



# Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service Annual Use of Force Report 2024

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The following information identifies statistical data gathered from Use of Force Reports submitted by members of the Strathroy Caradoc Police Service between January 01 2024 and December 31 2024. These statistics are used to develop policy and training programs in the area of Use of Force.

On April 1, 2024, the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 came into force, replacing the Police Services Act. The Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service is required by Ontario Regulation 391/23 Section 17 (6) to submit an annual report to the Police Services Board, analyzing the data from the reports submitted under subsection 13 (1) regarding use of force by members of the police service and identifying any trends.

Under the following circumstances a use of force report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police whenever a member.

- a) draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public;
- b) points a firearm at a person;
- c) discharges a firearm;
- d) uses a weapon on another person;
- e) draws and displays a conducted energy weapon to a person with the intention of achieving compliance;
- f) points a conducted energy weapon at a person;
- g) discharges a conducted energy weapon; or
- h) uses force on another person, including through the use of a horse or a dog, that results in an injury requiring the services of a physician, nurse or paramedic and the member is aware that the injury required such services before the member goes off-duty.

The purpose of the Annual Review of Use of Force Reports is to:

- a) Compile statistical data from the Use of Force reports submitted in the past calendar year.
- b) Provide statistical support for the evaluation of procedures relating to the drawing, exhibiting and discharge of firearms and the use of force generally.
- c) Provide statistical support for the evaluation of training methods.
- d) Identify critical use of force data and trends.
- e) Direct the findings to the attention of the Chief of Police who shall advise the Board so the study may be made available to the public.

After submission, the member's immediate supervisor reviews the Use of Force Report. It is then forwarded to the Staff Sergeant of Operations for review. The report is then directed to the Use of Force Trainer/Analyst. If a need for other training or counseling is identified it is then provided to the member involved. The member may also request a debriefing of the incident with the Training Officer to identify any specific individual training requirements.

After a thirty-day period, Part B is removed from the document. Part A is retained for a period of two years. This information is used for statistical purposes or for the development of training and policy.

## II. STATISTICS

Attached to and forming part of this report are tables produced from the Use of Force Reports. These are self-explanatory and will assist in understanding the enclosed information.

Twenty One (21) Use of Force reports were submitted between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024; of which twenty (20) submissions were individual officer reports and one (1) team report. Of the twenty one (21) reports, eight (8) Use of Force reports were for the destruction of animals (7 deer and 1 coyote)

These figures should be compared to the 507 persons arrested and the 10260 calls members responded to during the same time period.

Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, twenty one (21) Use of Force Reports were submitted, seven (7) of which were for the destruction of animals.

All Use of Force Reports were submitted by members of Uniform Patrol assigned to General Patrol Duties.

Due to the geographical area of Strathroy-Caradoc officers attended several calls for motor vehicle collisions involving deer, in most of these cases the deer was injured so badly, for humane reasons it would be shot by police requiring police to submit a use of force report. There were eight incidents where an officer discharged their firearm to destroy an injured animal. Out of the eight incidents involving the discharge of firearms, 10 rounds were fired. Each incident involving the use of firearms are reviewed and investigated internally. Out of the 21 reports submitted 57% of these occurrences took place in diminished lighting.

Of the 21 reports submitted 11 reports indicated a CEW was reported as being deployed. 8 incidents involved utilizing the CEW as a force presence causing the assaultive subject to comply when the CEW was drawn or laser was aimed at the subject.

These figures reveal that uniform patrol officers are by far the most likely members to face situations requiring the use of force. Regardless of this fact, every sworn officer is required to be re-qualified in the use of force every twelve months. This training includes the use of Officer and Strategic Considerations, Empty Hand Techniques, Aerosol Weapons, Impact Weapons, Judgement Scenarios, Firearms, Police Vehicle Operations and Academics. The first objective of the responding officer is conflict prevention and de-escalation.

## III. VERBAL AND NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION, NON FORCE OPTIONS

Officer use of verbal (e.g., choice of words, volume, and tone) and non-verbal communication (e.g., posture, positioning) may assist in managing or resolving an interaction. Appropriate to the interaction, police may use the first contact approach (e.g., "Hello, my name is...") a relational approach (e.g., "I can see you are struggling, I am here to help you") and/or directive language (e.g., Police, don't move, drop your weapon") employing de-escalation competencies when viable. An officer should be mindful of any inconsistencies between their verbal and non-verbal communications (e.g., saying I am concerned about you but constantly checking their watch).

