



De-escalation

Background and Training Review

May 31, 2021

The Ottawa Police logo, featuring the word "OTTAWA" in a smaller font above the word "POLICE" in a larger, bold font. The "O" in "POLICE" is stylized with a circular graphic element.

OTTAWA
POLICE



De-escalation



Ontario Police College Definition

- § The use of verbal and non-verbal strategies, intended to prevent escalation or reduce the intensity of a situation without the application of force, and, if force is necessary, reducing the amount of force, if reasonably safe to do so.

Use of Force Authority



Federal Law – Criminal Code of Canada

- § **Section 25: Authority to use force when justified**
- § **Section 26: Limitation, excessive force**
 - § Police may use force that is reasonable, necessary and proportionate, given the situation, with reasonable grounds in the lawful execution of their duties.

Use of Force Training



Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General

- § **Provincial Adequacy Standards (Policing Standards Manual)**
 - § Basic Constable Training (BCT) Program Content
 - § In-service Requalification Training Content
- § **Police Services Act, Regulation 926**
 - § Uniforms and equipment
 - § Reporting on the use of force
- § **Ontario Police College**
 - § Basic Constable Training Program
 - § Research and development
 - § Instructor training

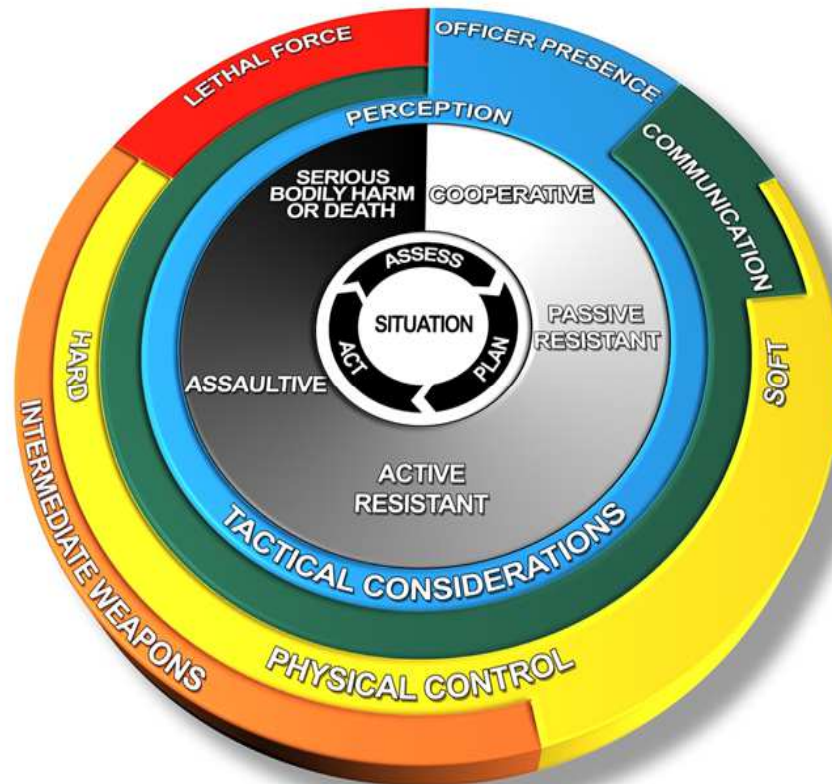
Ontario Use of Force Model



Description and Purpose

- § Visual aid designed to assist in the understanding of the proportional relationship between a subject's behavior and reasonable response options
- § The primary responsibility of a police officer is to preserve and protect life
- § Police officer safety is essential to public safety

Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)



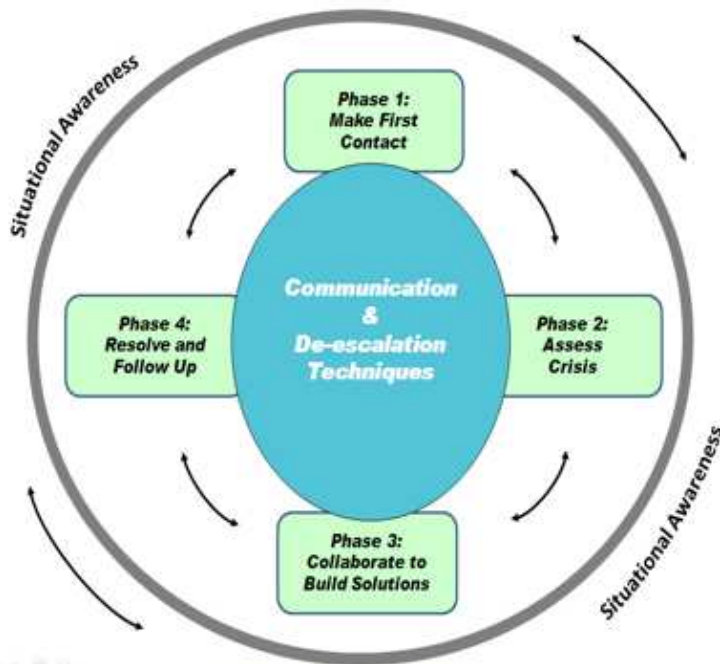
The officer continuously assesses the situation and selects the most reasonable option relative to those circumstances as perceived at that point in time.

