



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



## **Deputy Involved Shootings (DIS)**

### **Use of Deadly Force**

Department members may use deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others, only when they reasonably believe that death or serious physical injury is about to be inflicted upon themselves or others.

### **Reverence for Human Life**

As leaders on the Sheriff's Department, all members shall view their duties in the context of safety for themselves and others, with an emphasis on respect, professionalism, and reverence for human life, even when force is required.

### **Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC)**

The Executive Force Review Committee is comprised of three Area Commanders, one whom shall be designated as the Chairperson by the Professional Standards Division Chief. The Executive Force Review Committee shall evaluate every shooting and force incident wherein the activation of an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force/Shooting Team is required.

### **Critical Incident Review Panel (CIRP)**

The Critical Incident Review Panel (CIRP) shall perform timely preliminary analyses of critical incidents (such as deputy-involved shootings, in-custody deaths in the patrol environment, any application of deadly force, or any other major incident identified by the panel, the Sheriff, or Department managers holding the rank of Captain/Director or above), and shall identify, recommend, and/or implement (where appropriate) risk management strategies to ensure best practices and limit the Department's exposure to liability.

### **Use of Firearms and Deadly Force**

The Department's policy on use of firearms and deadly force is:

- Discharging a firearm at another human being is an application of deadly force and must, therefore, be objectively reasonable. Each Department member discharging a firearm must establish independent reasoning for using deadly force. The fact that other law enforcement personnel discharge firearms is not by itself sufficient to justify the decision by a Department member to shoot.
- Department members may use deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others, only when they reasonably believe that death or serious physical injury is about to be inflicted upon themselves or others.

- Department members may use deadly force to effect the arrest or prevent the escape of a fleeing felon only when they have probable cause to believe that the suspect represents a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the member or other person(s). If feasible, members shall identify themselves and state their intention to shoot before firing at a fleeing felon.
- The firing of warning shots is inherently dangerous. They should not be fired except under the most compelling circumstances. Warning shots may be fired in an effort to stop a person only when the Department member is authorized to use deadly force, and if the member reasonably believes a warning shot can be fired safely in light of all the circumstances of the encounter.
- Cover fire is defined as target specific controlled fire which is directed at an adversary who poses an immediate and on-going lethal threat. This tactic shall only be utilized when the use of deadly force is legally justified. Target acquisition and communication are key elements in the successful use of this tactic. Department members employing cover fire must establish their reason(s) for utilizing this tactic.

## **Shooting Incidents Categories**

### **Hit Shooting Incident**

An event consisting of one instance or related instances of shots (excluding stunbags) fired by a deputy(s) in which one or more deputies intentionally fire at and hit one or more people (including bystanders).

### **Non-Hit Shooting Incident**

An event consisting of one instance or related instances of shots (excluding stunbags) fired by a deputy(s) in which one or more deputies intentionally fire at a person(s), but hit no one.

### **Warning Shot Incident**

An event consisting of an instance of a deputy(s) intentionally firing a warning shot(s), including instances in which someone is hit by the round.

Note: If a deputy fires a warning shot and then decides to fire at a person, the incident is classified as either a hit or non-hit shooting incident.

### **Animal Shooting Incident**

An event in which a deputy(s) intentionally fires at an animal to protect himself/herself or the public or for humanitarian reasons, including instances in which a person is hit by the round.

### **Unintentional Discharge Incident**

An event in which a single deputy discharges a round accidentally, including instances in which someone is hit by the round.

Note: If two deputies accidentally discharge rounds, each is considered a separate accidental discharge incident.

### Shooting Incident Other

An event consisting of an instance or related instances of a deputy(s) intentionally firing a firearm but not at a person, excluding warning shots (e.g., car tire, street light, etc.)

Note: If a deputy fires at an object and then decides to fire at a person. The incident is classified as either a hit or non-hit shooting incident.

### Weapon Involved Categories

With respect to whether or not a weapon was involved in the incident, shootings are now classified according to the following categories and subsets.

**Example:** *A suspect fires a firearm at a deputy and a deputy involved shooting occurs. This deputy involved shooting would be categorized as a Category A, subset 2, described in the narrative as "A-2."*

#### Category A – Firearm

- 1 – Suspect armed with firearm – firearm recovered
- 2 – Suspect armed with firearm – suspect fired at deputy
- 3 – Suspect may have been armed with firearm – deputy saw firearm but firearm not recovered
- 4 – Perception shooting – suspect's actions and/or other information suggest suspect was armed with a firearm, but firearm was not seen and not recovered

#### Category B – Weapon other than firearm (knife, vehicle, etc.)

- 1 – Suspect armed with weapon – weapon recovered
- 2 – Suspect armed with weapon – suspect used weapon to assault deputy
- 3 – Suspect may have been armed with weapon – deputy saw weapon, but weapon was not recovered
- 4 – Perception shooting – suspect's actions and/or information suggest suspect was armed with a weapon, but weapon was not seen and not recovered

#### Category C – Struggle over deputy's weapon

- 1 – Suspect attempted to disarm deputy

#### Category D – No firearm or other weapon involved in the incident

#### Category E – Fleeing suspect whom the deputy had probable cause to believe posed a threat of serious physical harm either to the deputy or others (Tennessee v Garner)

- 1 – This would cover a situation in which a suspect committed a violent assault and was fleeing, and it was not confirmed that the suspect was armed while fleeing