



## UCFPD's Commitment to #8CantWait

The UCF Police Department is here to keep our community safe, and we believe in the power of transparency as we protect and serve. We want the public to understand who we are, what our policies are and why they exist, and how UCF police officers train and prepare for emergency situations.

We also are committed to being active listeners and learners, and to adapting to current events and new best practices. That is why we have reviewed the #8CantWait recommendations by Campaign Zero, an activist organization seeking reform of national law enforcement use of force policies, with the goal of reducing excessive use of force incidents and injuries and deaths. Campaign Zero worked with legal experts, advocates and academics to review use of force policies at agencies across the country and developed eight recommendations to reduce police use of force.

We all want to see a reduction in harm to others, and many of the campaign's recommendations were already part of UCFPD policy and practice. As part of UCFPD's ongoing commitment to "Do the Right Thing," the department's [Response to Resistance policy](#) was updated in June 2020, and additional guidance on [Duty to Intervene](#) was developed. While some gaps between the recommendations and UCFPD policies remain, UCFPD fully subscribes to the practice of de-escalation and the principle of reducing police use of force.

Listed below are #8CantWaitRecommendations and the corresponding UCFPD policy:

### 1) Ban chokeholds and strangleholds.

- UCFPD does not train in neck restraints, and policies do not allow for deadly force unless it is a last resort. As stated in the agency's [Response to Resistance policy](#):
  - *Techniques that may result in death or great bodily harm. Deadly force techniques such as a neck hold, impact weapon strikes to the head, or use of firearms shall be considered a last resort.*

### 2) Require de-escalation.

- UCFPD's [Response to Resistance policy](#) calls for de-escalation as listed:
  - *An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his or her training whenever possible and appropriate before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force.*

*Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.*

### 3) Require warning before shooting.

- UCFPD's policies for the use of less-lethal and/or deadly force require warnings to be provided. See [Response to Resistance policy](#).
  - *Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.*

#### 4) Exhaust all other means before shooting.

- UCFPD's [Response to Resistance policy](#) calls for thorough attempts at de-escalation prior to use of force:
  - *An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his or her training whenever possible and appropriate before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force.*

*Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.*

#### 5) Duty to intervene.

- UCFPD's [Response to Resistance policy](#) calls for officers to treat everyone fairly and humanely, and an updated policy on the Duty to Intervene expands on these principles:
  - *Unnecessary force is that force which has no lawful justification. Officers shall not use unnecessary force or violence in making an arrest or in dealing with a prisoner or any person. All prisoners and suspects will be treated in a fair and humane manner. Unnecessary force utilized as punishment or for vengeance, is clearly improper and unlawful. Such actions may cause an employee to face civil and criminal liability, to include departmental disciplinary action, which may result in the termination of the member.*

*Any officer witnessing another law enforcement officer using illegal force shall intervene and stop the illegal use of force as per [General Order 4010 Duty to Intervene](#).*

#### 6) Ban shooting at moving vehicles.

- UCFPD's [Response to Resistance policy](#) restricts shooting into moving vehicles except in extreme circumstances:
  - *Unless it reasonably appears that it would endanger officers or the public; officers shall move out of the path of any approaching vehicle. This is not intended to restrict an officer's right to use deadly force directed at the operator of a vehicle when it is reasonably perceived that the vehicle is being used as a weapon against the officer or others.*

*The firing of any warning shots is strictly prohibited.*

#### 7) Require use of force continuum.

- UCFPD's Response to Resistance policy requires the following:
  - *Taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary. De-escalation may include the use of such techniques as command presence, advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical repositioning.*

## 8) Require comprehensive reporting.

- UCFPD's Response to Resistance policy requires reporting to supervisors and the agency following incidents involving use of force, as stated:
  - *Employees who use force or are involved in a response to resistance incident shall report the response to resistance to their on-duty supervisor and complete a police incident report or supplement report prior to the end of their shift (unless the incident is being investigated by FDLE) when it involves the following:*
    1. *OC spray has been deployed;*
    2. *Less-lethal weapons have been discharged;*
    3. *An expandable baton has been used as an impact weapon;*
    4. *A CEW has been deployed;*
    5. *Discharge of firearm, for other than training or recreational purposes;*
    6. *A canine apprehension has occurred;*
    7. *Pain Compliance;*
    8. *Hard empty hand counter moves; and/or,*
    9. *There are injuries or a complaint of injury.*