

**BOISE POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY**

1.000 Use of Force

1.001 Use of Force/Authorization

Force is a deliberate and intentional application of effort by a police officer on another person.

A police officer shall never employ unnecessary force or violence and shall use only such force in the discharge of duty as is objectively reasonable in all circumstances.

The decision to use force should be based on the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others, and whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight. While the use of force is occasionally unavoidable, every police officer shall refrain from unnecessary infliction of pain or suffering and shall never engage in cruel, degrading, or inhumane treatment of any person.

Under *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), Officers will only apply force reasonably believed to be necessary under the circumstances. When determining when to apply force, consider the totality of the circumstances including the following.

- Immediate threat of the suspect to the officer/(s) or public
- Level of resistance offered
- The severity of the crime

Force intentionally applied in excess of what is reasonably necessary, or in circumstances where there is no justification for its use, is an excessive application of force.

Officers will use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force when safe and feasible to do so based on the totality of the circumstances. This includes continually assessing the situation and modifying the use of force as circumstances change, consistent with officer safety.

Examples of de-escalation techniques include but are not limited to:

- Utilizing verbal skills and providing a warning prior to the use of force.
- Determining whether the officer may be able to stabilize the situation through the;
 - use of time, distance, or positioning to isolate and contain a subject,

**BOISE POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY**

- request of additional personnel to respond or make use of specialized units or equipment and alternate resources including crisis-intervention-team trained officers.

In the discharge of their duties an officer may encounter a dynamic situation requiring immediate action where time does not allow for the de-escalation techniques listed above.

[Click Here for Procedure](#)

1.002 Use of Force Application

Officers will use only authorized, methods of force consistent with accepted training applications when practicable.

If other methods are used, the officer shall specifically describe the actions taken, and articulate their reasoning for doing so in their report.

All officers involved in a reportable use of force incident shall provide detailed documentation in a BPD report.

Supervisors shall complete and forward all required supervisory review documents.

1.003 Use of Firearms in the Line of Duty

An officer shall be authorized to discharge firearms in the line of duty under the following conditions:

- To use their firearm to protect themselves or others from what they reasonably believes to be an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury.
- To use their firearm to affect the capture or prevent the escape of a felony suspect whose freedom is reasonably believed to represent a significant threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or other persons.
- During firearms training sessions as directed by the firearms instructors.
- To shoot an animal as outlined in Treatment of Animals.

An officer shall not discharge firearms:

- As a warning
- When the discharge of the weapon may unreasonably endanger the lives of persons not involved in the commission of the crime in progress.

1.004 Use of Firearms From and At a Moving Vehicle

An officer shall not discharge a firearm at a vehicle or its occupants in response to a threat posed solely by the vehicle, unless both of the following circumstances exist:

**BOISE POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY**

- The officer has an objectively reasonable belief the suspect poses a continuing threat of death or serious bodily injury to officer(s) or others; and
- The officer has no reasonable alternative course of action.

1.005 Section Intentionally left Blank

1.006 Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT)

Officers are authorized to utilize Intervention Techniques to stop a vehicle when the situation warrants it. Circumstances warranting the use of PIT or other forced stop methods shall be as follows:

- Continued movement of the suspect vehicle would place others in significant danger of serious bodily harm and is so great as to outweigh the risk of harm in making the forcible stop and
- Other means of apprehension have been considered and rejected as impractical.

[Click Here for Procedure](#)

1.007 Duty to Intervene

(New section created 8/25/2020 by Executive Order 2020-01)

The Boise Police Department recognizes and respects the value, integrity and sanctity of every human life. By vesting officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. It is the policy of the Boise Police Department that officers shall use force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officer or others. Officers shall use physical force in arrest and custody situations only in strict conformance with the United States Constitution, the Constitution and laws of Idaho, and this policy.

Officers have a duty to intervene to prevent the use of excessive force. Any officer present and observing another officer of any rank or experience, from this agency or an outside agency, using force that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstances must, when in a position to do so safely, intervene to prevent the use of excessive force. Officers must immediately report any excessive or unreasonable force to a supervisor. Supervisors must respond and document the incident. Retaliatory conduct against or interference with an employee who intervenes is prohibited. See City Policy Whistle blower protection 1.05.