of force necessary and reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and to control a situation, effect an arrest, overcome resistance to arrest, or defend themselves or others from harm. When force is necessary, the degree of force employed should be in direct relationship to the amount of resistance exerted, or the immediate threat to the officer or others. There is a compelling public interest that officers authorized to exercise the use of force do so in an objectively reasonable manner and in a way that does not violate the civil rights guarantee by our constitution and applicable law. While not an actual use of force, the mere presence of a police officer can be intimidating to some. Therefore, officers should be mindful of their body language and tone of voice upon arrival at a scene and throughout their interaction with subjects, complainants, and witnesses. Officers who use excessive or unjustified force degrade the confidence of the community that they serve, undermine the legitimacy of a police officer's authority, and hinder the Department's ability to provide effective law enforcement services to the community. Officers who use excessive or unauthorized force shall be subject to discipline, possible criminal prosecution and/or civil liability. The use of force is only authorized when it is objectively reasonable and for a lawful purpose. Accordingly, the Department will thoroughly review and/or investigate all uses of force by officers to assure compliance with all legal requirements and this policy.

III. Definitions

- A. Acting in a Law Enforcement Capacity: Any on-duty police officer or any off-duty police officer who identifies themselves as such and asserts their law enforcement authority.
- B. Active Resistance: Any physical act undertaken by a subject against an officer that could reasonably impede or defeat the officer's lawful attempt to gain control of the subject.
- C. Authorized Weapons: Weapons that meet Department specifications and officers are permitted to carry; and for which officers successfully complete proficiency and safety training.
- D. Chokehold/Neck Restraint: A physical maneuver or other method of restraint applied to the neck area or that otherwise impedes the ability to breathe or restricts blood circulation to the brain. Effective October 1, 2025, a police officer is justified in using a chokehold or other method of restraint applied to the neck area or that otherwise impedes the ability to breathe or restricts blood circulation to the brain of another person when he or she believes such use to be necessary to defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly force.
- E. Deadly Force: Any force that is likely to cause serious injury or death.
- F. Deadly weapon: Any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles. Effective October 1, 2025, the definition of deadly weapon shall be deemed not to apply to section 29-38 or 53-206 and does not include an electronic defense weapon when used by a peace officer.
- G. De-escalation: The use of strategies and/or techniques to reduce the intensity of or stabilize a conflict or potentially volatile situation.
- H. Electronic Control Weapon: An incapacitating weapon used for subduing a person by administering an electric shock for the purpose of disrupting superficial voluntary muscle functions. This is an intermediate-range weapon and is classified as non-deadly. The weapon should only be used when an officer is met with a certain degree of resistance or aggression through either actions or words.
- I. Exigent Circumstances: Those circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a particular action is necessary to prevent physical harm to an individual, the destruction of relevant evidence, the escape of a suspect, or some other consequence improperly frustrating legitimate law enforcement efforts.
- J. Force: Any physical strike or instrumental contact with a person; any intentional attempted physical strike or instrumental contact that does not take effect; or any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of a person. The term includes discharge of a firearm, or pointing a firearm at or in the direction of a human being, use of chemical spray, use of impact weapons, use of electronic control weapons (ECW), chokeholds or hard hands, taking of a subject to the ground, or deployment of a canine. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person with minimal or no resistance. Use of force is lawful if it is

objectively reasonable under the circumstances to effect an arrest, or protect the officer or other person.

