

Campaign Zero

"#8 Can't Wait"

1.) Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds –

The department does not train in the use of these techniques. In addition, the utilization of a choke-hold using a baton or similar object is prohibited as a containment or takedown procedure (Regulation 4.114). Wichita Police specifically prohibits use of these techniques unless deadly force is justified as a last resort to prevent death or great bodily harm to the officer or another person.

2.) De-Escalation:

The Wichita Police department has implemented a de-escalation policy (915) that requires the use of de-escalation techniques (such as time, distance, communication, etc.). This has been our focus since 2016 to use de-escalation techniques as a means to communicate our way through a situation and resolve it without using any force if at all possible. We've have had a lot of success with this in terms of communicating with those who are in crisis. We believe this standard works and **we will** continue to emphasize this going forward.

New officers, as well as veteran officers, are trained in de-escalation tactics through the use of Active Listening Skills, commonly used by Crisis Negotiators to de-escalate high risk situations (Behavioral Management). The department has on-going training for the use of these communication techniques throughout the year. Also, Regulation 4.101 (b) says *"In a stressful situation, a police member's first reaction should be to determine whether or not the objective can be accomplished without the use of a weapon..."*

3.) Require warning before shooting:

Wichita Police Department policy requires that *"When practical, a verbal warning for the individual to submit to the officer shall be given prior to the use of force (including deadly use of force) in any situation unless doing so would increase the danger to the officer or others"* (Regulation 4.104 D,A). This is also reinforced for both new and veteran officers.

4.) Exhaust all other means before shooting:

Wichita Police policy clearly states that deadly force is authorized when an officer *“An officer is justified in using deadly force only when such officer reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to such officer or another person”*. (K.S.A. 21-5227). This principle is emphasized continuously throughout training and is constantly illustrated in each of our use of force policies. This is stated throughout Regulation 4 (Weapons/Use of Force), Impact Weapons (Policy 908), and OC Spray (Policy 909). Our department uses the objectively reasonable standard regarding issues involving the application of force.

5.) Duty to Intervene:

Though the Wichita Police Department does not specifically have a policy regarding duty to intervene, it has been incorporated into our Ethics training for the past several years for both new and veteran officers. As an agency, we are implementing new language into our use of force policy that specifically addresses duty to intervene.

6.) Banning shooting at vehicles:

While not prohibited, caution should always be used when discharging a firearm, to fire from or at a moving vehicle while in compliance with state law (K.S.A 21-5227). The Wichita Police department has implemented new language to include *“Officers shall exercise good judgment and not move into or remain in the path of a moving vehicle. Moving into or remaining in the path of a moving vehicle, whether deliberate or inadvertent, shall not be justification for discharging a firearm at the vehicle or any occupant in the vehicle.”*

7.) Use of Force Continuum: The "8cantwait" initiative defines this as restricting "the most severe types of force to the most extreme situations" and "creating clear policy restrictions on the use of each police weapon and tactic." Wichita Police Department policy and training are consistent with this. Deadly force is clearly restricted to extreme situations, and the use of specific tools/techniques is specifically restricted in our use of force policy and the amount of force that is objectively reasonable.

8.) Comprehensive Reporting:

The Wichita Police Department policy requires that any officer who uses physical force, weapons, items, or devices against a person shall complete an incident report. This includes pointing/drawing their firearm at an individual and in some instances a use of force report is completed for those who have been handcuffed and released (including juveniles at schools). Additionally, any officer who uses any level of must contact a supervisor to review the use of force and enter information about the incident into an internal database (Blue Team 6). The use of force report is reviewed an average of 3 to 6 times, depending on the level of force used to ensure accuracy in reporting. Certain types of force require an initial on-scene supervisory response.