



Richland Hills Police Department

Response to the 8 Can't Wait Campaign

The following are the 8 standards identified in the campaign and our related policies and procedures to reduce use of force incidents:

1. BAN CHOKE/STRANGLEHOLDS

"Application of choke holds or carotid holds are prohibited, except where the Officer reasonably believes they are the only means of protecting any person from an imminent threat of serious physical injury or death and deadly force is authorized."

-General Order 600.1.VI.A.1.

4. EXHAUST ALL OTHER MEANS BEFORE SHOOTING

When Officers use any level of force, they must only use necessary and objectively reasonable force and de-escalation methods. Deadly force is the final, and most extreme, force option available.

-General Order 600.1.IV.G.2.

-General Order 600.1.XI.C.1.

7. REQUIRE FORCE CONTINUUM

"Officers are prohibited from using force unreasonably."

-General Order 600.1.I.

The Department provides Officers with force options to use in response to a subject's resistance/aggression based on objective reasonableness and immediately existing circumstances.

-General Order 600.1.V.C.

2. REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

All Officers receive de-escalation technique training and instruction as required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and state statutes, and must use de-escalation techniques in any reasonable situation.

-General Order 600.1.XI.C.1.

-Required by Texas law (SB 1849)

5. OFFICER DUTY TO INTERVENE

"It is the duty of Officers to intervene or mitigate any situation where another Officer is using unnecessary force in violation of General Orders or applicable laws."

-General Order 600.1.V.A.

8. COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

Any application of force or show of force is documented on a formalized reporting form that is forwarded through the Chain of Command to the Chief of Police for review. Exceptions include those incidents arising during agency training events, departmental demonstrations, or off-duty recreational activities.

-General Order 600.1.IX.A.

-Written Directive 20-01-030

3. REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

"Where practicable, prior to discharge of a firearm, Officers shall identify themselves as Law Enforcement and state their intention to shoot."

-General Order 600.1.IV.G.2.

6. BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

"Firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle."

-General Order 600.1.IV.H.2.

"Officers shall not fire at or into a fleeing vehicle unless deadly force is justified."

-General Order 700.15.IV.K.4.