

CYPRESS POLICE DEPARTMENT



WHERE WE STAND

A comprehensive look inside your Cypress Police
Department



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MARK LAUDERBACK

**The mission of the Cypress Police
Department is to provide professional public
safety services in partnership with our
community.**

I emphasize the word “partnership” in our mission statement because the Cypress Police Department values its strong relationship with our community and is committed to excellence. This commitment begins with hiring good men and women who embody our value system and reflect our diverse community. We continually invest in our officers’ professional training, particularly in crisis communications and de-escalation tactics that seek to minimize the use force. When our officers are required to use force, we provide any needed medical assistance and investigate the appropriateness of the force used. Lastly, we have invested in in-car cameras and audio recorders to provide an accurate record of our service.

The tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has understandably raised many questions regarding law enforcement and its stand on the use of force. Specific questions were raised by the many concerned people. We’ve heard these questions and want to show our community where we stand on these issues. Thank you for taking an interest in the safety of Cypress and remember we are #strongertogether.

STRANGLEHOLDS & CHOKEHOLDS

"Chokeholds" and "strangleholds" are not authorized for use by your Cypress Police Officers.

Previously, properly trained officers were permitted to use the carotid restraint to control a person who was "violently or physically resisting". The use of the carotid restraint was discontinued in June of 2020.



REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

The concept of de-escalation has been a fundamental principle in law enforcement for many decades and refers to any attempt by police officers to de-escalate persons in crisis. The tactics used include trying to slow things down, listening, being patient, empathetic, and attentive to the person.

While peaceful resolution of a crisis is always our goal, the reality is that de-escalation requires cooperation and while officers can do everything possible to to achieve de-escalation, if an individual does not cooperate with these efforts the officers must make choices based on the totality of the circumstances. Because of the many variables and circumstances that officers deal with in the course of their duties, requiring one course of action in every situation is problematic.

Cypress Police Officers are required to complete a four-hour interpersonal communication and de-escalation training certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer's Standards and Training (POST). Officers complete refresher training on this topic every two years.



WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

Police officers are frequently forced to make split-second decisions in tense, uncertain, rapidly evolving and dangerous situations. Courts across the nation acknowledge that the most significant factor in determining whether force used by an officer was reasonable is whether there was an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others. Before using deadly force, Cypress Police Officers are required, whenever feasible, to provide a warning that deadly force may be used (Penal Code 835a & Department Policy 300.4). The language of the law and our policy state that warning should be given when feasible, acknowledging that it is not always possible nor prudent for an officer to warn someone before using deadly force.





EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

Cypress Police Officers are permitted by California Penal Code 835(a), to use deadly force "only when necessary in defense of human life."

Asking police officers in those tense uncertain circumstances to exhaust any and all possible alternatives is simply not realistic when confronted with immediate threats and only split-seconds to make life and death decisions. We require our police officers to observe and perceive the totality of circumstances known to them and make a decision about what is reasonable action to take and then to take that action. As such, the law requires officers to make a reasonable decision - as opposed to requiring that they make the best decision. Requiring officers to always find the least obtrusive means to resolve any situation would be an impossible burden and would inevitably result in officers being reluctant to make any decision.

DUTY TO INTERVENE

The Cypress Police Department requires an officer who witnesses excessive force to intercede when in a position to do so.

Officers are subject to discipline for failing to intervene where the use of excessive force was apparent and the officer had the opportunity to intervene and failed to do so. Our policy also requires the witnessing officer to promptly report any observations of unreasonable force to their supervisor. This requirement is covered in our policy section 300.2.1.



BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

Cypress Police Officers are not forbidden from shooting at moving vehicles. However, we discourage this because shooting at a moving vehicle is rarely effective, and officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle when feasible. However events like the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack show that shooting at a moving vehicle may be necessary in extreme situations to protect public safety. This subject is covered under policy section 300.4.1.

REQUIRE USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

Officers must make decisions in tense and rapidly changing situations.

The use of force continuum is a dated concept in which officers were expected to attempt each type of force before moving to the next higher force method. Modern police officers are trained to use a more knowledgeable, practical, and science-based decision-making approach when determining to use force. Use of force is covered in policy section 300, and is consistent with California Penal Code 835a.



▶ REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

The Cypress Police Department requires officers to document any use of force thoroughly in a police report. Documentation requirements are covered under policy section 300.5.

▶ OUR POLICIES

Our entire department policy manual is available online [here](#).

▶ CONNECT WITH US

<https://www.cypressca.org/departments/police>

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Non-Emergency: 714-229-6600
For Emergencies: Dial 911

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