



Cincinnati, OH

[Use of Force Policy](#) • Meets 3 of 8 Policies

Last updated 5/29/2026 • [Previous analysis](#) (2021), 6/8

We previously reviewed the Use of Force policy in 2021 and made recommendations for revisions of four policy levers. Our recent review shows that these four levers were not revised to meet our standard.

Color Coding	

Policy & Page #	Policy Excerpt	Feedback with Rationale & Model Policy
Neck Restraints p. 1, 5	Policy states: "Carotid Arteries –The carotid arteries are major blood vessels that supply blood to the brain, neck, and face. They are located on each side of the neck and extend from the lower jawbone to the collar bone. Choke Holds – The courts could consider a choke hold or other similar type holds as deadly force. AND "Choke holds are prohibited unless a situation arises where the use of deadly force is permissible under existing law and Department policy. The use of any type of choke hold to prevent the swallowing of evidence is prohibited."	Department policy does not meet. The policy only bans chokeholds. The policy only bans chokeholds. The policy does not ban neck restraints that restrict both air (chokehold) and blood flow (carotid hold) or permit their use only when deadly force is required. Model Policy: "Chokehold or neck restraint prohibited. (1) A peace officer shall/must not use a chokehold or neck restraint on another person in the course of his or her duties as a peace officer. (2) Any policies pertaining to the use of force adopted by law enforcement agencies must be consistent with this section (3) For the purposes of this section: (a) "Chokehold" means the intentional application of direct pressure to a person's trachea or windpipe for the purpose of restricting another person's airway.

		(b) "Neck restraint" refers to any vascular neck restraint or similar restraint, hold, or other tactic in which pressure is applied to the neck for the purpose of constricting blood flow."
Verbal Warning n/a in UoF policy In the <u>DISCHARGING OF</u> <u>FIREARMS BY</u> <u>POLICE</u> <u>PERSONNEL</u> policy, p. 2	n/a (use of force policy) "Felonies: When all other reasonable means at the officer's disposal have failed, the use of firearms is authorized, only under the following circumstances, as a last resort to apprehend a fleeing felon: ... - If possible, the officer will give verbal warning before using the firearm.	Department policy does not meet. Officers are not required to provide a verbal warning before using deadly force in the use of force policy. Officers are only required to give a verbal warning before using their firearm when apprehending a fleeing felon in the separate firearms policy. The requirement is not for all types of deadly force and is limited to fleeing felons. Model Policy: "The law enforcement officer shall/must issue a verbal warning, when feasible, and have a reasonable basis for believing that the warning was heard and understood by the individual to whom the warning is directed prior to using deadly force against the individual."
Exhaust Alternatives In the <u>DISCHARGING OF</u> <u>FIREARMS BY</u> <u>POLICE</u> <u>PERSONNEL</u> policy, p. 1	"Respect for human life requires that police officers exhaust all other reasonable means before resorting to the use of firearms and then only when an officer reasonably believes that such use of firearms is necessary to protect the officer or another from the risk of serious physical harm or loss of life."	Use of force policy does not meet. Discharging of Firearms policy needs revisions. The policy does not explicitly state that officers are required to exhaust other reasonable means before resorting to any type of deadly force, rather than strictly firearms, when feasible. Model Policy: "Where the circumstances permit, it is the employee's responsibility to first exhaust every reasonable means of employing the minimum amount of force before escalating to a more severe application of force."
Required De-escalation p. 1, 4	Policy states, "Whenever possible, de-escalation techniques shall be employed to gain voluntary compliance by a subject." De-escalation is defined as "Using non-confrontational verbal skills, empathy and active listening to stabilize a person in crisis. De-escalation may also incorporate the use of additional time, distance, and resources as well as persuasion, command presence, repositioning, and warnings, to reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation to	Department policy meets. Model Policy: "Officers shall/must employ de-escalation tactics and alternate strategies, consistent with X Department's training and principles, to achieve law enforcement objectives by gaining the compliance of the subject through less-lethal means."

	decrease the potential need to use force."	
Use of Force Continuum/Matrix p. 6-10	p. 6-10	Department policy does not meet. The use of force continuum does not clearly show acceptable proportional responses to levels of resistance; additionally, it does not include deadly force and the policy does not require that officers must exhaust all alternatives before using deadly force. For a model Use of Force continuum, please see the Use of Force policy in <u>Denver</u> (pages 170-187).
Ban on Shooting at Moving Vehicles n/a In the <u>DISCHARGING OF FIREARMS BY POLICE PERSONNEL POLICY, p. 2</u>	"Moving Vehicles: Officers shall not discharge their firearms at a moving vehicle or its occupants unless the occupants are using deadly physical force against the officer or another person present, by means other than the vehicle."	Department policy meets. We recommend that this be in the use of force policy as well. Model policy for a ban on shooting at moving vehicles: "Officers shall/must not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle. Officers shall/must not discharge a firearm from a moving vehicle or at a moving vehicle unless the occupants of the vehicle are using deadly force, other than the vehicle itself, against the officer or against a group as an act of terrorism, and such action is necessary for self defense or to protect the other person; shall not intentionally place themselves in the path of, or reach inside, a moving vehicle; and, where possible, shall attempt to move out of the path of a moving vehicle before discharging their weapon."
Comprehensive Reporting p. 23	Chart on p. 23	Department policy does not meet. Comprehensive reporting includes requiring officers to report whenever they point a firearm at someone on the same type of report as all other use of force/deadly force incidents. Current policy only requires reporting for "uses of force that cause serious injury or hospital admission." Model Policy: "Officers shall report any use of force involving physical controls when the subject is injured, complaints of injury in the presence of officers, or complaints of pain that persists beyond the use of a physical control hold. Officers shall also report any use of force involving the use of personal body weapons, chemical agents, impact weapons, ERIWs, vehicle interventions, K-9 bites, and firearms. Additionally, officers shall report the intentional pointing of firearms at a subject."

Duty To Intervene p. 4	Policy states, "An officer has a duty to stop, prevent and report the use of excessive force by another officer. Officers who use excessive force will be subject to discipline, possible criminal prosecution, and/or civil liability."	Department policy meets. Model Policy: "Any officer present and observing another officer using force clearly beyond what is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall/must safely intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force. <i>Officers shall/must promptly report these observations to a supervisor.</i>"
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