



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F22-039

Incident Number: 2022-20137067

Date of Incident: 8/7/2022

Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers responded to a Suicidal call. The subject had tried to kill himself by slitting his throat. When officers arrived, they located the subject and observed that he had a knife in his possession and was actively bleeding from a cut to his throat. Officers attempted to contact the male, but he fled on foot and then wedged himself between an exterior wall of the building and an air conditioning condenser. During the next 25 minutes, officers attempted to negotiate with the male to separate him from the knife so that he could receive medical treatment. The male refused. Officers on scene could clearly see him bleeding from his neck wounds. As the male's communication declined, and his medical condition appeared to be worsening, a supervisor on scene developed a plan and authorized the use of Pepper Ball (pepper spray) in an area denial mechanism. After a volley of Pepper Ball, the male began to attempt to stab himself in the neck with his knife. Officers tried other options. Another officer deployed a noise flash distraction device, followed by a 40mm (less-lethal) blunt impact munition. Officers deployed second and third Pepper Ball volleys. At that point, the male separated himself from the knife, which allowed officers to move forward under shield cover, pull the male from where he had wedged himself, and begin medical treatment. The male's care was turned over to medics on scene, and he was transported to the hospital.

