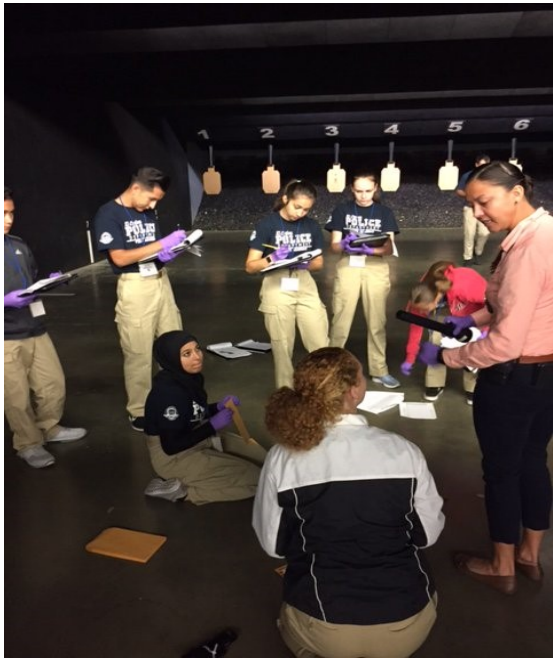




WHERE WE STAND

Public safety requires trust and collaboration between the Police Department and the people it serves. Where We Stand is a commitment to our community that ECPD has and will continue to embrace policies that reduce confrontations, improve de-escalation, and promote procedural justice.



CHOKEHOLDS & STRANGLEHOLDS

Chokeholds/Strangleholds are not authorized for use by ECPD Officers.

Chokeholds, Strangleholds, and the Carotid Control Hold are not authorized for use by El Cajon Police Officers. Effective 06/03/20 the Chief of Police gave a departmental directive to end the use of the Carotid Control Hold and it was removed from ECPD's Policy 300.3.4.

REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

The El Cajon Police Department is committed to the requirements and standards set forth in California Senate Bill 230 which in part states, "the highest priority of California law enforcement is safeguarding the life, dignity and liberty of all persons, without prejudice to anyone." SB 230 requires that officers utilize de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, and other alternatives to force when feasible. Additionally, SB 230 requires all officers be trained in de-escalation techniques and alternatives to deadly force.



REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

California Assembly Bill 392 and ECPD Policy 300.4 (b) mandates, "where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objective reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts." This requirement is consistent with federal law.



REQUIRE TO EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

AB 392 amended California Penal Code 835a with the Legislatures intent, "that peace officers use deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life. In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of particular circumstances of each case, and shall use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable officer." SB 230 clarifies, "No policy can anticipate every conceivable situation or exceptional circumstance which officers may face. In all circumstances, officers are expected to exercise sound judgment and critical decision making when using force options."



DUTY TO INTERVENE

Existing ECPD Policy 300.2.1 states, "Any officer present and observing another officer 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 unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law should promptly report these observations to a supervisor." These mandates are also detailed in SB 230.



BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

Shooting at moving vehicles is addressed in ECPD policy 300.4.1. The policy recognizes, "Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective." Instead, "Officers should make every effort to move out of the path of an approaching vehicle," and, "only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others. Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle."

REQUIRE USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

El Cajon Police Officers are trained to utilize de-escalation techniques whenever possible, as outlined in policy requirements of SB 230. Additionally, California Law governs use of force in Penal Code 835a which states, "Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances perceived by the Officer at the time of the event."



REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

Comprehensive reporting is a fundamental component of use of force. ECPD policy 300.5 requires Officers document force, "promptly, completely, and accurately." Our reporting policies further require Officers to notify a supervisor for additional reporting and oversight. These reports are reviewed by a Sergeant, Watch Commander, Captain, Training Staff, and the Chief of Police to ensure compliance with law, policy, and current training practices. Constant evaluation of training and compliance with policy is conducted on every level. Reporting to California Department of Justice is outlined in Government Code 12525.2.

CONNECT WITH US

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 @ElCajonPolice

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OUR MISSION

The El Cajon Police Department is committed to a safe and secure community through service, mutual-cooperation and respect. We strive to earn public support by respecting the community's principles, developing and keeping public trust by enforcing laws impartially, hiring officers who represent the community, and using force only as a last resort.

In order to ensure our officers are prepared, we train quarterly. We utilize scenario-based training focusing on de-escalation, crisis intervention, cultural awareness, procedural justice, bias awareness, and current case law updates. In 2019, ECPD reviewed all of our Policies and Procedures and published the policies online. The policies are continually reviewed internally as well as through the Lexipol team to ensure we are utilizing the best practices for our response to calls such as mass gatherings and mental health crises.

The process to become an ECPD Officer is exhaustive and meant to ensure that we are able to select from the most qualified candidates. We have a five level review process for all uses of force to provide us with information including; early indications of specific officer behavior as well as training and equipment needs. Most discipline and corrective training results from this proactive process. In the event that we do receive a Citizen's Complaint, it's taken very seriously and investigated thoroughly.

Our Policy manual can be found online at <https://docs.cityofelcajon.us:8552/weblink/Browse.aspx?startid=693067>.