

## **554.20 General Use of Force Requirements**

Officers shall only use that degree of force as permitted by law as set forth in this policy to:

1. Effect a lawful arrest or detention;
2. Protect themselves or others; or
3. Otherwise carry out their lawful duties.

All force – deadly or not – must be reasonably necessary based on the totality of the circumstances.

The reasonableness of a particular use of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene. The reasonableness of the force will not be judged with the benefit of hindsight. Any information learned after the application of force is irrelevant to determining the reasonableness of the force used. The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. The reasonableness inquiry is an objective one. An officer's underlying intent or motivation is irrelevant to the determination.

When determining whether to use force or the appropriate degree or type of force to apply, the following factors may apply:

1. Whether a person is suspected of a crime;
2. The severity of the crime or problem at issue;
3. Whether the person is posing an imminent threat to the safety of officers or others;
4. Whether the person is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight; and
5. Any suspected or obvious medical or mental conditions.

These factors are not exclusive. Officers shall ultimately consider the totality of the circumstances.

All force must be reasonably necessary both at its inception and in scope.

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