

Use of Force Incidents ~ 2015

The University of New Hampshire Police Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life. In vesting police officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. Therefore, it is the policy of this department that police officers shall use only that force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer or another.

In **2015**, the University of New Hampshire Police Department reported twenty-six (26) use-of-force incidents by its personnel – two (2) of which were due to euthanizing animals. A total of nine (9) different officers were identified as applying force during the course of their duties. In two (2) of the instances, where force was necessary, a TASER was displayed. In one (1) instance, a TASER was deployed. All three (3) events involving a TASER were reviewed by means of the cameras attached to the TASER units – and the deployment of force was both judicious and appropriate in all three (3) events. Of the twenty-four (24) reported instances whereby force was used against an individual(s), the application of said force was reviewed both by certified use-of-force instructors, as well as the executive management of the University of New Hampshire Police Department. These reviews were conducted to make certain the deployment of force was done within the strictest and most reasonable parameters of law, administrative rule, and department standard operating procedures.

The University of New Hampshire Police Department holds its personnel to the standards set forth in NH RSA 625:5 titled Physical Force in Law Enforcement, and it is this objective standard against which all instances of the use-of-force are gauged.

Of the twenty-four (24) times personnel deployed force to affect an arrest and/or bring an incident under control, all were deemed an appropriate and judicious use-of-force. The vast majority of those events involving parties taking flight upon either being approached or during an interaction with our police personnel and they are ultimately taken into custody. These events are still documented as uses-of-force, while not necessarily being dynamic events between members of the public and our Officers. We maintain it is in the interest of complete transparency that every event, no matter how seemingly inconsequential, be documented and accounted for. To this end, none of the reviews resulted in findings whereby fault could be assigned to an Officer or Officer(s).

It should be noted, during the 2015 calendar year, the University of New Hampshire Police Department made 619 arrests. Of those 619 arrests, University of New Hampshire Police Department personnel used physical force twenty-four (24) times meaning force was utilized during approximately 3.9% of the interactions.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Dean
Chief of Police