- K. Great Bodily Harm/Serious Physical Injury: Serious bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, causes serious or permanent disfigurement, or results in long-term loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ.
- L. Hard Hand Control: Impact oriented techniques that include knee strikes, elbow strikes, punches, and kicks. Control strikes are used to subdue a subject and include strikes to pressure points such as: the common peroneal (side of the leg), radial nerve (top of the forearm), or brachial plexus origin (side of the neck).
 - Defensive strikes are used by officers to protect themselves from attack and may include strikes to other areas of the body, including the abdomen and head. Techniques in this category include pressure point controls, stunning or striking actions delivered to the subject's body with the hands, fists, forearms, legs, or feet. Those techniques target the major muscle groups and are delivered to create muscle cramping, thereby inhibiting muscle actions and allowing the officer to subdue the subject. In extreme cases of self-defense, the officer may need to strike more fragile areas of the body where the potential for injury is greater. The use of neck restraints, chokeholds, or other similar weaponless control techniques, however, are prohibited unless the use of deadly force is authorized.
- M. Harm: Injury inflicted upon a person, whether visible or not.
- N. Imminent: Likely to occur at any moment; impending.
- O. Imminent Threat: An officer's reasonable perception of impending danger, death, or serious injury from any action or outcome that may occur during an encounter. A subject may pose an imminent or impending threat even if they are not pointing a weapon at the officer but has; for example, a weapon within reach, is running for cover carrying a weapon, or running to a place where the officer has reason to believe a weapon is available.
- P. Impact Weapon: Department-approved tools that provide a method for gaining control of a subject when lethal force is not justified, but when empty-hand control techniques are not sufficient to effect control.
- Q. Last Resort: A final course of action, used only when other reasonable options are unavailable or have failed. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- R. Less-Lethal Force: Any force that is not likely to cause serious physical injury or death. Less lethal force includes weaponless defensive and control techniques (such as open hand strikes, elbow or closed fist strikes, leg sweeps, kicks, and forcible restraint), weapons and munitions (such as OC spray or chemical agents such as tear gas, CEW, projectiles like rubber bullets and bean-bag rounds, batons and other impact weapons, and flash bang devices), and K9.
- S. Level of Control: The amount of force that an officer uses to gain control of a subject.
- T. Level of Resistance: The amount of force used by a subject to resist compliance with the lawful order or action of an officer.

- U. Mitigation: The action of reducing the danger, severity, seriousness, or potential harmfulness of a condition or circumstance.
- V. Necessary: An action chosen when, in an officer's judgement, no effective alternative exists. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- W. Neck Restraint/Hold: Refers to one of the following types of holds: (a) arm-bar control hold, which inhibits breathing by compression of the airway on the neck; (b) carotid restraint hold, which inhibits blood flow by compression of the blood vessels in the neck; (c) a lateral vascular neck constraint; (d) a hold with a knee or other object to the back of a prone subject's neck. A neck restraint/hold shall be considered deadly force.
- X. Non-deadly: Any force used by an officer that would not reasonably be expected to cause death.
- Y. Non-Verbal and Verbal Non-Compliance: When a subject expresses their intentions not to comply with an officer's directive through verbal and non-verbal means. An officer may encounter statements ranging from pleading to physical threats. Such statements may also include physical gestures, stances, and subconscious mannerisms.
- Z. Objectively Reasonable Force: The degree of force used in effecting an arrest, investigatory stop, or other seizure is evaluated by using an objective, reasonable police officer standard. The reasonableness of each particular use of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, based on the facts and circumstances known to and confronting the officer at the time. In determining the appropriate level of force to be used, officers shall evaluate each situation in the light of the unique facts and circumstances of each case. Those factors include, but are not limited to, the seriousness of the crime or suspected offense; level of threat or resistance presented by the subject; the risk or apparent attempt by the subject to escape; and whether the subject was posing an imminent threat to officers or others. (See *Graham v. Connor* (490- U.S. 386, 1989).
- AA. Officer Created Jeopardy: Situations where officers needlessly put themselves in a position where they must use deadly force to protect themselves. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- BB. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray: An inflammatory agent that irritates the mucus membranes and eyes to cause tears and pain. It is an intermediate range weapon that is classified as being non-deadly. It should only be used, however, when an officer is met with a certain degree of resistance or aggression through either words or actions.
- CC. Passive Resistance: An unarmed, non-violent person's failure or refusal to cooperate with a police officer's lawful directions, such as in an act of civil disobedience or by a non-violent handcuffed person. Passive resistance generally involves lack of voluntary movement by the resister.
- DD. Police officer: as used in this policy, means any Connecticut "peace officer," as defined in CGS 53a-3.

