



## **Largo Police Department**

**Jeffrey K. Undestad, Chief of Police**

The Largo Police Department is committed to providing professional and honorable service with an obligation to respect the lives and welfare of all individuals.

As a State- and Nationally-Accredited agency, the Largo Police Department is committed to the highest standards and ensures methods for [commendation and complaint procedures](#), [bias-based policing](#), and [reporting to Internal Affairs](#). Bias-based practices establish that every individual regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, background, age, or culture deserves the highest level of service available and equal treatment under the law.

In an effort to promote transparency, the Largo Police Department has added information on [Largo.com/Police](#) to help answer commonly asked questions related to the response to resistance by officers. The Largo Police Department and the City of Largo are actively looking for community partners to assist in facilitating conversations on the topic of equity and individual perspectives with our residents.

Please visit [Largo.com/police](#) and choose [“Policies”](#) under related pages. Any additional questions may be directed to [policeinfo@largo.com](mailto:policeinfo@largo.com).

### **RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE**

- 1) **REQUIRE DE-ESCALATION:** The Largo Police Department requires de-escalation a core principle of [Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance](#)
  - a) The lawful execution of legal duties requires the reasonable application of force in those situations that cannot otherwise be controlled, where de-escalation and all reasonable alternatives to the use of force have been exhausted or would be ineffective. Only that force which is reasonable and necessary to accomplish lawful objectives will be used in compliance with this directive and legal requirements.
  - b) De-escalation: The strategic slowing down of an incident in a manner that allows officers more time, distance, space, and tactical flexibility during dynamic situations on the street.
  - c) TASERS may be used upon a subject who is threatening self-harm if the person has the apparent ability to do so. Other force options and de-escalation techniques should be utilized first when appropriate.
- 2) **REQUIRE A USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM:** The Largo Police Department incorporates a Recommended Response to Resistance/Levels of Resistance Matrix into [Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance](#)
  - a) There are innumerable situations that require officers to use less lethal force to lawfully perform their duties. In order to provide guidance for proper response to resistance decision making, the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission Use of Force/Resistance Level matrix is incorporated to demonstrate proper responses to varied levels of resistance.

- b) Resistance Levels are identified as Presence, Verbal Resistance, Passive Physical Resistance, Active Physical Resistance, Aggressive Physical Resistance, and Aggravated Physical Resistance.
- c) Officer Response Levels are identified as:
  - i) Level 1- Officer Presence
  - ii) Level 2- Communication (De-escalation, Verbal Direction, Touch)
  - iii) Level 3- Physical Control (Restraint Devices, Transporters, Take Downs, Pain Compliance, Counter Moves)
  - iv) Level 4- Intermediate Weapons
  - v) Level 5- Incapacitating Control
  - vi) Level 6- Deadly Force
- d) Authorized Less Lethal Weapons
  - i) Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray is authorized for use in situations involving acts of active, aggressive, or aggravated physical resistance to prevent or minimize injury to the officer or others.
  - ii) The Autolock Expandable Baton is authorized for use in situations involving active, aggressive, or aggravated physical resistance to prevent or minimize injury to the officer or others.
  - iii) The deployment of a TASER is a serious use of force and will be utilized in compliance with Florida State Statute 943.1717. The TASER may be considered for use in arrest or custodial situations during which the person who is the subject of the arrest or custody escalates resistance to the officer from passive physical resistance to active physical resistance or higher AND the person:
    - (1) Has the apparent ability to physically threaten the officer or others; or
    - (2) Is attempting to flee or escape when other response to resistance options have been or would likely be ineffective.
  - iv) The Less Lethal Modified Remington 870 Bean Bag Weapon is authorized in situations involving active, aggressive, or aggravated physical resistance to prevent or minimize injury to the officer or others.

		Largo Police Department									
		Recommended Use of Force/Levels of Resistance Matrix									
		1	2	3	4	5	6				
		Officer Presence	Communication	Physical Control	Intermediate Weapons	Incapacitation	Deadly Force				
Resistance Levels	6. Aggravated Physical	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	5. Aggressive Physical	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	4. Active Physical	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	3. Passive Physical	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2. Verbal Resistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	1. Presence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Arrival Interview Stance	De-escalation Verbal Direction Touch	Restraint Devices Transporters Take Downs Pain Compliance Counter Moves	Intermediate Weapons	Incapacitation	Deadly Force				
		Response Levels									



- 3) **BAN CHOKEHOLDS AND STRANGLEHOLDS:** The Largo Police Department Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance Section IV (H) prohibits the use of chokeholds, strangleholds, or neck restraints except in cases where aggravated physical resistance (deadly force) is encountered.
- 4) **REQUIRE WARNING BEFORE USING DEADLY FORCE:** Largo Police Department Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance addresses the issuance of warning prior to the use of deadly force:
  - a) The use of deadly force is predicated upon an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm. With this restriction in mind, officers will make every effort to provide verbal warnings prior to the use of deadly force unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- 5) **RESTRICT SHOOTING AT MOVING VEHICLES:** Largo Police Department Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance addresses shooting at moving vehicles:
  - a) Firing at or from a moving vehicle is prohibited unless the occupants represent a direct threat to the life of an officer or other person.
- 6) **REQUIRE OFFICERS TO EXHAUST ALL ALTERNATIVES BEFORE SHOOTING:** Largo Police Department Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance addresses the use of deadly force:
  - a) Authorized Uses of Lethal Force:
    - i) When the officer reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to the officer or another person.
    - ii) To prevent the escape of a person whom the officer has the strongest probable cause to believe has committed a forcible felony, and if allowed to escape, would pose an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to the officer or another person after all reasonable means of apprehension have been exhausted.
  - b) Restrictions on the Use of Lethal Force:
    - i) Warning Shots are prohibited.
    - ii) Officers are not permitted to utilize deadly force based upon mere suspicion along that a crime, no matter how serious, has been committed, or mere suspicion alone that a pursued person committed the crime.
    - iii) Officers are not permitted to utilize deadly force to prevent the destruction or theft of property, or the flight of a person to avoid arrest except for forcible felonies who pose an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm.
    - iv) The discharge of a firearm in the direction of any person shall be to neutralize an imminent threat or to stop the target person. In order to maximize effectiveness and minimize danger to innocent bystander, officers should shoot at the center of body mass unless the officer's specialized training and circumstances warrant otherwise.
    - v) Every reasonable precaution must be taken to minimize danger to uninvolved parties when deadly force is applied.
- 7) **DUTY TO INTERVENE:** Largo Police Department Directives 1-1: Philosophy of Policing Ethical Standards and 4-1: Response to Resistance addresses a member's duty to intervene.