Non-force options include verbal (conflict prevention and de-escalation) and non-verbal communication (tactics and body language) strategies and under the right conditions, have the capacity to offer non-force alternatives to achieving compliance/control of a subject/situation without the physical application of force on the subject. These additional tactics/options include:

- Positioning/repositioning
- Increasing distance away from a subject
- Isolation and containment of the subject/situation
- Using cover, concealment, barriers
- Evacuation of potential victims or Shelter in Place
- Disengagement and consequences to the subject, situation, public/police

#### **IV. PHYSICAL CONTROL OPTIONS**

Once physical force is necessary, physical control is the lowest level of force available. Virtually every arrest made requires control and empty hand techniques because taking physical control is a necessary component of each arrest. Service policy requires that as a general rule person(s) in custody be handcuffed prior to being transported. This requires a minimal amount of force even with a compliant subject.

When a subject displays Passive Resistance behavior he is simply not cooperating and not using muscle energy to resist the lawful commands of an officer. This level of resistance permits the officer to use Empty Hand Techniques Soft to obtain compliance.

Physical Control may be used at any level of resistance. Even when other options are used, Physical Control eventually become a factor when handcuffing or transporting the subject.

Physical Control Options are broken into two categories, Soft and Hard. Soft techniques include holds, arm bars, pressure points and controlling. Hard techniques include strikes with hand, fist, elbow, knee, leg or foot. There is no requirement to submit a Use of force Report when Empty Hand Techniques are used unless they result in an injury where medical attention is required. For this reason, the number of reported cases where officers used empty hands is low.

Some statistics have been gathered because empty hands are used in conjunction with other techniques and therefore are included when Use of Force Reports for those other categories are submitted.

## **V. AEROSOL WEAPONS**

When a subject displays "Active Resistance" he or she uses muscle energy to resist the lawful commands of an officer. Examples include pulling away, holding onto an object, walking or running away, refusing to submit arms for handcuffing etc. "Assaultive Behavior" is defined as muscle energy directed towards a person. When a subject angles his body in a fighting stance or uses threatening language or gestures he has begun to display assaultive behavior.

Officers facing this level of resistance may choose to use Aerosol Weapons to obtain compliance. When properly applied to the aggressor it will cause the eyes to close. This affords the officer time to assess and plan what should be done to obtain the compliance of the subject.

The effectiveness of aerosol spray is reduced when used on persons under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or when mental illness is a factor.

One incident involved an officer utilizing OC spray was when an aggressive dog attempted to bite the officer, while investigating an incident of a dog bite. The Spray was effective and no one was injured.

## **VI. IMPACT WEAPONS**

When a subject displays active resistance he or she uses muscle energy to resist the lawful commands of an officer. Examples include pulling away, holding onto an object, walking or running away, refusing to submit arms for handcuffing etc. Assaultive behavior is defined as muscle energy directed towards a person. When a subject angles his body in a fighting stance or uses threatening language or gestures he has begun to display assaultive behavior.

Impact Weapons may be used in these situations. Sworn Service members are issued with an expanding metal baton. These tools are used to strike major muscle groups where large bundles of nerves respond by causing temporary muscle dysfunction. This eliminates the subject's tools for delivering the assault such as his hands and feet and any weapons he may hold. The pain, which results, may also assist in achieving the objective of compliance.

When a subject is holding onto an object to resist arrest the Impact Weapon may be used to pry the subject loose. This is referred to as a soft application.

## **VII. CEW**

Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW's) have been approved for use in Ontario since 2002. Ontario Regulation 391/23 of the Community Safety and Policing Act 2019: Use of force and weapons, prescribed models of CEW's that may be used by members of the police service.

Currently, the TASER X26P, TASER X2, TASER 7 and TASER 10 models are prescribed.

The Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service deploys the Taser 7. All front line officers are qualified to carry the TASER 7 on their duty belt while in the execution of their duties.

There are three different methods available to officers when deploying a CEW.

The first is force presence, where the operator draws the CEW, and gives the subject with a brief explanation. The operator can simply activate the CEW, arcing it without firing the cartridge allowing the subject to see how the device operates. The electrical arc and the sound made by the arcing are often enough to gain subject compliance. This option is given only under controlled circumstances and is a last ditch effort to gain compliance without using it directly on the subject. Another force presence option is the activation of the laser sight of the CEW, this can also gain compliance of an assaultive subject in some cases.

The second is the push stun mode (or drive stun) where the operator presses the muzzle of the CEW either directly against the skin or clothing and activates it without firing a cartridge.

The last is the use of probes that are deployed from a cartridge attached to the CEW. Inside the cartridge is 25 feet of small wire attached to the probes. The probes when fired from the cartridge are designed to enter either the clothing or skin and remain in place by the use of small barbs on the end of the probes. The conductive wires transfer energy to the subject causing temporary neuromuscular interruption.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

These numbers reflect the type of incidents that our officers attend and are put in a position where they have to use force.