- EE. Physical Force: Any intentional contact used upon or directed toward the body of another person, including restraint and confinement.
- FF. Positional Asphyxia: A condition where the supply of oxygen to a person's body is deficient because their body position prevents them from breathing adequately, usually as a result of an airway obstruction or limitation in chest wall expansion.
- GG. Proportional Force: Force that is reasonably necessary to overcome the level of resistance, aggression, or threat an officer confronts. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- HH. Reasonable: Sound, fair, sensible, and not excessive under the circumstances. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- II. Reasonable Belief: Facts or circumstances that would cause a reasonable, similarly-trained police officer to act or think in a similar manner, under similar circumstances.
- JJ. Reasonable belief that a person has committed an offense: A reasonable belief in facts or circumstances which if true would in law constitute an offense. If the facts or circumstances would not legally constitute an offense, an incorrect belief that they do, even if reasonable, does not justify the use of physical force. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- KK. Soft Hand Control: The use of physical strength and skill in defensive tactics to control arrestees who are reluctant to be taken into custody and offer some degree of physical resistance. Such techniques are not impact orientated and include pain compliance pressure points, takedowns, joint locks, and simply grabbing a subject. Touching or escort holds may be appropriate for use against levels of passive physical resistance.
- LL. Unreasonable Force: Any force applied in a manner inconsistent with this policy or applicable law. (See POSTC Use of Force Policy September 14, 2021).
- MM. Unreasonable Risk: Unwarranted exposure to the possibility of a negative consequence.
- NN. Verbal Commands: The use of advice, persuasion, warnings, and clear direction prior to resorting to actual force. In an arrest situation, officers shall, when feasible, give the arrestee simple directions with which the arrestee is encouraged to comply. Verbal commands are the most desirable method of dealing with an arrest situation.
- OO. Weapon: An instrument, article or substance, including a vehicle, which, under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or other serious bodily injury.

IV. Procedure

A. General

1. Officers shall use advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and verbal instructions when possible before resorting to force.
2. Force shall be de-escalated immediately as resistance decreases.
3. When feasible based on the circumstances, officers will use disengagements; area containment, surveillance; waiting on the subject; summoning reinforcements; and/or calling in specialized units, in order to reduce the need for force and thereby increase officer, suspect and civilian safety.
4. Officers shall allow individuals time to submit to arrest before force is used whenever possible.

B. Use of Force Authorization and Limitations

Officers of this Department are authorized to use only the amount of force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives. Force may be used:

1. To effect the arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom the officer reasonably believes has committed an offense.
2. To defend the officer or others from the use, or imminent use, of physical force.
3. To take a person into protective custody when authorized by law, such as persons who are a danger to themselves or others, persons incapacitated by alcohol, and/or runaway children.
4. To prevent someone from committing suicide or inflicting serious physical injury upon themselves.
5. To control a situation, and to overcome passive or active resistance to a lawful order.
6. To neutralize an unlawful assault and defend themselves or others from harm.

The authorized use of physical force ends when resistance ceases and/or the officer has accomplished the purpose necessitating the use of force. Justification for the use of force is limited to the facts known or perceived by the officer at the time such force is used, including levels of resistance, suspect's behavioral cues, the number of officers and/or offenders present, and the availability of other options.

C. Verbal Warnings

When tactically feasible, an officer will identify him/herself as a police officer and issue verbal commands and warnings prior to use of force. When feasible, an officer will allow a subject the opportunity to comply with the officer's verbal commands. A verbal warning is not required in circumstances where the officer has to make a split-second decision, or if the officer reasonably believes that issuing the warning would place the safety of the officer or others in jeopardy.

D. De-escalation and Mitigation

Officers should use force as a last resort and employ de-escalation and mitigation techniques to the greatest extent practicable. Officers are not required to delay taking protective measures that are immediately necessary or to place themselves or others at imminent risk of harm in order to attempt de-escalation, but they should consider the following options that might minimize or avoid the use of force:

1. Using non-threatening, non-confrontational tone of voice
2. Listening carefully and expressing empathy
3. Slowing down the pace of the incident
4. Waiting to take action until the threat subsides
5. Placing additional space or barriers between the officer and a person
6. Permitting the person to move about
7. Permitting the person to ask questions or engage in conversation
8. Tactical repositioning or seeking cover
9. Requesting additional resources

De-escalation is most effective when done purposefully, with patience and flexibility. These techniques should only be employed when circumstances permit, and it is safe to do so.

