

# Sachse Police Department

2020



## Use of Force

## Analysis

## **Use of Force Analysis for 2020**

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Sachse Police Department's Use of Force for calendar year 2020. The Sachse Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. The Sachse Police Department is committed to protecting the rights of all persons and in using force only when necessary, and to the extent necessary, to achieve legal objectives. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.10 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete a legal objective. Police/citizen encounters can however, change instantly, and officers may be required to react quickly in using force to subdue a resisting subject. While officers prefer to escalate their level of force in an orderly manner in order to use the lowest level possible, the response of a subject may limit that ability and force officers to use whatever level of force is immediately available to protect themselves and the public.

## **Use of Force Reporting Requirements**

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.03 and Sachse Police Department General Order 647.00, requires a written report be completed anytime an officer uses force.

It is the policy of the department that all use of force incidents will be documented on the Use of Force Report Form and that each report shall be compiled into an annual report for evaluation. The data will be reviewed annually to determine trends, training needs, equipment needs, and potential policy deficiencies.

A Use of Force reporting form will be completed under the following circumstances:

1. An officer discharges a weapon on or off duty for any reason other than training or recreation.
2. An officer applies force.
3. An officer causes any injury to a suspect or other person.
4. An Officer displays firearm or Taser in the presence of another person.

Each individual Use of Force Report is immediately reviewed by the Officer's Supervisor, and through the Chain of Command to the Chief of Police. At the time of the incident, the Use of Force is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy and Law. If the officer used force inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required and the officer may receive additional training or in some cases discipline up to and including termination from employment. This analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment or supervision.

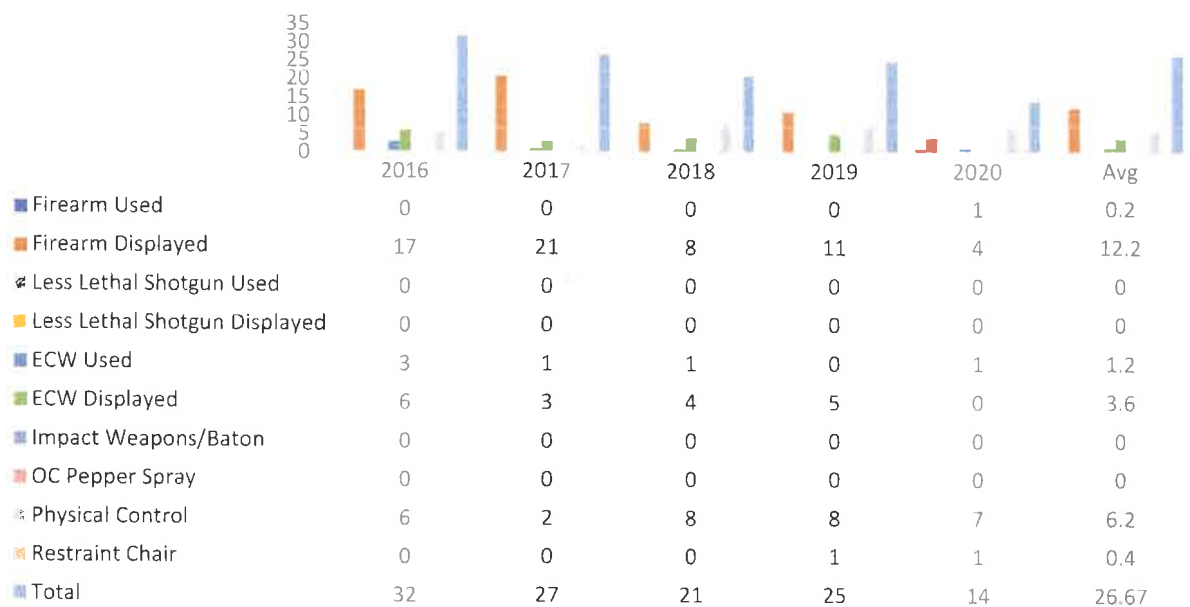
A copy of the use of force report is kept on file, where they are compiled and analyzed at the end of the year.

## Use of Force Comparison 2019/2020

There were a total of 14 Reported Uses of Force this year compared to 25 last year. This represents a difference of -11 or a 44 percent decrease. There were a total of 12,431 citizen contacts this year (call response, traffic stops, and other contacts) which creates an index of only one Use of Force for every 887.9 citizen contacts, compared to 896.2 in 2019.

The Use of Force incidents are listed below by type with comparison to the previous year.

	2019	2020	Difference
Firearm Used	0	1	1
Firearm Displayed	11	4	-7
Less Lethal Shotgun Used	0	0	0
Less Lethal Shotgun Displayed	0	0	0
ECW Used	0	1	1
ECW Displayed	5	0	-5
Impact Weapons/Baton	0	0	0
OC Pepper Spray	0	0	0
Physical Control	8	7	-1
Restraint Chair	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-11</b>



2020 shows a decrease in the total number of use of force incidents (-11), primarily in the number of firearms displayed incidents (-7).

In reviewing the five year trend, all of the categories fall within a reasonable margin of the average.

### **Individual Officer Use of Force**

The total number of Officers using force differs from the total number of force incidents, because often there are more than one officer present in a force incident, such as a felony traffic stop. There were 14 use of force incidents as of December 31, 2020. There were 16 different officers involved in at least 1 use of force incident. Out of the 16 officers, 9 were involved in more than 1 use of force incident. While each individual's use of force is reviewed immediately after the event to ensure it is in compliance with department policy and law, patterns of behavior can also indicate the need for additional training or supervision. Officers can have significantly different frequencies in their use of force depending on the crime activity in the part of the city where they are assigned, their type of assignment, the time of day they work and their experience level.

