



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F19-012

Incident Number: 2019-20013787

Date of Incident: 1/23/2019

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a business for an alarm/burglary call. Officers saw where the suspect had broken a basement window to gain entry and saw a female suspect inside. They established probable cause for first degree Burglary charges. Officers established a perimeter around the building with marked SPD patrol cars and officers on foot. Officers made numerous PA announcements telling the suspect to exit the business and surrender, and advised that they would use a K9 to search the building. Officers saw the suspect had taken up a position on an interior stairway and she had armed herself with an improvised weapon, a metal snow shovel. A responsible person arrived, but his keys did not work. He gave permission to force entry. Officers forced open the main door, and a team cleared the basement up to the bottom of the stairwell where the suspect was located. This team had a ballistic shield, a 40mm less-lethal launcher, a K9, lethal cover, and a Noise Flash Diversionary Device (NFDD). The team made verbal contact with the suspect, who was uncooperative. Because they were unable to see the suspect from their position, and would have to operate moving up, officers were in a poor tactical position. A second team formed with the intent of clearing the main floor up to the stairwell. This team also consisted of a shield, 40 mm launcher, a K9, lethal cover, and NFDD. Officers cleared the building up to the door that led to the stairwell. Officers were able to see the suspect through a side window. She was on the landing at the top of the stairs, still armed with a large metal snow shovel. She was very agitated and seemed to be intoxicated or having a mental health issue. Her hands were bleeding from injuries she had sustained breaking into the building. She was holding the shovel in two hands as a spear, with the working end pointing towards the basement. When officers moved near the door or rattled the door, she would thrust the shovel in a jabbing motion towards the door. She made threatening statements such as, "I can take all you f----- out." Officers told her several times they did not want to hurt her but anything less than compliance would be met with force. Officers developed a plan that a multi-force option would have to be used in order to take the suspect into custody because she had committed a burglary, was armed with a large metal snow shovel, and was not following any commands or responding favorably to any de-escalation techniques. Officers deployed a NFDD to keep her from charging and deployed a blunt impact device (40mm less-lethal launcher) at her arm while commanding her to drop the shovel. She dropped the shovel, but still posed a danger as she was moving toward the stairs. Officers deployed a K9 to apprehend her. Officers moved in to take her into custody. She continued to struggle but



officers were successful in detaining the suspect. Medics attended to the suspect, and transported her to the hospital for medical treatment. After receiving medical clearance for her, officers booked her for Burglary and Malicious Mischief, as the damage to the building was estimated at \$6,000.00.

Note: This incident is the same incident as K19-004. Internal Affairs issued two separate tracking numbers due to the incident containing a K9 application as well as other applications of force.