E. Considerations for Use of Physical Force

The use of force by an officer shall be necessary, reasonable and proportionate to the threat encountered. Physical force may only be used to achieve a lawful purpose. Before resorting to physical force and whenever safe and feasible, officers should first make reasonable attempts to gain compliance through verbal commands and allowing appropriate time under the circumstances for voluntary compliance.

Before deciding to use physical force, an officer should consider the following:

1. The immediacy of the threat
2. The nature and severity of the crime and circumstances
3. The nature and duration of actions taken by the subject
4. Whether the subject is actively resisting custody/arrest
5. Whether the subject is attempting to evade arrest by flight
6. The number of subjects in comparison to the number of officers
7. The size and condition of the subject in comparison to the officer
8. The age, health, and condition of the subject
9. The subject's violent history, if known
10. The presence of a hostile crowd or agitators
11. Whether the subject is under the influence of drugs or alcohol to the extent it would affect their tolerance towards pain

F. Positioning a Person Under Officer's Control

Restrained persons shall be positioned so that breathing is not obstructed. Restrained persons should be maintained in a seated position or placed on their side. Restrained persons should not be placed in a prone or other position that increases the risk of positional asphyxia.

G. Use of Deadly Force in Defense of Human Life

Deadly force must be used as a last resort. Any use of deadly force must be reasonable and

necessary. When feasible, and consistent with personal safety, an officer shall give warning of their intent to use deadly force. An officer is justified in using deadly physical force only if their actions are objectively reasonable under the given circumstances at the time and when they reasonably believe such force is necessary to:

1. Defend the officer or a third person, from the imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.
2. Effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom they reasonably believe has committed, or attempted to commit a felony involving the infliction of serious physical injury; the officer reasonably believes this person still poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or other persons; the officer has determined there are no available reasonable alternatives to the use of deadly force; and the officer believes that the use of deadly force creates no unreasonable risk of injury to another person. When feasible, the officer should give warning of the intent to use deadly physical force.

See, *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S.1, 85 (1985.): The United States Supreme Court ruled that the use of deadly physical force to prevent the escape of a suspected felon violates the Fourth Amendment prohibition against unreasonable seizures if used against an apparently unarmed, non-violent suspect (the case involved a burglary suspect). The Supreme Court further stated that deadly force may be used against an offender who has attempted or committed an offense involving the infliction or threatened infliction of great bodily harm. Deadly force may not be used against an unarmed, non-violent, property crime offender. The United States Supreme Court decision went on to state that when an officer is justified in the use of deadly force he will, if feasible, first give a verbal warning. (Example: "Police Officer, Halt").

H. Deadly Force Restrictions

1. Discharging a Firearm

Officers are prohibited from discharging their firearms: (1) as a means of warning or frightening a person; (2) in the defense of property; and (3) to summon assistance, except in an emergency and no other reasonable means is available.

2. Protecting Property

Deadly force may not be used against a person for the purpose of protecting property.

3. Persons Posing a Threat to Themselves

Deadly force may not be used against any person who poses a threat only to themselves.

4. Shooting at or from a Moving Vehicle

- a. Officers are prohibited from discharging their firearms at or from a moving vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle (collectively, "moving vehicle") unless officers reasonably believe deadly force is necessary to defend the officer or a third person from the use, or imminent use, of deadly force from an occupant by means other than the vehicle.

- b. Officers may discharge their firearm at or into a moving vehicle when a driver is intentionally placing others in the vehicle's path causing an imminent risk of serious injury, such as driving into a crowd of assembled persons or into an occupied area not intended for vehicular traffic.
- c. For the purpose of this policy, officers will not discharge their firearms at moving vehicles except under extreme circumstances. Such discharges will be rigorously scrutinized. Officers shall, as a rule, avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used against them. When confronted with an outcome, moving vehicles, officers must attempt to move out of its path, when possible, and should generally avoid placing themselves in situations where the use of deadly force is more likely.

