



Berkley Public Safety Video Update Part 6

In terms of policy procedure, what kinds of measures does our public safety department have in place to ensure all those alternative measures are exhausted before a potential shooting or use of deadly force?

Again, we teach de-escalation, I was going to use the term buzzword, I don't really like that, but it's been discussed a lot lately. We had a training video that was probably from the mid 90s and they talked about de-escalation, that is not something new to law enforcement. That is creating some time to give yourself some other alternatives, and also to give the person you are dealing with some time, because sometimes just taking a step back will work and we will do that when we have the time. Unfortunately, in this job sometimes we just do not have time to do that. You have to act right away. We train with all of our systems, we have some options: chemical spray, classical batons. I have yet to see a classical baton used in force, maybe it was in my former department or here, but typically that is not used. We also have tasers, which are very effective at stopping people. I took a five second hit on a taser when I trained in it, and it is very effective. The good part of the taser is for the most part once it's over it's over, it doesn't hurt anymore. When we use a chemical spray that has some after effects not long, it is very uncomfortable, but again it is not harmful. Back when I went to the academy or even not so distant time it was called a use of force continually it only went up. Now we teach it where it goes up and down, so it's not always going up, it comes down. We move down when we can, and when we need to move up when we have to. We are always looking to use the minimum amount of force possible. I worked in my former department where officers were ambushed where you just don't have time to do anything other than react, but a lot of times you have the time and that is what we try to teach.

Are there measures in place some of the larger national issues are, is the whole aspect of a bad apple, and if you don't report a bad apple then the whole lot are a bad apple. Moving away from analogies, more focus on the topic itself. Do we have protocols in place so that if officers see another officer conducting questionable acts or measures that there is an intervention or some form of step in place before serious harm is caused?

One of the biggest things we did here in Berkley, is prior to me coming here there were times where there was no supervisor working, the senior public safety officer working



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was in charge. First of all, risk management wise it was not a good thing, and also it was not fair to that officer, you are a boss one day then you are not. You do not have the training but you're expected to be a supervisor. Through the support of the City Council and City Administration starting last July, now have a supervisor working all the time. It's very important because we expect that supervisor to supervise and to keep their eye out for that. We have a duty to intervene policy, that policy states that if an officer sees another officer using excessive force or and a lot of duty and intervene, that's all they deal with is use of force, but if we see anything else that is either illegal or a threat to safety they are obligated to stop that officer and report it to a supervisor. We also went one further, we have a supervisor and we have civilians in the building, also we have dispatchers and some other civilians. Those civilians are also required, we can not really expect a civilian to intervene, but we do expect that's that civilian to report right away. Between supervision and the duty to intervene and report, that is our biggest thing but it's a daily thing. We are always looking to make sure our people are doing the right thing. It is not specific to use a force, it is specific to everything.