- a) If a member observes unethical, improper, or unlawful behavior by a colleague, she/he is required to determine the facts, attempt to rectify the situation, and if appropriate, report the incident to their immediate supervisor or the Office of Professional Standards for investigation and action. Members who fail to take legally prescribed action when confronted with misconduct share the burden of guilt.
  - b) In accordance with Directive 1-1: Philosophy of Policing and Ethical Standards, all members of the Largo Police Department have an ethical, moral, and legal duty to intervene and stop the use of any force outside of the guidelines presented in this directive.
- 8) **REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING:** Largo Police Department Directive 4-1: Response to Resistance establishes procedures for comprehensive reporting.
- a) In addition to required offense reports, Response to Resistance Reports are required in the following circumstances:
    - i) The discharge of a firearm, on or off duty, intentionally or accidentally, other than for training or lawful recreational activities.
    - ii) Actions are taken that result in, or is alleged to result in, the injury or death of another person.
    - iii) Force is applied through the use of any weapon
    - iv) Physical force is applied at any level above non-resistive handcuffing, including pointing a firearm or TASER at another person or the use of a Spit Sock Hood.
  - b) A Response to Resistance Report will be independently completed by each officer who applies force in an incident and submitted prior to the termination of their tour of duty when force was used.
  - c) Irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries, as soon as possible following an incident requiring the completion of a Response to Resistance Report, a supervisor will be notified.
  - d) As soon as possible following the stabilization of response to resistance incidents, all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that any injured parties receive appropriate medical assistance, including but not limited to the provision of aid up to the member's level of training and summoning Fire Rescue.
  - e) In addition to the requirements to photograph subjects against whom certain weapons have been used, any injuries or areas where injuries are alleged will be carefully photographed.
  - f) Response to Resistance Reports will be reviewed by supervisors in the submitting officer's chain of command. If the supervisor concludes that the response to resistance was proper, he/she will sign the sheet and forward it to the next level of supervision. If the supervisor concludes that the response to resistance was improper, he/she will initiate corrective action.
  - g) Response to Resistance Reports will be forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards where the Internal Affairs Sergeant will conduct a documented review and the reports compiled for statistical analysis
  - h) Annually, in January, the Office of Professional Standards Lieutenant will conduct an administrative review and analysis of policies, practices, and the Response to Resistance Reports required under this section from the previous year to discover any trends indicating training needs, equipment changes, or directive revisions.



### Total Arrests by Demographics

	2018	2019	% Change
White Non-Hispanic Male	1577	1370	-13%
White Non-Hispanic Female	643	558	-13%
Black Non-Hispanic Male	568	532	-6%
Black Non-Hispanic Female	125	120	-4%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Male	202	197	-2%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Female	69	51	-26%
Other Male	29	24	-17%
Other Female	11	4	-64%
Total	3224	2856	-11%

### Total Response to Resistance Arrests

	2018	2019	% Change
White Non-Hispanic Male	105	100	-5%
White Non-Hispanic Female	20	24	20%
Black Non-Hispanic Male	60	40	-33%
Black Non-Hispanic Female	11	9	-18%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Male	8	7	-13%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Female	1	4	300%
Other Male	0	2	200%
Other Female	0	0	0%
Total	205	186	-9%

### Percent Arrest Involving Response to Resistance

	2018	2019	Change
	6%	7%	2%

### Non-fatal Injuries to Citizens

	2018	2019	% Change



White Non-Hispanic Male	50	40	-20%
White Non-Hispanic Female	6	4	-33%
Black Non-Hispanic Male	21	13	-38%
Black Non-Hispanic Female	0	1	100%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Male	3	4	33%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Female	1	4	300%
Other Male	0	0	0%
Other Female	0	0	0%
Total	81	66	-19%

### Fatal Injuries to Citizens

	2018	2019	% Change
White Non-Hispanic Male	0	0	0%
White Non-Hispanic Female	0	0	0%
Black Non-Hispanic Male	1	0	-100%
Black Non-Hispanic Female	0	0	0%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Male	0	0	0%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Female	0	0	0%
Other Male	0	0	0%
Other Female	0	0	0%
Total	1	0	-100%

### Injuries to Officers

	2018	2019	% Change
White Non-Hispanic Male	10	12	20%
White Non-Hispanic Female	1	4	300%
Black Non-Hispanic Male	8	3	-63%
Black Non-Hispanic Female	0	1	100%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Male	3	1	-67%
Hispanic Latino Any Race Female	0	0	0%
Other Male	0	0	0%
Other Female	0	0	0%
Total	22	21	-5%

Total Injuries All	104	87
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