5. Risk to Innocent Bystanders

When officers are about to discharge their firearms, they should be aware of their field of fire, including the backdrop, so as to avoid creating an unnecessary, substantial risk of harm to innocent persons. Officers are prohibited from discharging their firearm when, based on the totality of the circumstances, discharging a firearm would constitute a greater risk to innocent human life than the subject's actions. (i.e. discharging a firearm into a crowd, or shooting into a building or through a wall, where the subject is not clearly identified and it is unknown if there are other occupants present.)

6. Pointing Weapons

Officers are prohibited from drawing and pointing their firearms at or in the direction of a person, absent an objectively reasonable determination that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force would be authorized under this policy. When it is determined that the use of deadly force is not necessary, officers shall, as soon as practicable, secure or holster their firearms. It is a rule of this Department that the drawing of a firearm and pointing it at a target is considered a use of force and must be documented as such.

7. Use of Firearm to Destroy Animals

Officers may use deadly force against an animal that represents a threat to the officer or public safety. Whenever possible, officers should seek the permission of their supervisor prior to using deadly force against a dangerous animal.

Deadly force may also be used as a humanitarian measure, where an animal is seriously injured, and humaneness demands its immediate removal from further suffering. Officers should seek the authorization of their supervisor and, whenever practical, authorization from the animal's owner.

8. Use of Department Weapons for Training and Other Purposes

Officers may discharge their firearms for the purpose of practice, firearms training, when on the Department Range or other established shooting ranges, or when authorized by the Chief of Police to participate in law enforcement competition events.

9. Use of Firearms While Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs

Officers shall not carry or use any firearms or weapons while impaired by alcohol,

drugs, or any other medical condition that might interfere with their judgement or proficiency.

10. Security, Storage, and Safe Handling of Firearms

Officers shall be trained in accordance with Department guidelines and shall obey all safety rules when handling any firearm or any other weapon. No person other than Trumbull Police Department Officers shall be permitted access to any department owned firearm, with the exception of: police officers from other jurisdictions in the official performance of their duty; for repair or maintenance as approved by the department; or other circumstances with the express permission of the Chief of Police. Officers will secure and store firearms, both on and off duty, in such a way as to ensure that no unauthorized person will have access to or gain control over the firearm. All Department firearms kept at home must be secured in a safe place inaccessible to family members, especially children. Whenever an officer is in the Department and removes their handgun or other weapon, the item must not be left in the open and must be secured so that it is not readily accessible to civilians, suspects, victims, or witnesses.

I. Use of Non-Deadly Force

Officers shall only use weapons and control techniques that are issued and/or approved for use by the Department. The use of non-deadly force shall be limited to defensive and control purposes. Officers shall use only the reasonable amount of force necessary to overcome resistance or accomplish the police task. The use of non-deadly force shall conform to applicable Department Standards of Conduct, policies, procedures, and training. Officers shall not carry any non-deadly weapons, or employ any other techniques, prior to successfully completing the relevant Department-approved training for each weapon and technique.

1. Authorization to Use Non-Deadly Force

Officers are authorized to use Department approved, non-deadly force techniques and authorized weapons to:

- a. Prevent the escape from custody, or to effect a lawful arrest, of a person whom the officer reasonably believes has committed an offense; or
- b. Protect or defend the officer or others from what they reasonably believe to be active resistance while effecting or attempting to effect an arrest, or while preventing or attempting to prevent an escape.

NOTE: Nothing in this policy is intended to discourage officers from using a higher level of force whenever such force is necessary and objectively reasonable under the circumstances.

2. Non-Deadly Force Restrictions

The following tactics of non-deadly force may be permitted in circumstances only when deadly force is authorized by this policy:

- a. The intentional use of a chokehold or other method of restraint applied to the neck area of another person is prohibited, unless the use of deadly force is authorized. This includes, but is not limited to: (1) arm bar hold*; (2) carotid artery holds; (3) lateral vascular neck restraint; and (4) neck restraint

or hold with a knee or other object;

*Arm bar hold was not defined by the legislature in HB 6004.

- b. Any strike with an impact weapon or object to a person's head or neck; and/or
- c. Any use of a flashlight, radio, or any other items not issued or trained specifically as defensive weapons.

