#1 Require De-Escalation

Your deputies are required to de-escalate when possible, before using force.

Napa Sheriff’s Office personnel regularly train in de-escalation techniques, both through a required 3-day Crisis Intervention Training program as well as during monthly firearms training, arrest and control training and numerous types of cultural awareness training.

#2 Use of Force

Continuum or Matrix

The use of force continuum is an aged methodology that we have moved past. NSO Policy 300.3 restricts the deputies’ ability to use only the amount of force that appears to be reasonably necessary based on the facts and circumstances of that particular situation. This is in line with the standards established in 2019 via the passage of AB392.
#3 Carotid Restraint

Napa County Sheriff’s Office will no longer train Deputies in the application of the carotid restraint.

As of June 5, 2020 and in compliance with newly formulated P.O.S.T. standards, the Napa County Sheriff’s Office will no longer train Deputies in the application of the carotid restraint. Additionally, Napa Sheriff’s Deputies are no longer permitted to use the Carotid Restraint other than in those circumstances that would warrant the application of deadly force.

#4 Require Verbal Warnings

Your deputies are required to give a verbal warning when possible, before the use of deadly force.

This is a standard that has been in effect across the country via Tennessee v. Garner (1985) and reinforced in the western states via Deorle v. Rutherford (2001). It is also consistently and constantly addressed in firearms training. NSO Policy 300.4(b) requires a deputy to warn that deadly force may be used prior to the use of deadly force, where feasible.
#5 Prohibit Shooting at Moving Vehicles

Your Deputies are taught that shooting at vehicles is rarely effective.

NSO Policy #300.4.1 recognizes that shooting at a moving vehicle is rarely effective. Deputies are trained not to put themselves in the path of a vehicle when possible and to move out of the way of an oncoming vehicle rather than shooting at the vehicle or their occupants.

#6 Require to Exhaust All Reasonable Alternatives Before Resorting to Deadly Force

Your Napa County Sheriff Deputies are required to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before resorting to deadly force.

This is addressed in NSO Policy # 300.3.2. Deputies are trained that when evaluating the factors present which assist in determining whether to apply force and what type of force would be reasonable, they are to assess the availability of other reasonable and feasible options and their possible effectiveness.
#7 Duty to Intervene

Require deputies to intervene to stop another deputy from using excessive force.

NSO Policy #300.2.1 describes the deputy’s duty to intercede. Napa County Sheriff’s deputies are required to intervene to prevent the application of excessive force and are also required to promptly report any application of excessive force to a supervisor.

#8 Require Comprehensive Reporting of the Use of Force

Your deputies are required to promptly, completely and accurately report any use of force.

NSO Policy 300.5 requires deputies to promptly, completely and accurately report any use of force. Any officer involved shooting is thoroughly investigated by the Napa County Major Crimes Task Force, which is comprised of members of each law enforcement agency in Napa County, including investigators from the Napa County District Attorney’s Office. At the conclusion of the investigation, each incident is reviewed by the Napa County District Attorney.

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countyofnapa.org/sheriff
1535 Airport Blvd, Napa, CA. 94558
Non-Emergency Dispatch: (707) 253-4440

@NapaSheriff