There was an increase in the number of use of force reports by 6 reports. It was noted by the Use of Force trainer that there was a steady improvement in the quality of the reports for 2024.

2024 saw 8 incidents in which animals were destroyed by police for humane reasons each required a Use of Force report. This number has increased by 1 compared with 2023. The reports for 2024 is up from 2023, although almost the same in comparison.

Appropriate levels of force are being applied during encounters with aggressive or non-compliant subjects. Considering that 507 arrests were made and the thousands of contacts that our officers make on annual basis only 13 of those contacts resulted in the use of force application, requiring the submission of a use of force report. These figures along with other information contained in Use of Force Reports will be utilized in the modification of training provided to officers in the coming year to more realistically reflect the environment in which our officers work.

**Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service****Number of Reports**

	2023	2024		
INDIVIDUAL REPORTS	15	21		
TEAM REPORTS	0	1		
AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE	8.75	6.6		
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	15	21		

**Type of Incident**

	2023	2024		
ROBBERY	0	0		
BREAK & ENTER	0	1		
DOMESTIC	0	4		
OTHER DISTURBANCE	0	0		
TRAFFIC	2	0		
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	0	0		
WEAPONS	2	2		
IMPAIRED	0	1		
FAIL TO STOP	1	0		
WARRANT	0	1		
ALARM	0	0		
ANIMAL	7	8		
OTHER	0	0		
LIQUOR LICENCE ACT	0	0		
MENTAL HEALTH ACT (E.D.P.)	3	3		

Injuries

	2023	2024		
SELF	0	0		
OTHER OFFICER	1	1		
SUBJECT	0	0		

Reason for Use of Force

	2023	2024		
PROTECT SELF	3	13		
PROTECT PUBLIC	2	5		
EFFECT ARREST	3	13		
PREVENT COMMISSION OF OFFENCE	2	0		
PREVENT ESCAPE	0	0		
PROTECT SUBJECT	0	2		
DESTROY AN ANIMAL	7	8		
OTHER	0	0		

Weapons carried by subject(s)

Baseball bat / club	0	0		
Knife / Edged weapon	4	3		
Revolver	0	0		
Rifle	0	0		
Semi-automatic	0	1		
Shotgun	0	0		
None	0	0		
Unknown	4	1		
Other	0	0		

Perceived Subject Race

	2023	2024		
FIREARM – DISCHARGED	7	8		
FIREARM – POINTED	1	1		
HANDGUN – DRAWN	2	2		
AEROSOL WEAPON	0	0		
CEW – DISCHARGED	1	3		
CEW – FORCE PRESENCE ONLY	5	8		
IMPACT WEAPON – HARD	0	0		
IMPACT WEAPON – SOFT	0	0		
EMPTY HAND – HARD	1	0		
EMPTY HAND – SOFT	0	1		

BLACK	0	0		
EAST/SOUTHEAST ASIAN	0	0		
INDIGENOUS	2	2		
LATINO	0	0		
MIDDLE EASTERN	0	0		
SOUTH ASIAN	0	0		
WHITE	6	11		

Distance from Subject

	2023	2024		
LESS THAN 2 METRES	4	0		
2 TO 3 METRES	0	4		
3 TO 5 METRES	3	4		
5 TO 7 METRES	1	1		
7 TO 10 METRES	0	2		
GREATER THAN 10 METRES	0	0		

Incidents by Hour of Day

	2023	2024		
0000 hrs – 0100 hrs	1	1		
0100 hrs – 0200 hrs	1	0		
0200 hrs – 0300 hrs	1	2		
0300 hrs – 0400 hrs	0	0		
0400 hrs – 0500 hrs	0	2		
0500 hrs – 0600 hrs	1	0		
0600 hrs – 0700 hrs	1	2		
0700 hrs – 0800 hrs	0	0		
0800 hrs – 0900 hrs	0	1		
0900 hrs – 1000 hrs	0	0		
1000 hrs – 1100 hrs	2	2		
1100 hrs – 1200 hrs	2	3		
1200 hrs – 1300 hrs		1		
1300 hrs – 1400 hrs		0		
1400 hrs – 1500 hrs	2	0		
1500 hrs – 1600 hrs		2		
1600 hrs – 1700 hrs	1	0		
1700 hrs – 1800 hrs	1	0		
1800 hrs – 1900 hrs		0		
1900 hrs – 2000 hrs	1	1		
2000 hrs – 2100 hrs		0		
2100 hrs – 2200 hrs				
2200 hrs – 2300 hrs	1	2		
2300 hrs – 0000 hrs		2		

Frequency of type of force used annually  
2024

