

Angleton Police Department

2022



Department Use of Force Analysis



Guadalupe Valdez
Chief of Police

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Use of Force Analysis for 2022

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Angleton Police Department's Use of Force for calendar year 2022. The Angleton Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. The Angleton Police Department is committed to protecting the rights of all persons and in using force only when necessary, and to the extent necessary, to achieve legal objectives. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.10 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of incidents and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department to use only the level of force necessary to bring a person under control and complete a legal objective. Police/citizen encounters can however, change instantly, and officers may be required to react quickly in using force to subdue a resisting subject. While officers prefer to escalate their level of force in an orderly manner beginning with the lowest level possible, the actions of a subject may compel officers to use a higher level of force that is immediately available to protect themselves and the public.

Use of Force Reporting Requirements

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 6.03 and Angleton Police Department Directive 06.03.01, requires a written report be completed anytime an officer uses force. Any use of reportable force by a member of this department shall be documented in a Use of Force Supplement on any use of force incident (e.g., arrest report, crime report, incident report). This includes any use of force using less than lethal weapons.

Each individual Use of Force Report is immediately reviewed by the Officer's Supervisor, Patrol Commander, Office of Professional Integrity and Transparency, and the Chief of Police. At the time of the incident, the Use of Force is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy and Law. If the officer used force inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required and the officer may receive additional training or in some cases discipline up to and including termination from employment. This analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest needed changes in policy, training, equipment or supervision.





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All use of force data is collected, managed, and analyzed by the Angleton Police Department Office of Professional Integrity and Transparency. All use of force information is logged into the department early identification system, which is stored in a secure file. Each use of force incident is assigned a control log number.

Due to the state of civil unrest, building community trust, and transparency with the community, the department began enforcing more strict reporting requirements for any use of force incident. One significant change included completing a use of force report on felony traffic stops. This type of event now requires both a use of force supplement report and a vehicle pursuit supplement report.

Use of Force Comparison 2021/2022

There was a total of forty-six (46) Reported Uses of Force this year compared to forty-six (46) last year. This represents a difference of zero (0). There was a total of 76,489 citizen contacts this year (calls for service, arrests, citations, field interviews, and other contacts) which creates an index of only one (1) Use of Force for every 1,662 citizen contacts.

The Use of Force incidents are listed below by type with comparison to the previous year.

	2021	2022	Difference
Physical Control	20	15	-5
OC Pepper Spray	0	0	0
Impact Weapon/Baton	0	0	0
Non/Less Lethal Weapon	0	0	0
Electronic Control Device (Taser)	13	12	-1
Firearm	0	3	+3
Pointed Firearm (no discharge)	13	16	+3
Total	46	46	0





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Individual Officer Use of Force

The average officer used force the same number of times in 2022. A number of officers used force more than the average and these officer's activities and actions were reviewed by the department for appropriateness. While each individual use of force is reviewed immediately after the event to ensure it is in compliance with department policy and law, patterns of behavior can also indicate the need for additional training or supervision. Officers can have significantly different rates in their use of force depending on the crime activity in the part of the city where they are assigned, their type of assignment, the time of day they work and their experience level.

Physical Control

In 2022, Angleton Police Officers used physical control fifteen (15) times during with the course of their duties.

Included in the category are all those incidents requiring only physical force to complete handcuffing or to gain compliance. If physical control was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officer(s).

In fifteen (15) instances this year, physical control was sufficient to bring the person under control. In zero (0) instances, physical control was insufficient and a higher level of force was required.

Included in this category are all those instances where simple use of or issuance of verbal commands was not sufficient or effective. It includes those instances where officers place their hands on a subject and use more force than simply a strong grip, must forcibly handcuff a person, the use of pressure point control tactics or other soft hand techniques. This category also includes taking the person to the ground in order to effectively restrain by handcuffing.

OC Pepper Spray

In 2022, Angleton Police Officers used department issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray chemical agent zero (0) times during an arrest or other incident.





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Oleoresin Capsicum is a chemical compound derived from various pepper plants and is mixed with a propellant that is used by many law enforcement agencies as a less-lethal alternative to higher and more injury producing levels of force. The chemical spray is usually directed at a resisting subject's face and the spray immediately causes a burning of the eyes, nose, and mouth causing the subject to close their eyes and in most cases stops any physical resistance. The burning will usually dissipate within 30 minutes and most often has no long-term aftereffects.

Included in the category are those incidents where OC Spray was the highest level of force needed to complete handcuffing or bring a resisting subject under control. If the use of OC Spray was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

In zero (0) instances this year, OC Spray was sufficient to bring the person under control. In zero (0) instances, OC Spray was insufficient and a higher level of force was required.

Also included in this category are all those instances where simple use of or issuance of verbal commands was not sufficient or effective and may include other instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Impact Weapons / Baton

In 2022, Angleton Police Officers used department issued some form of impact weapon zero (0) times during an arrest or other incident.

