

USE OF FORCE REPORTING

The National Use-of-Force Data Collection is a component of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program that is used by law enforcement agencies to report a law enforcement use of force that results in a fatality, serious bodily injury to a person, or the discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a person.

The reporting criteria is based on three types of law enforcement contact with the public:

- Calls for service
- Officer initiated
- Court/bailiff activities

The definition of serious bodily injury is based in part on 18 United States Code 2246 (4): The term serious bodily injury means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

The definition of firearm is based on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives definition, 18 U.S. 921 (a) (3): The term firearm means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Firearms discharged at or in the direction of a person with less lethal munitions, such as beanbags, pepper balls, and rubber bullets are excluded. In addition, electronic control weapons are not to be considered firearms.

*Any information available for an incident should be reported within 48-72 hours of occurrence even if it is still being investigated. Any sections marked “**Pending further investigation**” should be completed once additional information is obtained. Regardless of status, all incidents must be reported by the 15th day of the following month.

Multi-Agency Reporting

When there is more than one agency who has an officer involved in a Use of Force incident, only those agencies whose officer(s) applies force which meets the Use of Force reporting criteria must submit a report.

I.E.- An armed robbery is reported, and three different agencies (Agency A, B & C) respond to the scene. Upon arriving, the two suspects are located, and both refuse to comply with the officer's command to put down their weapons. Gunfire is exchanged between the officers and both suspects, during which one suspect is killed and one is seriously injured. Following the initial on-scene investigation, it is determined that only two of the three officers (Agency A & C) fired their weapons. Based on the injuries to the suspects and the discharge of the officers' weapon, this meets the criteria for Use of Force reporting. Only Agencies A & C are required to submit a Use of Force report.