

6 Require Officers to Exhaust All Other reasonable alternatives before resorting to using deadly force.

“It is the policy of this department to value and preserve human life.” This statement is the second sentence in our Use of Force policy. The third sentence says **“Any force beyond what is objectively reasonable, based upon the particularity of the situation, is excessive.”** The placement and emphasis given to these statements is a clear example of the Chesapeake Police Department commitment toward limiting the use of deadly force. Additionally, when an officer is involved in any use of force incident, beyond mere restraint, or if it involves any injury, a supervisor will be notified and review the circumstances, required medical care will be provided for anyone injured, and an investigation is conducted. For more serious levels of use of force, there are many other requirements.

7 Require Officers to Intervene to stop another officer from using excessive force.

To ensure excessive use of force is not tolerated, the Chesapeake Police Department requires not only other officers, but all our employees to intervene. This is clearly stated in our Use of Force policy as “Any member present and observing another member using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of such force and shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.”

8 Require Comprehensive Reporting that includes both uses of force and threats of force (ex: reporting instances where an officer threatens a civilian with a firearm).

Every use of force incident, beyond mere restraint, requires a supervisor notification and report detailing the incident. The report includes written statements from each officer involved, and, where applicable, details of injuries, photographs, forensic evidence collection, preservation of each officer’s body video camera and other processes. Every use of force report is then reviewed by multiple levels of administrative and/or criminal investigation supervisors, as well as executive level staff and Ethics & Conduct personnel.



Chesapeake Police Department



The Chesapeake Police Department is dedicated to enhanced community partnerships and progressive standards of operation, focusing on safe, fair, and equitable policing. The department is proud to be one of only 1,076 police agencies nationwide to be accredited by CALEA - The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Accredited agencies are regularly reviewed to ensure their policies, procedures, and practices meet or exceed the highest levels nationwide.



Our Commitment

Every member of the Chesapeake Police Department stands committed to *Value and Preserve All Human Life* and to provide *Excellence in Policing*. With this foundation, the department operates in the spirit of continuous improvement, understanding that there is always an opportunity to learn, grow, and meet the changing needs of our City and its citizens. While the department's current policies, training, comprehensive investigations, and accountability for actions related to use of force by officers already meet or exceed best practices, these areas are continually reviewed and improved upon to ensure safe, fair, and equitable policing.

“8 Can't Wait”

In a national initiative, legal and academic experts have identified eight key areas necessary for the reduction of police use of force. The Chesapeake Police Department's training, policies, practices, and procedures meet each of these eight requirements.

1 Require Officers to De-Escalate Situations when possible, before using force.

All officers are trained to communicate with an emphasis on de-escalation techniques in order to stabilize situations without the need to use force. More often than not, talking reasonably with people will result in cooperation even when they may not like what must happen, such as leaving the area, discontinuing illegal acts or even being arrested. De-escalating situations does require the other person or persons to be receptive to complying with ending unlawful actions and complying with lawful orders.

2 Use a Force Continuum or Matrix that defines/limits the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to specific types of resistance.

Officers are required to complete Annual Training on Use of Force and to use the lowest level of objectively reasonable force based on the totality of the circumstances. With many levels defined in our Use of Force Continuum, from the mere Presence of an officer as the lowest level, to Verbal Control such as reasonable persuasion, requests or commands, then physical Control & Restraint Techniques, these lower level methods are appropriate for non-combative persons.

If a person actively resists, officers may need to use Control & Compliance Tools, such as chemical agents or conductive electrical weapons; or sanctioned and trained Defensive & Offensive Techniques. Under even more contentious situations, where lower level options are not effective or practical, less lethal Impact Weapons may be used. At the highest end of the Use of Force Continuum is Deadly Force, which is restricted to being used in defense of the officer or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.



3 Restrict Chokeholds and Strangleholds (including carotid restraints) to situations where deadly force is authorized or prohibiting them altogether.

Under the Chesapeake Police Department's policy, officers are only permitted to use defensive and offensive techniques, which have been sanctioned through the department's training. Chokeholds, strangleholds and carotid restraints are not sanctioned or trained for use by officers.

4 Require Officers to Give a Verbal Warning when possible, before using deadly force.

Consistent with this key area intended to reduce the use of force by police officers, our policy specifically states “Where feasible, officer shall identify themselves and give a verbal warning before shooting at a person.” By giving a verbal warning, when feasible, the officer allows the person the opportunity to end the encounter without the need for deadly force.

5 Prohibit Officers from Shooting at People in Moving Vehicles unless the person poses a deadly threat by means other than the vehicle (ex: shooting at people from the vehicle).

Under the Chesapeake Police Department's policy, firing or deployment of any weapon at or from any moving vehicle is prohibited, unless the officer reasonably believes that the vehicle is operated in a manner deliberately intended to strike an officer or citizen, all other means of defense have been exhausted, and the safety of innocent persons would not be unduly jeopardized by the officer's action.