De-escalation Training



Background

- § Braidwood Inquiry 2010 following death of Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver Airport
- § Justice Institute of British Columbia developed a formal provincial de-escalation program
- § BC program proactively adopted by OPS in 2014
- § Incorporated into all OPS use of force training recruit and in-service training
- § Provides officers with enhanced awareness training is dealing with persons in crisis, especially related to mental health disorders



Communication
and De-escalation
Model

Phase 1
Make First
Contact

Goal: Build rapport to start de-escalating the crisis.

Phase 2
Assess Crisis

Goal: Assess the crisis while maintaining rapport.

Phase 3
Collaborate to
Build Solutions

Goal: Identify the type of intervention and create buy-in.

Phase 4
Resolve and
Follow-Up

Goal: Follow through on the solutions made in Phase 3.

De-escalation



Scenario-based Training and Stress

- § Integrated into all use of force training and especially scenario-based judgement training
- § Educates the officer to monitor and regulate their internal stress levels to optimize performance
 - § This is the principle of non-escalation
- § Officers are required to monitor the external impact of their efforts and adjust interventions and interactions

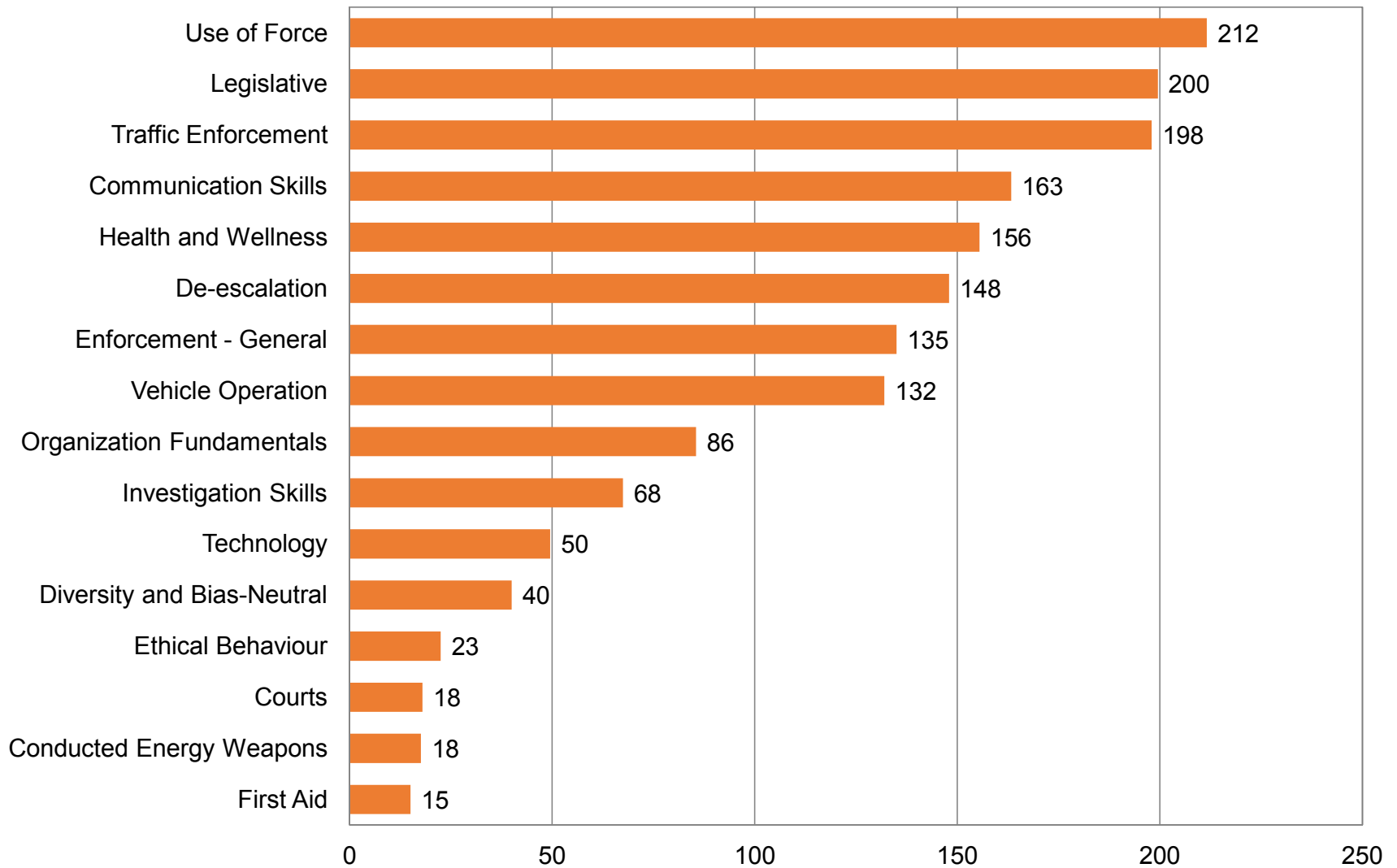
Fair and Impartial Policing



Based on academic research and the science of human bias

- § Recognize our own human biases
- § Understand how implicit biases can affect perceptions and behaviour
- § Understand how biased policing impacts community members and the police service
- § Understand how FIP supports police legitimacy
- § Develop skills to reduce the influence of bias and allow officers to be more effective and just police professionals

OPS Recruit Training Hours



Next Steps



Use of Force and De-escalation

- § **The Ontario Ombudsman's Report**
- § **Proactive measures at PDC**
 - § De-escalation and FIP
 - § Working groups
- § **Ongoing Ministry projects**
 - § Use of Force Model review
 - § Provincial De-escalation program
- § **Academic review: Efficacy of OPS use of force and de-escalation training**