

Cedar Hill Police Department

2024



Annual Use of Force Analysis

Use of Force Analysis for 2024

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Cedar Hill Police Department's Use of Force for calendar year 2024. The Cedar Hill Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens and visitors. The Cedar Hill Police Department is committed to protecting the rights of all people and in using force only when necessary, and to the extent necessary, to achieve legal compliance. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice Section 6.10 and attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete a legal objective. Police/citizen encounters can, however, change rapidly, and officers may be required to react quickly in using force to subdue a resisting subject. While officers prefer to escalate their level of force in an orderly manner to use the lowest level possible, the response of a subject may limit that ability and force officers to use whatever level of force is immediately available to protect themselves and the public.

Use of Force Reporting Requirements

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.03 and Cedar Hill Police Department General Order 501.00, requires a use of force report to be completed under the following circumstances:

1. When using any degree of force or physical restraint which, by the nature of its use, causes or has the likelihood to cause bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death.
2. The officer purposely strikes with either a personal weapon or an impact weapon, uses a chemical agent, conductive energy device, or less-lethal round; points a firearm at an individual during the performance of the officer's duties.
3. When an officer causes bodily injury or a complaint of bodily injury resulting from any type of police action involving a physical confrontation.
4. When an employee discharges a firearm for other than training or recreational purposes.

In those instances where the only level of force used was the threat of deadly force, officers are required to complete a "Threat of Force Report- Firearm" form which documents the threat.

Each individual Use of Force Report is immediately reviewed by the Officer's Supervisor, and through the Chain of Command. At the time of the incident, the Use of Force is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy and Law. If the Officer used force inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required; and the officer may receive additional training or in some cases discipline up to and including termination from

employment. This analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment, or supervision.

In 2024 there were no changes to the application of the Use of Force policy. The policy was last reviewed and revised on 7-31-2023.

Analysis

In 2024, Officers responded to 20,574 citizen-initiated calls for service and initiated 10,580 traffic stops. These 31,154 encounters resulted in 1257 arrests, an increase of 84 arrests (7%) from 2023. Of these arrests, 66 were juveniles, an increase of 15 arrests (29%) from 2023. A total of 30 reported types of physical force were recorded during 25 incidents.¹ Physical force was used in one out of every 1,246 customer-violator contacts in 2024.

An additional 64 incidents involving 76 individuals occurred which required officers to use the threat of deadly force were also documented during 2024.

- The use of physical force involved a total of 29 Officers in 25 separate incidents in 2024.
- Force, including the threat of force, was used against 102 individuals, of which 90 were males and 12 were females.
- Of the 102 individuals involved in all force/threat of force incidents, 71 were black, 20 were Hispanic, 11 were white.

2024 Use of Force Comparison

In 2023, the department recorded 53 uses of force during 34 incidents. The 30 uses of force during 2024 represents a 43% decrease from 2023.

In 2023, 113 threats of force were recorded during 76 incidents. The 64 threats of force involved in 76 separate incidents in 2024 represent an 43 % decrease from 2023. It is worth noting that each incident in which the threat of deadly force was used was determined to be within policy upon supervisory review.

¹ Each type of force deployed by each officer involved is the method used for determining the total uses of force. During an incident different force tactics may have been deployed, but were ineffective, which resulted in single or multiple officers utilizing different force tactics during the same incident.

Force

The following types of force were used to gain compliance:

| Type of Force Applied | Number of Times Applied | Reported Effective First Time Applied | % of Effectiveness |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Soft Empty Hand | 24 | 24 | 100% |
| Hard Empty Hand | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| OC Spray | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Conductive Energy | 2 | 1 | 50% |
| Threat of Deadly Force | 64 | 58 | 90% |
| Deadly Force | 1 | 1 | 100% |

Individual Officer Use of Force

Several Officers used force more than the average and these Officer's activities and actions were reviewed by the department supervisors for appropriateness based on department policy and state law. While each individual use of force and threat of force is reviewed immediately after the event to ensure the actions are compliant with department policy and law, patterns of behavior can also indicate the need for additional training or supervision. Officers can have significantly different rates in their use of force depending on the crime activity in the part of the city where they are assigned, their type of assignment, the time of day they work, stature vs suspect, and their experience level.

In all incidents, officers in the department that used force or threat of force were found to be compliant with department directives, and their use of force was deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Physical Control (soft and hard empty hand)

In 2024, 25 uses of force occurred in which officers utilized a tactic or technique which fell in the soft/hard empty hand control.

