

# CEDAR HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2011 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

An analysis was conducted of the use of force reports (including the threat of force reports) for 2011. General Order 502.11 C. requires a use of force report to be completed under the following circumstances:

1. When using any degree of force or physical restraint which, by the nature of its use, causes or has the likelihood to cause bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death;
2. The officer purposely strikes with either a personal weapon or an impact weapon, uses a chemical agent, applies a neck restraining hold, or points a firearm at an individual during the performance of the officer's duties, regardless of whether on or off duty;
3. When an officer causes bodily injury or a complaint of bodily injury resulting from any type of police action involving a physical confrontation;
4. When an employee discharges a firearm for other than training or recreational purposes;

In those instances where the only level of force used was the threat of deadly force, officers are required to complete a "Threat of Force Report- Firearm" form which documents the threat.

### **Demographics**

During 2011, a total of 43 uses-of-force were recorded (39 in 2010) during 31 incidents.<sup>1</sup> Fourteen (14) of the uses of force were threats of deadly force (18 in 2010). A total of 2278 arrests (2142 in 2010) were made including 144 (125 in 2010) juveniles.

Force was used in **2.3%** of all contacts which resulted in an arrest.

- Uses of force involved a total of 25 different officers.
- Force was used against 35 individuals; 32 males and 3 females.
- The average age of the offender was 27.
- Force was used against 3 juveniles (14 years of age)

### **Injuries**

Nine (9) subjects sustained or complained of injuries as a result of force used.

- Five (5) subjects were injured as a result of Taser utilization.
- Three (3) subjects were injured as a result of police canine bites.

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<sup>1</sup> Each type of force deployed by each officer involved is the method used for determining the total uses of force. During 31 separate incidents different force tactics may have been deployed, but were ineffective, which resulted in single or multiple officers utilizing different force tactics during the same incident.

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- One (1) subject was injured as a result of a hard empty hand control technique.
- All of the subjects were treated and released from medical care at the arrest scene.

### Officer Injuries

- There were no officer injuries that resulted from use of force incidents reported during 2011.

### Force

The following types of force were used to gain compliance:

- Thirteen (13) uses of empty hand control tactics (soft and hard) were found to be effective 10 (10) times.
- Officers threatened the use of deadly force fifteen (15) times.
- Four (4) police canine deployments were found to be effective in all four incidents.
- There were a total of ten (8) conductive energy device (Taser®) deployments which were effective in all but two (2) occasions.
- Pepper spray was deployed two (2) times which were effective on both.
- There were no deployments of batons, less lethal munitions, or Pepper Ball deployments during 2011.
- One firearm was accidentally discharged while cleaning the weapon. No injuries resulted and additional training was provided to the officer to prevent further incidents.

When applied, force was **effective 88%** of the time.

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### Times of Occurrence

- Use of force incidents occurred 12 times between the hours of 6am and 6pm.
- Use of force incidents occurred 19 times between the hours of 6pm and 6am.

The time frames coincide with the current 12 hour patrol shifts.

### Recommendations

There were no apparent trends identified through this analysis. Each use of force was documented on the approved forms and reviewed through the proper chains of command. There were no violations of criminal law on the part of the officers involved.

### Policy and Reporting Enhancements

During 2011, the Department began a migration from a paper-based reporting system to the use of computer software that was already integrated with the Department's in-house records management program. The use of the software system aids in reducing paperwork and provides a more efficient means of data collection and analysis.

In addition to the software migration, the Use of Force policy was revised to include the following changes:

- Modified definitions for Passive Resistance, Active/Defensive Resistance, and Active Aggression to bring them into compliance with current best practice standards
- Provided additional guidance regarding the application and use of Conducted Energy Devices (commonly referred to as Tasers®)
- Modified the use and definitions for the Less-lethal round, formerly Specialty Impact Munitions
- Modified the application procedures for High Pressure Launching Systems (Pepper Ball)
- Modified the authorization and use of Neck Restraints
- Modified the Use of Force review procedures to include department instructors in the appropriate force tactic/weapon

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These policy revisions were proactive improvement measures designed to:

- bring terminology into current best practice standards
- provide additional guidance to officers on the proper use of equipment and techniques
- enhance the review process by insuring input from force and weapons trainers

This document was prepared by Lt. Colin Chenault and submitted for approval by the Chief of Police.

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