



# SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

## CHIEF OF POLICE

### CRAIG N. MEIDL

## Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F19-033

Incident Number: 2019-20066595

Date of Incident: 4/16/2019

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a Hit and Run call. While they were investigating the Hit and Run, they observed a suspect driving in an “egregiously reckless” manner, suspecting a DUI driver. The suspect vehicle was smoking from the front end and had a flat tire. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but the suspect did not comply. Officers initiated a vehicle pursuit. An officer attempted a Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT), but the suspect swerved out in an attempt to hit the officer. A second officer was able to successfully PIT the vehicle and bring it to a stop. Officers then observed the suspect produce a handsaw and began sawing at his wrists. The second officer deployed his 40 mm “less-lethal” impact weapon, but it bounced off the vehicle door. The suspect continued to remain inside the vehicle that was now starting to burn. The first officer then deployed his TASER, but it was ineffective due to the suspect’s heavy clothing. The suspect then produced a large axe from the vehicle. The second officer deployed another 40 mm round at the suspect and the axe fell to the ground. Other officers arrived on scene. They used a ballistic shield and broke out the rear window to get a better view inside the vehicle. Officers used a fire extinguisher on the hood of the vehicle. They opened the passenger door, dragging the suspect out and taking him into custody. They observed the vehicle engulfed in flames as they pulled the suspect farther away to safety. Medics attended to the suspect and transported him to the hospital. Officers completed a charging affidavit for Hit and Run, Eluding, Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Malicious Mischief, and DUI.

