

UTPD De-Escalation Training Summary Fall 2021

At UTPD the preservation of human life and ensuring personal safety are our primary goals. Officers are trained and expected to de-escalate situations without the use of force in order to seek a safe resolution. That means, doing things like listening with empathy and patience before acting and using a normal speaking tone. UTPD also trains and requires officers to intervene, stop and report excessive force by another officer.

Should officers implement a use of force, they must and are trained to at all times be aware of the dangers to human life. If someone is injured, UTPD will provide appropriate care or request emergency assistance without delay. All uses of force are documented and reviewed by the Chain of Command, with expectation that there is a collective discussion with follow up accountability demanded.

Below you will find a basic overview of our de-escalation training. This list does not represent the whole picture as de-escalation techniques play a role in many facets of our training programs; some of which are required upon entry into the profession, others occur annually. Officers in specialized divisions often exceed the training you see here.

De-escalation Techniques: Limiting the Use of Force in Public Interaction, TCOLE 1849

8 hours minimum

As mandated with the passage of the [Sandra Bland Act \(SB 1849\)](#) in 2017, all UT Police Officers must obtain the eight-hour Texas Commission On Law Enforcement (TCOLE) course. Officers learn de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to facilitate interactions with members of the public, including techniques for limiting the use of force resulting in bodily injury.

Objectives:

- To improve the response of officers to incidents that involve persons in crisis who are behaving erratically, emphasizing that public and officer safety are at the heart of this training process
- Critical decision-making model provides officers with an organized way of making decisions about how they will act in any situation, including situations that may involve uses of force

Crisis Intervention Training, TCOLE 1850

40 hours

This course provides the key concepts, safety techniques and communication skills for peace officers to use when they respond to individuals in a serious mental health crisis. It covers the legal aspects of mental health commitments, liability issues, mental disorders, and mental disabilities. In addition, it deals with a variety of developmental disabilities including epilepsy, cerebral palsy and hearing impairments. All incoming UT Police Officers receive the 40-hour course at the UT System Police Academy.

Other areas covered include:

- Indicators of mental illness
- Understanding mental illness
- Documenting the interpersonal relations necessary to effectively work with the mentally ill, their families, and the mental health system
- Intervention strategies for dealing with low and high-risk situations

Mental Health Officer Training, TCOLE 4001

40 hours

The purpose of this course is to educate law enforcement officers about issues pertaining to serving as a Mental Health Officer. The course covers the legal aspects of mental health commitments, liability issues, mental disorders, and mental disabilities. In addition, it deals with a variety of developmental disabilities including epilepsy, cerebral palsy and hearing impairments. The course is very similar to TCOLE 1850, but has a focus on how to identify

whether someone meets the elements for a Peace Officer Emergency Detention (POED). An officer initiates a POED when the subject is suffering from a mental illness, may be a danger to themselves or others as a result and there is no time to seek a mental health commitment from a court. UTPD officers receive this training within two years of employment.

Basic Hostage Negotiation, TCOLE 3302

40 hours

Officers learn the fundamentals of negotiating critical incidents including hostage and barricaded subject situations. This course is optional, but typically taken by our Community Engagement Division personnel.

Crowd Control Management Basics, TCOLE 7715

8 hours

The goal of any law enforcement agency faced with a lawful demonstration is to apply the appropriate level of direction and control with the mutually-supporting objectives of maintaining peace and public order, protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure and upholding the participants' constitutional rights of free speech and assembly. The purpose of this course is to learn how to apply that process.

Active Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, TCOLE 3314

24 hours

This course also provides a model framework for law enforcement, fire, and EMS to integrate responses during an active attack event through the Rescue Task Force concept. This course has been designed to improve the safety and survivability of victims of an active attack event and increase the effectiveness, coordination, and resource integration between first responders. All incoming officers receive this training at the UT System Academy.