Impact weapons include the use of the department issued ASP Baton, the use of a closed fist or any other implement that was used to deliver a strike to a person.

The department issues and trains officers in the use of the ASP collapsible baton. Training is provided to instruct officers in the proper placement of strikes that will temporarily stun an opponent allowing the officer time to complete handcuffing. Baton tactics training provided by the department avoids the use of any strikes directed at the head of an individual. If an officer does not have the time or opportunity to deploy the ASP or





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other less-lethal options, officers may have to defend themselves with their bare hands. If closed fist strikes were required then those instances are reported in this category.

Included in the category are those incidents where an impact weapon was the highest level of force needed to complete handcuffing or bring a resisting subject under control. If the use of an impact weapon was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

In zero (0) instances this year, an impact weapon was sufficient to bring the person under control. In zero (0) instances, the use of an impact weapon was insufficient and another level of force was required.

Also included in this category are all those instances where simple use of or issuance of verbal commands was not sufficient or effective and may include other instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Non/Less Lethal Weapon

In 2022, Angleton Police Officers used department issued Non or less lethal Weapon zero (0) times during an arrest or other incident.

The department has a number of less lethal munitions available that can be fired from specially designed firearms that are designed to inflict surprise, pain or trauma that is less severe than the use of deadly force. These less lethal munitions include bean bag rounds, rubber pellets, wooden baton rounds, as well as pepper-ball munitions fired from guns similar to paintball guns. While these rounds are designed to be less lethal than regular firearms, they are still able to cause significant damage to an individual and as such are used only as a last resort when time and opportunity permit.

Included in the category are those incidents where a non/less lethal weapon was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of OC Spray was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

In zero (0) instances this year, non/less lethal munitions were sufficient to bring the person under control. In zero (0) instances, non/less lethal munitions were insufficient and a different level of force was required.





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Also included in this category are all those instances where other lower levels of force were used but were ineffective in resolving the issue.

Electronic Control Device

In 2022, Angleton Police Officers used department issued Electronic Control Device twelve (12) times during an arrest or other incident.

Electronic Control Devices, commonly called Tasers, are pistol type devices that fire two small darts that are designed to imbed themselves in the skin or clothing of a resisting or combative suspect. The darts are connected to the device by small flexible wires which transmit a short 5 second high voltage/low amperage charge through the darts. This causes disruption of muscle activity and is accompanied by pain which most often temporarily disables the individual. There are usually no long-term side effects of the use of the device on healthy individuals.

The Angleton Police Department trains their officers in the proper and appropriate use of Electronic Control Devices and has policies designed to only allow its use against active aggression toward officers and not in cases of passive non-compliance or as punishment of any kind.

Included in the category are those incidents where the use of an ECD was the highest level of force needed to bring a subject under control. If the use of an ECD was insufficient to bring the individual under control and a higher level of force was used, that incident is reported in the highest level used by the officers.

In nine (9) instances this year, the mere threat of the use of an ECD was sufficient to bring the person under control. In three (3) instances, the actual use of an ECD was sufficient to bring the person under control. In twelve (12) instances, the actual use of an ECD was insufficient and a higher level of force was required.

Firearms

In 2022, Angleton Police Officers used their firearms nineteen (19) times during an arrest or other incident. The firearm was pointed sixteen (16) times and discharged three (3) times.





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Firearms are by definition Deadly Force, and their use is very restricted. Officers must comply with not only their intensive training, but with the department's Deadly Force Policy and state law. When an officer fires their weapon in the line of duty, whether or not an individual is hit, a detailed investigation is undertaken to determine if that use was in compliance with both policy and law.

Included in the category are those incidents where Firearms were the highest level of force used to bring a resisting subject under control.

In sixteen (16) instances this year, a use of pointing a firearm was sufficient to bring the person under control. In zero (0) instances, Firearms were insufficient. In three (3) instances, firearm was used to defend officer or third party from an animal attack.

A firearm is generally unholstered and pointed at a subject while conducting felony traffic stops, dealing with potentially armed and dangerous subjects, while clearing building/residences, and other emergency events where life or property may be destroyed.

Citizen and Internal Complaints Regarding the Use of Force

During 2022, the Angleton Police Department received a total of zero (0) complaints of unnecessary or inappropriate use of force.

General Observations

There were no changes to the departments use of force policies, procedures, and reporting forms during 2022. The use of force supplement form goes through four levels of scrutiny during the review process. The use of force is reviewed by the first line supervisor, the patrol commander, professional standards, and the Chief of Police. The department received 8 hours of defensive tactics during 2022 and continues to train on de-escalation techniques. De-escalation techniques is the first tool to be used during any use of force incident.





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Recommendations

Based on the analysis, the department shall continue using strict reporting measures to ensure all data and statistics are accurately reported.

There should be continued annual use of force, defensive tactics, and de-escalation training for all sworn staff.

Command Review:

Any Actions to be Taken:

A copy of this report shall be disseminated to all sworn staff and shall be included in relevant training for all applicable staff members.

Chief of Police

Date

