

Reporting Use of Force- Policy #6-2

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Subject: Reporting Use of Force		
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Chief's Signature <i>Jennifer Lyon</i>	Re-evaluation Date:	Number of Pages 4

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide officers with guidelines for reporting use of force.

II. POLICY

The authority to use force carries with it the need for accountability in order to safeguard the rights of the public and preserve the integrity of the police agency and the jurisdiction that provides the authority. As such, it is the policy of the SARPD that use of force, as designated herein, shall be reported in a timely, complete, and accurate manner by involved officer and as prescribed by the policy as well as those officers with a duty to intervene as set forth in the Use of Force Policy 6-1.

III. DEFINITIONS

Use of Force: For purposes of this policy, use of force is the amount of effort required by police to compel compliance from a person. Except as noted below, this includes any use of force occurring while the officer is acting in an official law enforcement capacity. This includes, undercover, plainclothes or uniform assignment whether on or off duty. Police use of force is recognized in the following categories:

1. **Physical Force:** Any use of any force greater than verbal commands, including the use of canines, upon another person to compel compliance.
2. **Serious Physical Injury:** Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or what causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.
3. Policy 6-1 Definitions are incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

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IV. PROCEDURES

A. Reporting Use of Force/Officer Involved

1. All incidents of a firearms discharge will be immediately reported to a supervisor and documented in Blue Team as a firearm discharge, except during range practice, competitive sporting events, required department training, or destruction of an injured/sick animal. Accidental discharge of a firearm, that occurs under any circumstance, will be considered a firearms discharge and reported as per this policy. Destruction of an animal shall be reported in the departments current incident reporting system.
2. When physical force is used to overcome resistance to an official police action, the involved officer shall make an immediate report to their supervisor, as well as document the use of force in appropriate police incident reports and in Blue Team; specific actions shall be described in detail in the narrative. Failure to report any use of Physical Force pursuant to this policy shall result in disciplinary action.
3. Shift Supervisors shall investigate and report on uses of physical force as directed in this policy, and ensure that the proper documentation is being completed by each officer involved in the incident.
 - a) Each Officer who uses physical force in an incident shall be listed in Blue Team as an involved officer.
 - b) Each Blue Team entry shall specify the force used, the actions of the subject that necessitated the force that was used, the reasons why the officer used force, as well as any subject complaints of injury, actual injury, medical treatment received or refusal of medical treatment.

B. Referral/Transport for Medical Attention

1. When indicated by circumstance, arresting and transporting officers shall ask prisoners whether they are injured or ill
2. Prisoners shall be examined by an appropriate health care provider prior to interrogation or prisoner processing for the purposes of detention when suffering from, or complaining of, injury or illness or when the individual:
 - a) Is extremely intoxicated or under the influence of drugs to a degree that endangers life.
 - b) Is believed to have ingested drugs.
 - c) Is struck with an extended range impact device such as a specialty impact round.

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- d) Has been exposed to a Conducted Energy Weapon.
- e) Is bitten by a Police Canine.

3. An injured prisoner shall not be placed or held in a Department holding cell or processing area without being examined and released by a physician or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

- a) Whenever there is doubt concerning the need for medical attention, it should be resolved through examination of the prisoner by an EMT.
- b) Refusal of treatment shall be documented and verified by the officer's supervisor and/or attending physician or EMT.

4. An Officers supervisor shall be summoned and shall respond to any incident of use of physical force on a priority basis. In any instance of use of physical force, the supervisor shall:

- a) Preliminarily document the officers and suspects statements of actions taken, injuries sustained and medical treatment received.
- b) Identify/interview witnesses as appropriate.
- c) Protect, as necessary, the scene of the incident,

(1) Interview any health care provider concerning the injuries sustained and their consistency with uses of force,

(2) In all cases ensure the proper paperwork is being completed by all officers involved in the incident.

- d) Cases resulting in serious physical injury or death

(1) The on-duty patrol supervisor shall notify the Lieutenant in cases involving serious physical injury or death of a person resulting, or allegedly resulting, from an officers use of physical force.

(2) The Lieutenant will contact the Chief and make sure that notification was made to a representative from the Monroe County District Attorneys' Office.

C. Administrative Review of Use of Force.

1. All reported use of force incidents will be reviewed by an administrator (Lieutenant, Captain or Chief) to determine whether:

- a) Departmental rules, policy or procedures were violated,

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- b) The relevant policy was clearly understandable and effective to cover the situation,
- c) Department training is currently adequate.
- d) All findings of policy violations or training inadequacies shall be reported to the Chief of Police for resolution and/or necessary action.

D. Assignments following incidents involving death or serious physical injury.

1. When a Police Officers use of force causes death, or serious physical injury, the officer shall be placed on administrative leave/duty after completing all administrative investigation requirements including a brief public safety statement (see SARPD Policy 6-3), and will remain on such leave until it is determined by a mental health professional and the Chief of Police that the Police Officer is ready to return to duty.
2. The Chief of Police or designee shall place an officer on administrative duty pending investigation where the use of physical force has caused bodily injury and where such use of force requires further investigation.
3. The Department shall ensure that both an administrative and criminal investigation of the incident occurs.

E. Duty to Intervene- Report

1. Any Officer with a duty to intervene as set forth in Policy 6-1 Section V (C) shall immediately follow the reporting requirements of in Policy 6-1 Section V (C) (2) thereafter the officer shall make a written report