Included in this category are instances where simple uses of verbal commands were not enough or effective. It includes those instances where Officers placed their hands on a subject and used more force than mere guidance or a strong grip. This category includes those instances where soft empty hand control and/or hard empty hand control were utilized to control a subject. These tactics include instances where an Officer must forcibly handcuff a person, employ the use of

pressure point control tactics, takedowns or other soft hand techniques. This category also includes closed fist strikes, knee strikes, and other techniques utilized in hard empty hand tactics.

OC Pepper Spray

In 2024, two (2) officers utilized their department issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray during a use of force incident.

Oleoresin Capsicum is a chemical compound derived from various pepper plants and is mixed with a propellant that is used by many law enforcement agencies as an alternative to higher and more injury-producing levels of force. The chemical spray is usually directed at a resisting subject's face and the spray causes a burning sensation of the eyes, nose, and mouth causing the subject to close their eyes and in most cases stop any physical resistance. The burning effect will usually dissipate within 30 minutes and most often has no long-term aftereffects.

Conductive Energy Device

In 2024, two (2) officers used the department issued Conductive Energy Device (Taser) one time each during an arrest or other incident.

Conductive Energy Devices (CED), commonly called a Taser, are pistol type devices that fire two small probes designed to embed themselves in the skin or clothing of a resisting or combative suspect. The probes are connected to the device by small flexible wires which transmit a short 5-second-high voltage/low amperage charge through the probes. This causes a disruption of muscle activity and is accompanied by pain which designed to temporarily disable the individual. There are usually no long- term side effects of the use of the device on healthy individuals.

The Cedar Hill Police Department trains their Officers in the proper and appropriate use of a Taser and has policies designed to only allow its use against active aggression toward Officers. It is not to be utilized in cases of passive non-compliance or as punishment of any kind. Included in the category are those incidents where the use of a Taser was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of a Taser was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the Officers.

K-9 Deployment

In 2024, the Cedar Hill Police K-9 was not utilized as a force option.

Less-Lethal Weapons

In 2024, Cedar Hill Police Officers did not discharge a less-lethal weapon during any use of force incidents.

The department has several less-lethal munitions available that can be fired from specially designed platforms designed to inflict surprise, pain or trauma that is normally less severe than the use of deadly force. These less-lethal munitions include bean bag rounds. Pepper ball munitions are fired from systems like paintball guns. While these rounds are designed to be less lethal than regular firearms, they are still able to cause significant injury to an individual and as such are used when time and opportunity permit.

Included in the category would be those incidents where a less-lethal weapon was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of lesser force was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the Officers. Also included in this category would have been all those instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Use of a Firearm

In 2024, one (1) Cedar Hill Police Officer discharged their department issued firearms during an incident requiring a use of force report.

Firearms are classified as Deadly Force, and their use is restricted. Officers must comply with not only their intensive training but with the department's Deadly Force Policy and state law. When an officer fires their weapon in the line of duty, whether an individual is struck or not, a detailed investigation is conducted to determine if that use complies with both policy and law.

In a June 26th, 2024 incident, one officer used deadly force against a subject who fired at pursuing officers. The officer's use of deadly force was deemed justified after an administrative investigation and the officer was 'no billed' by a Dallas County Grand Jury.

Threat of Deadly Force

Included in the category are those incidents where the threatened use of firearms were the highest level of force used to bring a resisting subject under control or in a felony situation, such as a high-risk traffic stop.

In 2024, the threat of deadly force was utilized 64 times by officers. All threats of force were effective and required no further force.

Citizen and Internal Complaints Regarding the Use of Force

During 2024, the Cedar Hill Police Department investigated one allegation of excessive force. That investigation was cleared administratively; revealing no wrong doing by the officer involved.

Suspect Injuries

In 2024, fifteen (15) subjects sustained injuries because of force used. Eleven (11) received abrasions/ lacerations, one (1) received a bruise, and one (1) complained of pain but no visible injuries were observed. One subject received life threatening injuries as a result of deadly force used by a pursuing officer.

Officer injuries

In 2024, there were two (2) officers injured because of using force during an incident. Both officers reported minor injuries (sprained knee and ringing in ears from firing a gun inside a vehicle).

Recommendations

The 2024 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS revealed an overall decrease in the number of threats of force and physical force used by officers. This analysis did not reveal any policy or procedure issue, or corrections needed at this time. The contents of this analysis should be used by the department's defensive tactics, firearms, and training staff to guide upcoming training in those various areas during the next year. The training sessions should revolve around refreshing the officer's knowledge of techniques used for certain situations, and use of de-escalation techniques, and should incorporate new methods for handling different situations.

Policy and Reporting Enhancements

The last review of the Use of Force policy was on 07-31-2023 and revisions were last made at that time as well.



Colin Chenault #069

Captain

Command Review:

12

Assistant Chief

5.9.25

Date

EMMA

Police Chief

Date