



# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

## Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F23-009  
Incident Number: 2023-20013569  
Date of Incident: 1/21/2023  
Chain of Command Finding: Not In Compliance with Policy

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers located a stolen vehicle in a parking lot. The suspect was asleep inside the vehicle. An officer determined the best course of action would be to use the element of surprise to take him into custody. Often, when the suspect of a stolen vehicle is asleep or passed out at the wheel, officers utilize their patrol vehicles to pin the stolen vehicle and restrict its movement when they try to take the suspect into custody. The owner of the stolen vehicle granted permission to break a window to recover the vehicle.

One officer utilized a tool to breach the window and the two other officers took arm control of the suspect and extracted him out of the window, placing him in the prone position, in handcuffs and under arrest. The suspect sustained minor scrapes to his forehead and fingers from the glass shards from the window. The suspect was treated on scene by medics. The suspect had an abscess on his knee and taken to the hospital to be cleared for jail. He was booked into Spokane County Jail for Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Because officers tried to surprise the suspect when they apprehended him, they did not attempt de-escalation first; therefore, the use of force was not in compliance with policy. Officers received training as a sanction, and SPD provided additional training to all supervisors.

