



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F17-029
Incident Number: 2017-20074215
Date of Incident: 4/24/2017
Chain of Command Finding: Not In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers were investigating a stolen vehicle when they observed suspicious behavior. An unknown male walked away from the vehicle as they approached and got into a different vehicle. Officers spent about 30 minutes trying to identify the male, because he provided a false name. Officers finally identified him and found that he had several warrants out of Idaho including Domestic Battery, Burglary, and Grand Theft Auto. As an officer approached him to arrest him, he fled on foot. During the foot chase, the suspect fell twice. When officers apprehended him, the suspect resisted arrest and pulled his hand into his waistband. One officer delivered four closed fist strikes and two knee strikes to the male's torso. Officers were then able to pry his hands from underneath his body and pull them back for handcuffing. The suspect stated he was not injured, but had scrapes on his elbows and knees, consistent from falling on the pavement. Officers transported the suspect to jail. He was booked for Obstruction, for being a fugitive on his felony Idaho warrants, and a local misdemeanor obstruction warrant.

The officer's use of Level II strikes in that situation were determined to be out of compliance with policy. SPD policy does not authorize Level II strikes to overcome active resistance; assaultive behavior is required for the use of that technique. The officer was a new lateral transfer from a police department that authorized the use of Level II strikes for active resistance. Due to the policy violation, the officer's supervisor issued a documentation of counseling (DOC), which stated that a future violation of this policy could result in more severe discipline. The officer received two hours of Defensive Tactics Training. The training contained a review of the SPD use of force policy and other techniques and options when encountering resistance.

