

Information on Officer-Involved Shootings by Sunnyvale Public Safety Officers

Over the past 13 years, the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been involved in nine officer-involved shootings resulting in seven fatalities. In all cases, the suspects were involved in a felony offense. The District Attorney's Office reviewed each incident and deemed the officer's use of force was lawful. The Department conducted an administrative review of all these officer-involved shootings and determined that the use of force by the officers was within Department policy.

SUNNYVALE DPS OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS				
YEAR	Incidents	Resulting Fatalities	Suspect/s Armed	Suspected Offense
2023	-	-		
2022	-	-		
2021	1	0	yes	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
2020	-	-		
2019	-	-		
2018	-	-		
2017	1	1	yes	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
2016	-	-		
2015	3 ^a	3	yes (3)	Armed Robbery, Human Trafficking, Sexual Assault/Rape
2014	1	1	yes	Murder
2013	1 ^a	1	yes	Murder
2012	1 ^b	1	yes	Aggravated Assault
2011	- ^c	-		
2010	1	0	no	Commercial burglary
TOTAL	9	7	Yes (8) No (1)	

Incident Summaries

Date: May 19, 2021

Sunnyvale DPS Officers responded to an elder abuse where the adult son had assaulted his elderly parents and threatened to kill them. When officers arrived, the suspect barricaded himself inside his residence with a firearm to refuse to follow commands to exit the residence. Officers then used multiple techniques, with the support of members of the crisis intervention team, to de-escalate the situation and convince the suspect to surrender. These measures were unsuccessful. While officers were trying to negotiate with the suspect, he pointed a firearm at the officers. The officers discharged their firearms to defend themselves. The suspect was not hit, and after several hours of negotiation, he later exited the residence and surrendered to Sunnyvale S.W.A.T. team members.

Date: October 31, 2017

Sunnyvale DPS Officers responded to a domestic violence call for service. A woman had been stabbed by her significant other. The suspect had barricaded himself with several knives inside the victim's apartment and refused to leave.

^a One additional incident by Santa Clara Police Department occurred in Sunnyvale

^b One additional incident by the California Highway Patrol occurred in Sunnyvale

^c One additional incident by Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office occurred in Sunnyvale

Officers used a police canine to try to apprehend the suspect, but the suspect fatally stabbed the police canine. Officers then used multiple techniques, with the support of a member of the crisis intervention team, to de-escalate the situation and convince the suspect to surrender. These measures were unsuccessful. After the suspect threw a knife directly at two officers, an officer discharged his firearm to defend himself. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

Date: April 8, 2015

Sunnyvale DPS Officers responded to an armed robbery of a liquor store. The suspect was armed with a knife. The suspect advanced rapidly on a responding officer with the knife. After multiple warnings and orders to drop the knife, the officer discharged his firearm in self-defense. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

Date: August 15, 2015

Sunnyvale DPS Officers responded to a report of prostitution and human trafficking at a hotel. Officers contacted the suspect in a car outside of the hotel, however, the suspect fled and an officer pursued him. The suspect was armed with two loaded firearms. The suspect hid and when the officer caught up to him, he pointed the firearm at the officer. The officer gave commands to drop the firearm before discharging his firearm in self-defense. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

Date: November 12, 2015

Sunnyvale DPS Officers responded to an apartment after a victim reported a sexual assault and attempted rape. When the officers arrived, the suspect was still inside the apartment. They ordered the suspect out of the residence. Instead, the suspect walked to the kitchen and armed himself with a large knife (13 inches). The suspect refused to drop the knife and advanced on the officers. The officers discharged their firearms to defend themselves. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

Date: June 5, 2014

Sunnyvale DPS detectives contacted a murder suspect at his residence with an arrest warrant. He was suspected in the murder of several female transients. The suspect refused to exit the residence and instead threatened the officers with what appeared to be a rifle. Officers made multiple attempts to get the suspect to put down the rifle and surrender. When the suspect pointed the weapon at officers, they discharged their firearms to defend themselves. The suspect succumbed to his injuries. It was later determined the rifle was a BB gun.

Date: August 8, 2013

Sunnyvale DPS SWAT Officers responded to a barricaded suspect who called 911 and stated that he had murdered his wife. The suspect was located at his home but refused commands to exit the residence. When officers attempted to contact the suspect, he charged them with a large butcher knife. SWAT officers discharged their firearms to defend themselves. The suspect succumbed to his injuries. His deceased wife was found inside the residence with numerous stab wounds.

Date: December 15, 2012

Sunnyvale DPS Officers responded to an aggravated assault where an out-of-control subject was threatening to kill a family member with a hammer. When officers arrived, the suspect charged the officers with the hammer. An officer discharged his firearm to defend himself. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

Date: October 15, 2010

Sunnyvale DPS officers responded to a commercial burglary in progress. They located the suspects on arrival. However, the suspects got into their vehicle and accelerated toward the officers (who were no

longer in their patrol car). Officers jumped out of the way of the speeding vehicle and fired shots toward the vehicle's tires. No suspects were injured as a result of the shooting.

Use of Force Data

The Department of Public Safety is currently reviewing data on its use of force incidents. We will make this information available once it has been verified. Our goal is to be transparent and proactively share information with the public to enrich our dialogue around our policies and practices.

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