
Crookston Police Department

321 West Robert • Crookston, MN 56716 • (218) 281-3111 • (218) 281-1410 (fax)

| | |
|--|--|
| USE OF FORCE AND DEADLY FORCE | POLICY # 110 |
| AUTHORIZED BY: Darin Selzler, Chief of Police | ISSUE DATE December 9 th , 2020 |
| DISTRIBUTION: All Personnel: Email, Electronic Posting to CPD Central | EFFECTIVE DATE December 14 th , 2020 |
| REFERENCE(S): MN STAT 609.06 Authorized Use of Force; MN STAT 609.065 Justifiable Taking of Life; MN STAT 609.066 Authorized Use of Force by Peace Officers; MN STAT 626.8452 Deadly Force and Firearms Use; Policies and Instruction Required; and MN STAT 626.8475 Duty to Interceded and Report; Crookston Police Department - Use of Force Report Form | MODIFICATION DATE: August 20, 2025 |

I. PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Crookston Police Department to provide officers with guidelines for the use of force and deadly force in accordance with:

- A. MN STAT 609.06 AUTHORIZED USE OF FORCE;
- B. MN STAT 609.065 JUSTIFIABLE TAKING OF LIFE;
- C. MN STAT 609.066 AUTHORIZED USE OF FORCE BY PEACE OFFICERS.
- D. MN STAT 626.8452 DEADLY FORCE AND FIREARMS USE; POLICIES AND INSTRUCTION REQUIRED; and
- E. MN STAT 626.8475 DUTY TO INTERCEDE AND REPORT;

II. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of the Crookston Police Department to ensure officers respect the sanctity of human life when making decisions regarding use of force. Sworn law enforcement officers have been granted the extraordinary authority to use force when necessary to accomplish lawful ends. Officers shall treat everyone with dignity and without prejudice and use only the force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the safety of others and the officer.
- B. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
- C. Officers should exercise special care when interacting with individuals with known physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities as an individual's disability may affect the individual's ability to understand or comply with commands from peace officers.
- D. The decision by an officer to use force or deadly force shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about using such force.
- E. This policy is to be reviewed annually and any questions or concerns should be addressed to the immediate supervisor for clarification.
- F. This policy applies to all licensed peace officers and part-time peace officers engaged in the discharge of official duties.

III. Section (4) Procedure, paragraphs (g.1-2), are effective March 1, 2021 and thereafter.

IV. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all Crookston Police Department licensed and reserve officers engaged in the discharge of official duties whether within or outside the geographical boundaries of the City of Crookston.

V. DEFINITIONS

- A. Authorized Device: A device an officer has received permission from the agency to carry and use in the discharge of that officer's duties, and for which the officer has:
1. obtained training in the technical, mechanical and physical aspects of the device; and
 2. developed a knowledge and understanding of the law, rules and regulations regarding the use of such a device.
- B. Bodily Harm: Physical pain or injury.
- C. Choke Hold: A method by which a person applies sufficient pressure to a person to make breathing difficult or impossible, and includes but is not limited to any pressure to the neck, throat, or windpipe that may prevent or hinder breathing, or reduce intake of air. Choke hold also means applying pressure to a person's neck on either side of the windpipe, but not to the windpipe itself, to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries.
- D. Deadly Force: Force used by an officer that the officer knows, or reasonably should know, creates a substantial risk of causing death or great bodily harm. The intentional discharge of a firearm in the direction of another person, or at a vehicle in which another person is believed to be, constitutes deadly force.
- E. De-Escalation: Taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary. De-escalation may include the use of such techniques as command presence, advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical repositioning.
- F. Great Bodily Harm: Bodily injury which creates a high probability of death, or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or which causes a permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ or other serious bodily harm.
- G. Other-Than-Deadly Force: Force used by an officer that does not have the purpose of causing, nor create a substantial risk of causing, death or great bodily harm.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. General Provisions

1. Use of physical force should be discontinued when resistance ceases or when the incident is under control.
2. Physical force shall not be used against individuals in restraints, except as objectively reasonable to prevent their escape or prevent imminent bodily injury to the individual, the officer, or another person. In these situations, only the amount of force necessary to control the situation shall be used.
3. Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, an officer shall provide appropriate medical care consistent with his or her training to any individual who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. This may include providing first aid, requesting emergency medical services, and/or arranging for transportation to an emergency medical facility.

4. All uses of force shall be documented and investigated pursuant to this agency's policies.

B. Duty to Intercede

1. Regardless of tenure or rank, an officer must intercede when:
 - a. present and observing another officer using force in violation of section 609.066, subdivision 2, or otherwise beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances; and
 - b. physically or verbally able to do so.

C. Duty to Report

1. An officer who observes another officer use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law has the duty to report the incident in writing within 24 hours to the chief law enforcement officer, or designee, of the agency that employs the reporting officer.

D. De-escalation

1. An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his/her training whenever possible and appropriate before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force.
2. Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of another or the officer and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.

