



BOULDER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Response to: #8Can'tWait

1

BAN CHOKEHOLDS & STRANGLEHOLDS

Deputies are not authorized to use choke or strangleholds to subdue a subject. Choke holds or strangulation techniques are not taught to Sheriff's Office employees.

2

REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

The sheriff's office use of force training program instills in deputies the capability to assess the potential harm that might result from use of force actions and to use verbal de-escalation in lieu of force whenever possible. This is taught and reinforced in regular training; including defensive tactics, firearms, and scenario based training. Sheriff's Office employees are also required to immediately de-escalate force as the subject's level of resistance decreases. Additionally, we require that immediately following the use of force and placing the subject into custody, deputies shall evaluate and/or observe the subject for injury or complaints of pain resulting from the use of force and obtain any necessary medical care. In instances where a serious injury occurs during a force encounter, deputies are required to render aid, to the best of their physical ability, until relieved by professional medical providers.

3

REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

Deputies are required to use advisements, warnings, and verbal persuasion, when possible, before resorting to the application of force, including firearms.

4

REQUIRE TO EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

Deputies must either exhaust or eliminate from consideration all other reasonable options based upon the circumstances prior to resorting to the use of firearms, and then only when they reasonably believe that such use of a firearm is necessary to protect the deputy or another from the imminent risk of serious bodily injury or death.

5

DUTY TO INTERVENE

Employees who witness the use of force by any other deputy or peace officer that exceeds the level of force permitted by state statute are required to attempt to intervene and report any force that they believe is excessive as soon as practical to their supervisor.

6

BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

Deputies are authorized to shoot at a moving vehicle in the following limited situations:

Discharging a firearm at an occupant of a moving vehicle is only authorized when the deputy is authorized to use deadly force against that occupant and the deputy reasonably believes that the risk to the deputy or others created by discharging a firearm is outweighed by the need to apprehend the suspect(s) without delay.

Discharging a firearm at a vehicle, whether or not it is moving, with the sole intent of disabling the vehicle, is prohibited unless the deputy is authorized to use deadly force against all occupants of the vehicle. In exceptional circumstances, using a firearm with the sole intent of disabling the vehicle may be the most reasonable action available and provide for the greatest safety to the public and/or deputies. Under these circumstances, a command level supervisor may authorize an action under this section be taken when necessary, whether in a planned or unplanned event, using weapon(s) specifically designed to disable vehicles.

7

REQUIRE USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

Sheriff's Office policy provides a continuum of levels of resistance and force options, by broad classification, and through regular scenario based training (mostly based on real life encounters, both locally and nationally) teaches all deputies to evaluate a situation, de-escalate the situation if possible, and then use only the force that is needed to resolve the situation in the safest manner possible.

8

REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

Any deputy who uses force is required to report the use of force to their supervisor as soon as practical and before the end of their shift. The deputy is also required to complete a thorough report documenting the use of force. Each use of force incident is reviewed by a supervisor who was not involved in the incident. Higher levels of force (Taser use in dart mode, strikes with a baton or other weapon, impact munitions, etc.) are reviewed by a command level supervisor. The reviewing supervisor determines if the use of force falls within Sheriff's Office policy, training, and state law. If the use of force was outside of policy or state statute then an internal investigation is initiated.