



# WHERE WE STAND

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A comprehensive look at your  
Texarkana, Texas Police Department...



## BAN CHOKEHOLDS AND STRANGLEHOLDS

The use of “chokeholds” and “strangleholds” are not authorized for use by your Texarkana Texas Police Officers.

The carotid hold is classified as deadly force and properly trained officers may use it only in self defense or in defense of a third party when it reasonably appears that there is imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death. It cannot be used in subduing a belligerent person unless the imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury is present to the officer or a third party. As with any use of force, the officer must immediately provide any necessary medical assistance, notify their supervisor, and complete a report that will be reviewed by their chain of command—including the Chief of Police.

## REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION

Your Texarkana Texas Police Department trains all of its officers in de-escalation techniques.

Every two years, our officers are required to attend an eight-hour De-Escalation Tactics training that is certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. They also have received forty hours of Crisis Intervention training. These training courses are in addition to the fifty-six hours of critical incident training that all new officers receive during the 20-week basic police academy. Upon graduation, our Field Training Officers (FTO) help provide these new officers with opportunities to appropriately apply the principles learned in the classroom to real world situations.



## REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE SHOOTING

A warning that deadly force will be used is not required but should be given when time allows. This is addressed in General Order 6.01.1.



# REQUIRE TO EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING

Texarkana Texas Police Officers are bound by Section 9.51 in Title 2 of the Texas Penal Code, which says that peace officers may only use deadly force if they believe the conduct for which they are attempting to arrest someone included the use or attempted use of deadly force, or the officer reasonably believes there is a substantial risk that the person will kill or seriously hurt someone if they don't take immediate action.

In determining whether deadly force is necessary, officers are required to evaluate the situation in light of the particular circumstances of each case and to use other available resources and techniques if reasonably safe and feasible to an objectively reasonable person. That standard means that the officer is only required to use non-deadly force if it is reasonably safe and feasible for them to do it without endangering their own life or the lives of others.



## DUTY TO INTERVENE

The Texarkana Texas Police Department requires an officer who sees excessive force to intervene when in a position to do so.

The policy also requires the officer to promptly report their observations to a supervisor. Use of excessive force is not tolerated in any manner. These situations are taken seriously and will be thoroughly investigated. If any violations are discovered, swift disciplinary action will be taken.



## BAN SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES

Texarkana Texas Police Officers are forbidden from shooting at moving vehicles—except when absolutely necessary to save the life of the officer or someone else. Shooting at a moving vehicle is usually ineffective, and officers have been trained to move out of the path of the vehicle if possible.

Shooting at a moving vehicle is extremely rare, but incidents like the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California in 2015 show that they may be necessary to protect lives in those extraordinary situations. This topic is covered in Section 6.05.1 of our General Order Manual.

## REQUIRE USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

Officers are required to make decisions in rapidly changing situations.

The Use of Force Continuum is a decades old concept that has now given way to more knowledgeable, science-based use of force training and policies. Use of Force is covered in Chapter 6 of the General Orders Manual.



## REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

The Texarkana Texas Police Department requires officers to thoroughly document any use of force in a police report. Documentation requirements are covered in Chapter 6 of the General Orders Manual.

Our General Orders Manual is available online at [www.TexarkanaPolice.net](http://www.TexarkanaPolice.net).

## CONNECT WITH US

[WWW.TexarkanaPolice.net](http://WWW.TexarkanaPolice.net)

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