In limited circumstances when confrontation escalates suddenly and unpredictably, however, an officer may use any means or device at hand such as a flashlight, radio, and any other issued equipment, to defend themselves, any other person, or to bring a situation under control. This decision should be based on the circumstances surrounding the officer at the time, if the officer determines it was reasonably necessary to do so, as long as the level of defensive action is objectively reasonable given the existing circumstances.

- d. Force shall not be used against persons in handcuffs, except as objectively reasonable to prevent imminent bodily harm to the officer or another person or persons, to prevent attempted escape, or, as objectively reasonable, where physical removal is necessary to overcome passive resistance.

3. Duty to Intervene

- a. An officer who directly observes an unreasonable, excessive, or illegal use of force, in violation of the Department's use of force policy and/or state or federal law, shall:
 - 1. Act to intervene and stop the use of force by another officer; and
 - 2. Contact a supervisor as soon as practical.
- b. An officer who has knowledge of excessive, unreasonable, or illegal use of force against a person shall:
 - 1. Notify a supervisor; and
 - 2. Submit a written incident report that thoroughly explains how force was used to a supervisor in a timely fashion.
- c. Retaliation against any officer who intervenes against excessive use of force, reports misconduct, or cooperates in an internal investigation is prohibited.
- d. These requirements do not apply to officers acting in an undercover capacity if intervening will significantly compromise their safety or the safety of another.
- e. In rare cases, exigent circumstances may prevent an officer from complying with these requirements. For example:
 - 1. An officer may be engaged in a simultaneous attempt to apprehend another person.
 - 2. An officer may be actively engaged in rendering aid to a seriously injured person.
 - 3. An officer may be separated by space, elevation, physical barriers,

terrain, or other hazards or impediments that prevent access necessary to intervene.

- f. If circumstances prevent or impede effective intervention, these circumstances shall be promptly reported and documented.

4. Impact Weapons

Authorized impact weapons may be used only when an officer is confronted with an actual or imminent active aggression against him/herself or another person. (Refer to Impact Weapons Policy, 7.9.1, for specific regarding the authorized use of an Impact Weapon.)

The use of a baton or similar instrument to strike a blow to a subject's arms or legs will be considered use of non-deadly force. The use of any such items to intentionally strike a subject's head or neck is prohibited except where deadly force is authorized by this policy.

5. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC Spray)

Authorized OC spray is an alternative to physical control techniques and the use of other intermediate weapons. As with any other use of force, however, OC spray must not be used indiscriminately or without justification. Officers must be able to articulate the reason(s) the subject was sprayed with OC spray. OC spray shall be utilized as issued and authorized to prevent injury to the subject(s), officers and others. (Refer to Chemical Agent Policy, 7.8.1, for specific regarding the authorized use of a Chemical Agent.)

6. Electronic Control Weapons

An Electronic Control Weapon (i.e., Taser®) is authorized for use when other non-deadly options have been ineffective, or when it reasonably appears that such options will be ineffective in subduing the subject. Electronic Control Weapons shall only be used in situations where the subject is actively resisting or attempting to avoid arrest by escape and pose an imminent threat to the safety of themselves, another person, or the officer. (Refer to Electronic Control Weapons Policy, 7.7.1, for specific regarding the authorized use of an electronic control device.)

J. Training

The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) will oversee development and implementation of a single, standardized training curriculum to include lesson plans and presentation material regarding all aspects of this policy for the purpose of in-service or review training. To qualify for POSTC credit, Use of Force training must be delivered by a POSTC certified Use of Force instructor. The Department may elect to offer additional training in any area of this policy, but such training may not supplant any portion of the POSTC approved training module. Any additional training offered must be delivered by a POSTC certified Use of Force instructor using a POSTC approved lesson plan, and any subsequent updates as provided by POSTC.

The Trumbull Police Department shall ensure that every police officer bound by this policy completes all required POSTC Use of Force training prior to December 31, 2022 unless granted an extension by the DESPP/POSTC Academy Administrator. Thereafter, the Department shall ensure that every officer completes the POSTC recertification training module no less than once annually.

