



Where We Stand

The Ukiah Police Department's policies and procedures serve as a guide to our personnel in the performance of their duties, and direct our members to perform their duties fairly and without bias. Our policies are based upon law, legislation, and recognized best practices and policing principals. We consider our policy manual to be a living document, and it follows the evolution of changing practices and standards.

The Ukiah Police Department's use of force policy is comprehensive and is intended to guide officers in a safe, professional, and impartial manner. The images displayed recently on television and in the media depicting the actions which resulted in the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis are not consistent with the practices and policies of the Ukiah Police Department. The decision to use force comes with tremendous responsibility that is ultimately based within the public trust, and is to be used only to further a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

We have been performing a full review of our policy and training outlines to ensure they embrace the principals of modern policing. I recently asked Captain Sean Kaeser to evaluate our existing policies pertaining to the use of force, and compare them with the 8 can't wait campaign which describes a series of 8 policies intended to restrict the use of force.

I am pleased the vast majority of our existing policies were already in agreement with this effort, and after receiving direction from the State of California and some minor modifications, all policy now reflect those priorities. The information presented below represents Captain Kaeser's response to my request, and demonstrates how our policies are in agreement with those priorities.

I am proud of the men and women of Ukiah Police Department who have been policing in the spirit of contemporary society and with regard for the well-being of others for a number of years.

We enjoy hearing from the community regarding areas of concern, and appreciate the opportunity to share this information and explain how we go about performing our duties. We believe communication and transparency are important components of public trust, and ultimately makes us more effective at delivering public safety. It is in this manner we believe we are serving our values of Safety, Professionalism, and Community Service.



Justin Wyatt

Chief of Police

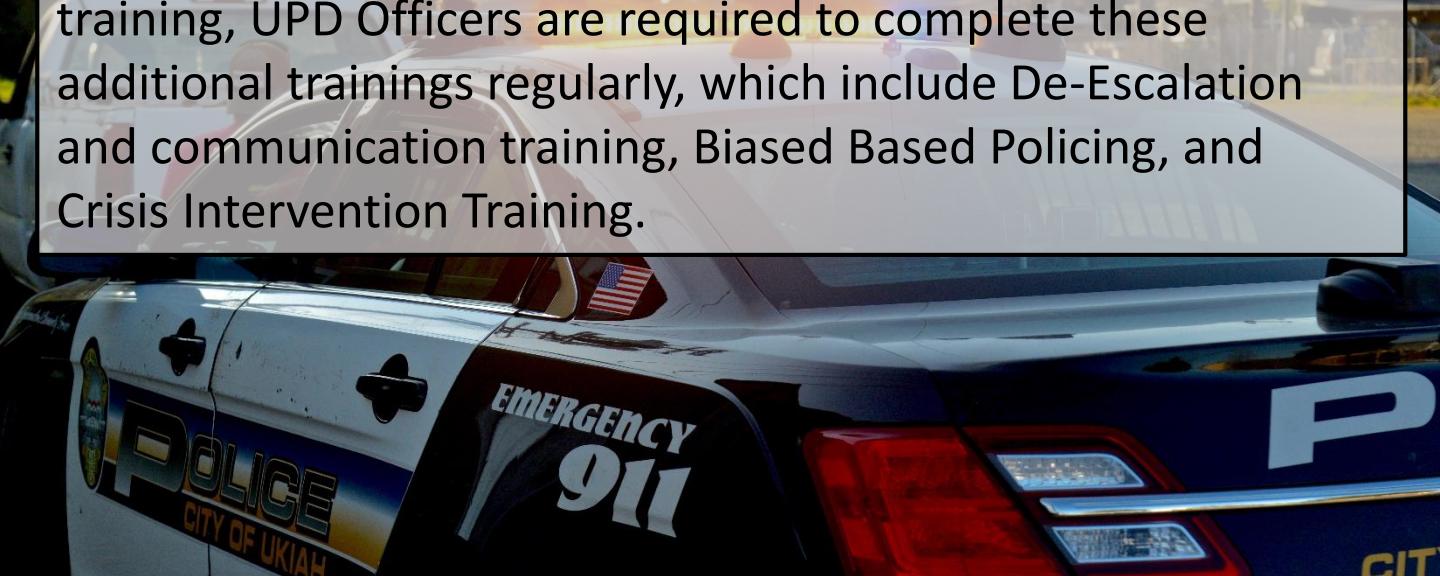
Chokeholds & Strangleholds

Chokeholds/Strangleholds are not authorized for use by UPD Officers. Carotid Control Holds are also no longer authorized for use by UPD Officers. Effective 06-10-20 the Police Department has removed the Carotid Control Hold from UPD's Policy 300.3.4.



De-Escalation

SB 230 passed last year has a requirement that officers utilize de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, and other alternatives to force when feasible. UPD Officers have been trained in crisis intervention tactics, and our policy directs officers to consider a number of factors towards offering de-escalation alternatives, including taking no action or passively monitoring a situation. In addition to this training, UPD Officers are required to complete these additional trainings regularly, which include De-Escalation and communication training, Biased Based Policing, and Crisis Intervention Training.



Require Warning Before Shooting

This requirement is already followed by UPD Officers and clearly stated under UPD policy 300.4 which states, "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 objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts."

In addition, UPD Officers are also required to provide a warning prior to the use of a conducted energy device (Taser), a baton, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), or a kinetic energy projectile. This is stated under UPD policies 308.3 and 309.4.

Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

Shooting at moving vehicles is also a part of existing UPD Policy. UPD policy 300.4.1 states, "Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective. Officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm at the vehicle or any of its occupants. An officer should 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."

Duty to Intervene

UPD Officers already have a Duty to Intervene under existing UPD Policy 300.2.1, which 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."



Require to Exhaust all Alternatives Before Shooting:

UPD recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. UPD Policy 300.4 states, "If an objectively reasonable officer would consider it safe and feasible to do so under the totality of the circumstances, officers should evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force."

Require Use of Force Continuum

UPD Policy 300.3 states, "Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose." UPD Officers respond to every situation, which at times can be rapidly evolving, utilizing their training and critical thinking skills to determine the appropriate level of force, be it their physical presence, use of verbal communication, simple hand control holds, electronic control device (Taser), baton, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), less-lethal weapons, and Firearms.



Require Comprehensive Reporting

UPD Policy requires use of force reporting under policy 300.5, which states, "Any use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances."

All uses of force incidents are reviewed by a supervisor and command staff. Those incidents resulting in great bodily injury or death are reviewed by a Review Board as per UPD Policy 302.