E. Use of Other-Than-Deadly Force

1. When de-escalation techniques are not effective or appropriate, an officer may consider the use of other-than-deadly force to control a non-compliant or actively resistant individual. An officer is authorized to use agency approved other-than-deadly force techniques and issued equipment in the following circumstances:
 - a. effecting a lawful arrest; or
 - b. the execution of a legal process; or
 - c. enforcing an order of the court; or
 - d. executing any other duty imposed upon the peace officer by law; or
 - e. defense of self or another.

F. Use of Certain Types of Force

1. Except in cases where deadly force is authorized as articulated in MN STAT. 609.066 to protect the peace officer or another from death or great bodily harm, officers are prohibited from using:
 - a. chokeholds;
 - b. tying all of a person's limbs together behind a person's back to render the person immobile; or
 - c. securing a person in any way that results in transporting the person face down in a vehicle.
2. Less than lethal measures must be considered by the officer prior to applying these measures.

G. Use of Deadly Force

1. An officer is authorized to use deadly force if an objectively reasonable officer would believe, based on the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time and

without the benefit of hindsight, that such force is necessary. Use of deadly force is justified when one or both of the following apply;

- a. To protect the peace officer or another from death or great bodily harm, provided that the threat:
 - 1) can be articulated with specificity by the law enforcement officer;
 - 2) is reasonably likely to occur absent action by the law enforcement officer; and
 - 3) must be addressed through the use of deadly force without unreasonable delay; or
 - b. To effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the peace officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony and the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or great bodily harm to another person under the threat criteria in paragraph (1a), items (1) to (3), unless immediately apprehended.
2. An officer shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger the person poses to self if an objectively reasonable officer would believe, based on the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time and without the benefit of hindsight, that the person does not pose a threat of death or great bodily harm to the peace officer or to another under the threat criteria in paragraph (1a), items (1) to (3).
 3. When feasible, the officer shall identify him/herself as a law enforcement officer and warn of his/her intent to use deadly force.
 4. In cases where deadly force is authorized, less than lethal measures must be considered first by the officer.

H. Display of Firearms

1. Firearms may be readied for use in situations where it is reasonably anticipated that they may be required.

I. Discharge of Firearms

1. The Chief of Police or designee will investigate all incidents in which an officer discharges a department issued firearm, on or off duty, except in the following circumstances:
 - a. The discharge of firearms on the department range and all other forms of target practice.
 - b. Sporting events, to include hunting and organized shooting matches.
 - c. The test firing of firearms.
 - d. Shooting animals when required.
2. Immediately following the discharge of a firearm, beyond the above exclusions, it will be the responsibility of the officer(s) involved to notify his/her immediate supervisor if available, or command staff. The supervisor will respond to the scene and immediately notify the Chief of Police, or designee if applicable. The following steps will be taken:
 - a. The scene will be protected as a crime scene and will be protected until cleared by a supervisor.
 - b. The officer's firearm will be collected and protected for examination.
 - c. When an officer is injured and has discharged his/her firearm, the firearm will be secured by his/her immediate supervisor or other command staff officer who will make the firearm available for examination.
 - d. When more than one officer has discharged a firearm in an incident, a ballistics examination of all firearms discharged will be conducted.

3. Minn. Stat. 626.553 requires the Chief of Police to report to the State Commissioner of Public Safety whenever a peace officer discharges a firearm in the course of duty, other than for the exemptions above. Written notification of the incident must be filed within 30 days of the incident with the State Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

J. Warning Shots

1. Warning shots shall not be fired.

K. Training

1. All officers shall receive training, at least annually, on this agency's use of force policy and related legal updates.
2. In addition, training shall be provided on a regular and periodic basis and designed to;
 - a. Provide techniques for the use of and reinforce the importance of de-escalation;
 - b. Simulate actual shooting situations and conditions; and
 - c. Enhance officers' discretion and judgement in using other than deadly force in accordance with this policy.
3. Before being authorized to carry a firearm all officers shall receive training and instruction with regard to the proper use of deadly force and to the agency's policies and State statutes with regard to such force. Such training and instruction shall continue on an annual basis.
4. Before carrying an authorized device all officers shall receive training and instruction in the use of the device including training as it relates to its use in deadly force and/or other-than-deadly force situations. Such training and instruction shall continue on an annual basis.
5. Officers will carry and use only authorized devices unless circumstances exist which pose an immediate threat to the safety of the public or the officer requiring the use of a device or object that has not been authorized to counter such a threat.
6. With agency approval officers may modify, alter or cause to be altered an authorized device in their possession or control.

L. Record Keeping Requirements

1. The chief law enforcement officer or designee shall maintain records of the agency's compliance with use of force training requirements.
2. An officer using non-deadly force beyond soft empty-hand techniques shall prepare a use of force report in addition to all other reports concerning the matter.
3. Supervisors shall review all incidents and reports involving the use of force and submit those reports to the Chief of Police or designee. Such reports shall contain the supervisor's evaluation as to whether the officer's actions complied with the provisions of this section.
4. If a supervisor is personally involved in the use of force, or deadly force, the Deputy Chief shall review and report to the Chief of Police.