1. All training, including remedial training, will be documented.
2. All officers shall, at least annually, receive in-service training for all lethal weapons and training in the Department's Use of Force Policy and related case law updates. All officers qualified in the use of impact weapons, OC spray, electronic control weapons, and control techniques shall, at least every two years, requalify on such weapons or techniques under the instruction of a certified instructor.
3. Training and proficiency for any authorized weapon will be documented in the training files. Officers must demonstrate proficiency with weapons in compliance with POSTC requirements.
4. All officers who fail to demonstrate the required proficiency with Department issued weapons shall receive remedial training. Remedial instruction for department issued firearms shall follow the Department's Qualification and Carrying of Weapons Policy.

K. Provide Medical Aid

1. Any time a person has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or otherwise exhibits signs of medical distress including shortness of breath, altered mental status or loss of consciousness as a result of force used against him/her by an officer, the officer must take appropriate actions to provide medical care for the injured person. This includes providing first aid, requesting emergency medical services (EMS), and/or arranging for other transportation to a hospital or emergency medical facility.
2. An EMS response shall be requested for any person subjected to the use of a firearm, impact weapon, impact projectile, electronic control weapon (ECW), oleoresin capicum (OC) spray, or K-9 apprehension. A supervisor shall be immediately notified of any EMS response initiated under these conditions.
3. Officers shall be trained in proper treatment procedures for persons exposed to chemical sprays and the effects of other less-lethal force. If the person is offered and/or refuses treatment, this refusal shall be recorded in the police report, along with all relevant information. In addition, the officer will also notify the supervisor as soon as practical. If warranted, the supervisor will arrange to have photographs taken of the person's injuries and those photographs will be included to the case file.

L. Use of Force Reporting

The Department shall utilize a use of force reporting system that allows for the effective review and analysis of all department use of force incidents. The reporting system will identify trends, improve training and officer safety, and provide timely and accurate information to the department. Employees shall complete the Use of Force Report Form whenever they use force against a subject above un-resisted handcuffing. This includes the discharge of a firearm, including accidental discharges of a firearm, or any action that results in or is alleged to have resulted in, injury to or the death of another person. This requirement shall not apply when an officer simply draws or transports any weapon while on scene.

Required Reporting and Review

A reportable use of force is any use of force described in this policy including:

1. Striking another person with an open or closed hand, elbow, knee, club or baton, kicking another person.
2. Using OC spray, CEW, or less lethal projectile.
3. Using a chokehold or neck restraint.
4. Point a firearm, less lethal launcher, or CEW laser sight at a person.
5. The discharge of a firearm, for other than training, testing, or to dispatch an animal.
6. Any action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person.
7. Any incident where a police officer uses physical force that is likely to cause serious physical injury, as defined in C.G.S. §53a-3, to another person or the death of another person.

The electronic State of Connecticut Police Officer Standard and Training Council Use of Force Report Form shall be completed for any incident that involves a reportable use of force. A separate form shall be completed for each person subjected to a reportable use of force. Except as provided below, the officers involved shall complete the form as soon as practical. The required supervisory review of any use of force shall be completed in a timely manner.

The Office of the Chief State's Attorney Inspector General shall investigate any incident in which an officer uses deadly force or in which a death occurs as a result of any use of force and shall direct the completion of the reports as deemed necessary.

The State's Attorney shall authorize news releases by the agency having primary investigative jurisdiction.

1. Officer's Responsibilities

- a. When an officer finds it necessary to use force to affect an arrest, or for any other law enforcement purpose, whether on duty or off-duty, that officer shall:
 1. Notify a Supervisor of the incident as soon as circumstances allow.
 2. Complete a Use of Force Report Form, which shall list all other employees involved in or witnessing the incident.

All use of force reports must be completed and forwarded to the Shift Supervisor, or designee, as soon as practical after the incident. Shift Supervisors will be held responsible to see that this form is completed prior to the Officer leaving their shift. However, when special circumstances exist, such as those incidents resulting in the death or serious injury of another person, the Chief of Police may grant an extension, on a case-by-case, and assign an alternate date and time for the use of force reports to be completed and submitted.

