



# Serving Our City

An overview of safety and accountability measures  
at your San Marcos Police Department





# Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds

1.

SMPD officers have been trained for years on the dangers of positional asphyxia and holds that are designed to restrict breathing are strictly prohibited.

2.

## Require De-escalation

SMPD officers are trained in de-escalation principles, to de-escalate as soon as possible, and to provide aid and recovery following use of force.



3.

## Require Warning Before Shooting

Officers are trained to give warning before using deadly force when time allows.



# Require Officers To Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting

4.

San Marcos Police Officers may use deadly force when it is the only reasonable measure to protect the lives of our officers or others. Officers are trained in the use of less-lethal force and work in a culture that promotes the correct use of force for the situation.

5.

## Duty To Intervene

SMPD Officers are trained in a culture of intervening when needed. Additionally, policy requires intervening in and reporting excessive force.

## Ban Shooting At Moving Vehicles

SMPD police strongly discourages shooting at a moving vehicle. This practice is allowed only when no other effective action to stop an imminent threat from the operator of a moving vehicle is reasonable.

6.



# Our Use Of Force Model

The SMPD follows one of the most restrictive use of force model protocols: Officers must only use the force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control while effectively protecting the lives of the officer and others.



## Require Comprehensive Reporting & Accountability

In all cases involving force, including the Taser, an assault on an officer, or resisting arrest, the on-duty supervisor shall conduct a review of available body or vehicle camera footage to determine if officers followed protocol and used reasonable necessary force. All use of force is also reviewed a second time by a member of administration.

Policy requires that all threats and use of force must be compiled and used to prepare an annual Use of Force Report for City Council by the SMPD Police Chief. Serious injury and fatality data is voluntarily sent to the FBI database.



## Provide Outlet To Report Misconduct & Commendation

If you witness misconduct or excessive force, or if you want to give a commendation after a positive experience, you may report it to [sanmarcostx.gov/policefeedback](https://www.sanmarcostx.gov/policefeedback).

## Contact Us

San Marcos Police Department  
2300 S. IH 35  
San Marcos, TX 78666

[sanmarcostx.gov](https://www.sanmarcostx.gov)

Non-Emergency Line:  
512-753-2108

Emergency Line:  
9-1-1

