

# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

## Use of Force Fact Sheet – June 2020

**Approach:** We are dedicated to building a culture of trust with our communities. We do not condone nor accept any racial profiling or acts of brutality. We take immediate action on any such complaint and conduct a comprehensive investigation. Not only are there readily accessible means for individuals to make complaints or notify the department about any possible mistreatment, but the Sheriff's leadership team reviews all critical incidents to ensure proper and just responses were administered. We are also proactive in the identification of possible opportunities for change in our policies, procedure, and training to affect consistent positive outcomes. We are committed to impartial and compassionate enforcement of the law.

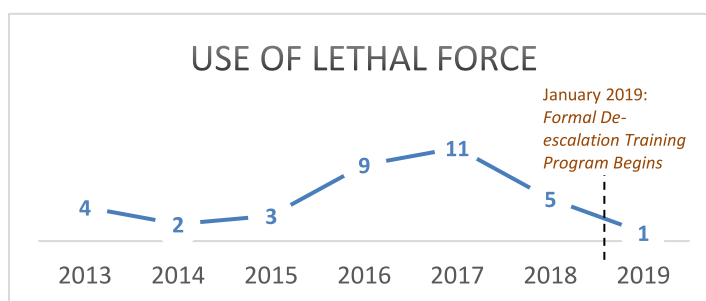
For access to our department's Policy and Procedure Manual, operational manuals, and training, please visit the Sheriff's Public Documents page at <https://apps.sdsheriff.net/PublicDocs/SB978/>.

### De-escalation Training

- ✓ De-escalation is a combination of tactical communication with a balanced use of force response to critical situations in order to achieve positive outcomes. This thought process has been taught for years to our sworn personnel, but never completely formalized in naming, policy, or training.
- ✓ In August 2018, the department created a working group to develop its own formal de-escalation training and the working group worked with Los Angeles Police Department to develop the course. San Diego County Sheriff's Department was the first law enforcement agency in San Diego County to provide formal de-escalation training.
- ✓ In 2019, the approved De-escalation Training Program was provided to 1,690 deputies through both the Continued Professional Training (CPT) and Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) training cycles. De-escalation Training was also incorporated into the academy's curriculum.
- ✓ The De-escalation Training Program incorporates intervention scenarios to reinforce department expectations of conduct and standards. (Reference Department Policy & Procedures Manual - Procedure Section 2.30)

### Use of Force

- ✓ Enforcement of the law and the performance of law enforcement duties may require the use of physical force and/or physical restraint. The preservation of order and the observance of the law are best achieved through voluntary compliance and the use of force is considered secondary.
- ✓ The table to the right is the breakdown of the department's law enforcement field activity, which includes Calls for Service (CFS) and Deputy Initiated Activity (DIA) and use of force statistics.
- ✓ For organizational accountability, the department's Division of Inspectional Services (DIS) reviews all Use of Force reports. For organizational transparency, DIS prepares an annual Use of Force Report and publishes the information on our website [www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net).
- ✓ The department was among the agencies that participated in the national pilot program for automating Use of Force Reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- ✓ Drilling down into the department's use of force activity:
  - ❖ There was an 80% reduction in the use of Lethal Force; from 5 instances in 2018 down to 1 instance in 2019.
  - ❖ There was a 20% reduction in Less Lethal Deployed; from 458 in 2018 down to 368 in 2019.



Law Enforcement	2018	2019	2020 (YTD to 4/30/20)
<b>Total CFS &amp; DIA</b>	446,221	428,589	131,292
<b>Use of Force</b>	2,651	2,649	813

### **Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB)**

- ✓ The Critical Incident Review Board (CIRB) consists of the Chief Legal Advisor and 4 commanders (one from each bureau). The focus of the CIRB is to assess the department's civil exposure as a result of a given incident and to improve service delivery.
- ✓ Incidents reviewed by CIRB include, but are not limited to: in-custody deaths (other than natural), use of deadly force by departmental employee, and pursuits resulting in injury requiring hospital admittance or major property damage.
- ✓ The CIRB carefully reviews the incidents from multiple perspectives-including training, tactics, policies, and procedures-with the goal of identifying problem areas and recommending remedial actions.
- ✓ One recommendation and subsequent change in policy and technical application was related to the duration of activation when using tasers. In 2018, we retrofitted our tasers so that the electric current could only flow for five seconds.

### **Internal Affairs**

- ✓ The department's Internal Affairs (IA) is the central controlling point for filing, logging, assigning, and investigating complaints of alleged employee misconduct. All complaint investigations are conducted in a fair, thorough, and impartial manner.
- ✓ In 2019, 4 out of the 94 IA investigations initiated by a department supervisor were use of force in nature; this is a 50% reduction from 2018, where 8 out of the 95 IA investigations were use of force in nature.

### **Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB)**

- ✓ The citizens of San Diego County voted the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) into place in the early 1990s. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department has had over three decades of cooperation and respectful relations with CLERB.
- ✓ CLERB has the power to subpoena and require the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents and papers pertinent to its investigations. CLERB has their own independent investigators.
- ✓ CLERB investigates any allegation(s) of misconduct against the sworn member(s) of the department and present their investigation to the CLERB Board. The 11 CLERB Board members vote on which recommendation to make for the specific allegation of misconduct; whether it is sustained, not sustained, actions justified, or unfounded.

### **Mobile Field Force**

- ✓ The San Diego County Sheriff's Mobile Field Force (MFF) team responds to natural disasters and man-made events to maintain and restore public order using highly skilled and disciplined personnel comprised of a broad base of Sheriff's deputies.
- ✓ The San Diego County Sheriff's Mobile Field Force team is available to assist any agency in San Diego County and outside the county upon request.
- ✓ MFF Training is conducted throughout the year and was provided 26 times in 2019.

### **Non-Biased Based Policing**

Members of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department are prohibited from inappropriately or unlawfully considering race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or lifestyle in deciding whether enforcement intervention will occur. (Policy Section 2.55: SDSD P&P available at <https://apps.sdsheiff.net/PublicDocs/SB978/>)