Individual officers in the department who had a significantly higher rate of using force were reviewed and found to be in compliance with department directives and their use of force appropriate under the circumstances.

No Officers were found to have any use of force related policy violations in 2020.

### **Firearms**

In 2020, Sachse Police Officers used a firearm 1 time during an arrest or other incident. A firearm was used to euthanize a seriously injured cow when no other means of euthanasia was available. Firearms are by definition Deadly Force, and their use is very restricted. Officers must comply with not only their intensive training, but with the department's Deadly Force Policy and state law. When an officer fires their weapon in the line of duty, whether or not an individual is hit, a detailed investigation is undertaken to determine if that use was in compliance with both policy and law.

### **Firearms display**

The Sachse Police Department also tracks the mere display of a firearm, if done in the presence of another individual, such as a citizen or suspect. Examples of such would include high risk

traffic stops or building searches. In 2020 there were 4 instances where a firearm was displayed, a decrease of (-7) from 2019.

### **Non/Less Lethal Weapon**

In 2020, Sachse Police Officers used department issued non or less lethal Weapon 0 times during an arrest or other incident.

The department has a number of less lethal munitions available that can be fired from specially designed firearms to inflict surprise, pain or trauma that is less severe than the use of deadly force. These less lethal munitions include bean bag rounds and exact impact sponge rounds. While these rounds are designed as a less lethal option, they are still able to cause significant damage to an individual and are used only as a last resort when time and opportunity permit.

### **Conducted Electronic Weapon**

In 2020, Sachse Police Officers discharged department issued Conducted Electronic Weapons 1 time during an arrest or other incident.

Conducted Electronic Weapons are pistol type devices that fire two small darts designed to imbed themselves in the skin or clothing of a resisting or combative suspect. The darts are connected to the device by small flexible wires which transmit a short, 5 second, high voltage/low amperage charge through the darts. This causes disruption of muscle activity and is accompanied by pain which often temporarily disables the individual. There are usually no long term side effects of the use of the device on healthy individuals.

The Sachse Police Department trains their officers in the proper and appropriate use of Conducted Electronic Weapons and has policies designed to only allow the use of the CEW against active aggression toward officers and not in cases of passive non-compliance or as punishment of any kind.

Included in the category are those incidents where the use of a CEW was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of a CEW was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

In 0 instance this year, the display of a CEW was sufficient to bring the person under control. In 1 instance the use of a CEW brought the subject under control when a lower level of force was insufficient. In 0 instances, the actual use of a CEW was insufficient and a higher level of force was required.

### **Impact Weapons / Baton**

In 2020, Sachse Police Officers used department issued impact weapon 0 times during an arrest or other incident.

Impact weapons include the use of the department issued ASP Baton, the use of a closed fist or any other implement that was used to deliver a strike to a person.

The department issues and trains officers in the use of the ASP collapsible baton. Training is provided to instruct officers in the proper placement of strikes that will temporarily stun an opponent allowing the officer time to complete handcuffing. Baton tactic training provided by the department avoids the use of any strikes directed at the head of an individual. If an officer does not have the time or opportunity to deploy the ASP or other less-lethal options, officers may have to defend themselves with their bare hands.

### **OC Pepper Spray**

In 2020, Sachse Police Officers used department issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray agent 0 times during an arrest or other incident.

Oleoresin Capsicum is a chemical compound derived from various pepper plants and is mixed with a propellant that is used by many law enforcement agencies as a less-lethal alternative to higher and more injury producing levels of force. The chemical spray is usually directed at a resisting subject's face and the spray immediately causes a burning of the eyes, nose, and mouth causing the subject to close their eyes and in most cases stops any physical resistance. The burning will usually dissipate within 30 minutes and most often has no long term effects.

### **Physical Control**

In 2020, Sachse Police Officers used physical control 7 times during incidents.

Included in this category are those incidents requiring only physical force to complete handcuffing or bring a resisting subject under control. If physical control was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

In 7 instances this year, physical control was sufficient to bring the person under control. In 1 instance, physical control was insufficient and a higher level of force was required (ECW used).

Included in this category are all those instances where simple use of or issuance of verbal commands was not sufficient or effective. It includes those instances where officers place their hands on a subject and use more force than simply a strong grip, forcibly handcuffing a person, the use of pressure point control tactics or other soft hand techniques. This category also includes taking the person to the ground in order to forcibly handcuff them.

## **Restraint Chair**

During 2020, the Sachse Police Department used the jail restraint chair 1 time. Subject was aggressive and threatened to physically assault officers during an arrest and while being transported into the jail. When processing the subject, he was uncooperative, threatening, and aggressive towards officers. Subject was placed in restraint chair to protect himself and officers from injury.

The restraint chair is a purpose built chair with integrated nylon restraints designed to restrain combatant prisoners in a safe and humane way.

## **Citizen and Internal Complaints Regarding the Use of Force**

During 2020, the Sachse Police Department received no complaints of unnecessary or inappropriate use of force

## **General Observations**

In general, the Sachse Police Department had a relatively low rate of use of force incidents. The Department averages 0.93 use of force incident per officer and 1.16 incidents Department wide per month. This low rate can be attributed to several factors, such as the training of our Officers and a relatively low crime rate in the city.

Additionally, the Department conducted defensive tactics training during in-service training this year.

## Recommendations

Based on the finding of this analysis, there are no recommended changes to our current policies or training plan.

Compiled and submitted by:

  
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Steven Doerr

03-03-21  
Date

Assistant Chief Review:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Baxter

3/4/2021  
Date

Chief Review:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Sylvester

3-4-21  
Date