2. Shift Supervisor's Responsibilities

- a. When a use of force incident occurs, the Shift Supervisor has the primary responsibility to make certain that all necessary Use of Force Report Forms are properly completed, reviewed for accuracy, and submitted as required by officers under their command. The Supervisor will sign the report and

forward it to the Division Commander or his designee.

- b. If the use of force involves an officer who did not report to a Patrol Supervisor at that time, the officer's Supervisor shall review and sign the supervisory portion of the report. Supervisors involved in a use of force incident will forward the Use of Force Report Form to the next level of command not involved in the incident.
 - c. When an on-duty or off-duty employee has been involved in a use of force incident, which has resulted in death or serious injury to any person, the Shift Commander will immediately report the incident to the Chief of Police, via the chain of command. This also includes those cases where any firearm is accidentally or purposefully discharged which results in injury or death to any person.
3. Office of the Chief
- a. The Trumbull Police Department will review the Use of Force Report Form to determine:
 1. Whether the action was consistent with policy and procedure;
 2. Whether the action warranted further administrative review/investigation; and
 3. Recommendations on equipment upgrades, training, and/or policy issues, if applicable.
 - b. The Chief of Police, or his designee, may confer with Department instructors/trainers who specialize in the field of force used, as needed. The Chief of Police will be informed about the incident that may not be consistent with policy and procedure or indicates the action warrants further administrative review/investigation.
 - c. In all cases where an officer's action is determined to be a violation of this Policy but not a violation of state law, this distinction shall be made clear in all public discussions of such incident and in any disciplinary action which may result.
 - d. The Trumbull Police Department will conduct an annual analysis of all "Use of Force" incidents and provide a comprehensive report to the Chief of Police.

4. Additional Documentation

The department shall document and maintain a record of any incident in which an officer reports or is aware of any unreasonable, excessive, or illegal use of force as specified in this policy. The record shall include, at minimum, the name of the officer(s) involved; the date, time, and location of the incident; a description of the circumstances; and the names of any victim and witnesses present, if known.

M. Maintenance and Accountability for Weapons

1. The Department Armors will maintain a list of all approved weapons and ammunition that will be made available to employees. The Armors will also maintain inventory reports for all weapons authorized by the agency and update

inventories annually to include the location of all firearms.

2. All weapons will be inspected by a qualified armorer or weapons instructor for proper functionality prior to the issuance to an officer. Only weapons and ammunition authorized by the agency may be used by agency personnel in the performance of law enforcement duties.
3. At each training session for lethal or less lethal weapons, the armorer or instructor will conduct an inspection of all weapons assigned to each officer present and confirm that:
 - a. The weapons are properly assigned to the officer carrying the weapon.
 - b. That the weapons (lethal and less-lethal) are in working order; and
 - c. That the inventory records accurately reflect weapons assigned to the individual officers.
4. Whenever a Department weapon is found to be unsafe or not functioning properly, it will be immediately turned in by the officer and the officer will be issued a replacement. The Firearms Unit will maintain an inventory of replacement firearms and assure firearms are available for issuance when needed.

N. Roadblocks/Barricades

1. The employment of a roadblock or barricade must be considered a force likely to result in death or serious physical injury and may only be employed for the purpose of stopping vehicular traffic. The extreme dangers inherent in the use of roadblocks mandate that they be employed only for the purpose outlined in this policy where use of deadly force is authorized by a threat other than from the vehicle itself.
2. The establishment of a roadblock will be performed in compliance with the following:
 - a. Must be approved by a supervisor;
 - b. Must be established in an area of sufficient visibility or illumination so the approaching vehicles can observe the roadblock from a safe distance and of a fixed type; and
 - c. Involved unoccupied department vehicles only, if motor vehicles are employed. Officers will position themselves away from the vehicles and on the same side of the road to prevent cross fire or line of fire situations.
3. Routine roadblocks and checkpoints: (i.e. DUI checkpoints) The above provisions shall not apply to routine road blocks for which a written plan is prepared and approved in advance by a command level officer which designates a supervisor on location responsible for:
 - a. Equipment, manpower, lighting needed for enforcement, safety and traffic control.
 - b. Clearly designated lanes for vehicular traffic, cruisers and officer positions.