



# UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Use of Force Incidents ~ 2014

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 2014, the University of New Hampshire Police Department reported fourteen (14) use-of-force incidents by its personnel – two (2) of which took place during a civil disturbance in the City of Keene and one of those two detailed the deployment of a dispersal tool, *i.e.* not the physical application of force upon an individual person. A total of nine (9) different officers were identified as applying force during the course of their duties. In two (2) of the instances whereby force was necessary, a TASER was deployed, and the event was able to be reviewed by means of the cameras attached to the TASER units – and the deployment of force was both judicious and appropriate. Of the fourteen (14) reported instances whereby force was used, 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 fourteen (14) times personnel deployed force to effect an arrest and/or bring an incident under control, all were deemed an appropriate and judicious use-of-force. None of the results resulted in findings whereby fault could be assigned to an Officer or Officer(s).

It should be noted, during the 2014 calendar year, the University of New Hampshire Police Department made 599 arrests. Of those 599 arrests, University of New Hampshire Police Department personnel used physical force thirteen (13) times (excluding the deployment of force during civil disturbances) meaning force was utilized during approximately 2.2% of the interactions.