

Arroyo Grande
Police Department
Ensuring Quality of Life

DEPARTMENT POLICY



EMPLOYEE REQUIREMENT

Yearly Review of High-Liability Areas)
Daily Review of All Policies
Required Revision Acknowledgement

LEXIPOL Policy is available online at www.agpd.org

Ensuring Quality of Life



8 POINTS OF CHANGE (8 CANT WAIT)

1. Require De-Escalation.
2. Establish Use of Force Continuum.
3. Duty to Intervene.
4. Ban shooting at moving vehicles.
5. Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds.
6. Exhaust all Alternatives Before Shooting.
7. Require Warning Before Shooting.
8. Require All Use of Force are Reported.

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8 Points of Change

Require De-Escalation:

Require officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance, and otherwise eliminating the need to use force.

The Arroyo Grande Police Department supports the concept of de-escalation. Penal code 835a, as amended by Assembly Bill 392, requires officers to continually evaluate factors that may require either escalation or de-escalation in order to protect themselves or others.

DE-ESCALATION

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8 Points of Change

Establish Use of Force Continuum

Establish a force continuum that restricts the most severe types of force to the most extreme situations and creates clear policy restrictions on the use of each police weapon and tactic.

Officers are trained in a variety of techniques and are issued a variety of equipment in order to apply reasonable use of force. Officers are expected to comply to the use of force guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner.

USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

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8 Points of Change

Duty to Intervene

Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor.

AGPD Policy – Lexipol 300.2.1

Officers who observe another officer using unreasonable force shall, when in position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force and should promptly notify supervisor.

DUTY TO INTERVENE

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8 Points of Change

Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

Ban officers from shooting at moving vehicles in all cases, which is regarded as a particularly dangerous and ineffective tactic. While some departments may restrict shooting at vehicles to particular situations, these loopholes allow for police to continue killing in situations that are all too common. 62 people were killed by police last year in these situations. This must be categorically banned.

AGPD Policy - Lexipol 300.4.1

Shooting at moving vehicles are rarely effective and officers shall make every effort to get out of the path of the approaching vehicle instead of discharging their firearm. There are instances where shooting at a moving vehicle may be justified such as the vehicle being used as a weapon against a citizen or the officer or the occupants themselves are shooting from the moving vehicle.

BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

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8 Points of Change

Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds

Allowing officers to choke or strangle civilians results in the unnecessary death or serious injury of civilians. Both chokeholds and all other neck restraints must be banned in all cases.

Existing policy does not allow nor are officers trained in the use of a, “chokehold.” Department policy does allow for a “carotid restraint control hold” however, the use of this technique has been suspended until further review.

BAN CHOKEHOLDS AND STRANGLEHOLDS

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8 Points of Change

Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting:

Require officers to exhaust all other alternatives, including non-force and less lethal force options, prior to resorting to deadly force.

Lexipol 300.3

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 (Ca. Penal Code 835a).

EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

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8 Points of Change

Require Warning Before Shooting

Require officers to give a verbal warning in all situations before using deadly force.

AGPD Policy - Lexipol 300.4(b)

In the event of lethal force, “where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves and warn that deadly force may be used.”

REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

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8 Points of Change

Require All Uses of Force are Reported

Require officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians. Comprehensive reporting includes requiring officers to report whenever they point a firearm at someone, in addition to all other types of force.

REQUIRE ALL USES OF FORCE ARE REPORTED

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AGPD Policy - Lexipol 300.5

Policy 300.5 requires any use of force shall be reported to the direct supervisor and shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately.

