

Sacramento Police Department  
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (CPT) 2021  
CRITICAL DECISION-MAKING MODEL (CDM)

**Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to introduce the concepts of the critical decision-making model to peace officers.

- I. Introduction
  - a. Advanced Officer Training Team (AOTT)
  - b. Goals of the Critical Decision-Making Model
  - c. Discussion: SPD Old Sacramento UOF video
  
- II. Critical Decision-Making Model (CDM)
  - a. History
  - b. Impacted by:
    - i. Ethics
    - ii. Proportionality
    - iii. Sanctity of Life
    - iv. Values
  - c. Model
    - i. Collect Information
    - ii. Assess Situation Threats/Risks/Escape
    - iii. Consider Law & Policy
    - iv. Identify Options/Determine Course of Action
    - v. Act, Review, & Re-Assess
  - d. UOF Statistics
    - i. Nationally
    - ii. Locally
  
- III. Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) ICAT Model
  - a. Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT)
    - i. A system of combining several disciplines to improve and outcome of a police and citizen integration.
    - ii. Guide takes the essential building blocks of critical thinking, crisis intervention, communications, and tactics, and puts them together in an integrated approach to training.
  - b. Critical Decision-Making (CDM)
    - i. Anchor to ICAT
    - ii. Five-step critical thinking process which built around the core values of the department and the policing profession.
    - iii. These systems provide a framework to enhance officers integrated responses to situations they face on the job.
    - iv. Agencies using it: BART Police Department, Monterey Police Department, Watsonville Police Department
  - c. How does CDM benefit me?
    - i. Strengthen report writing
    - ii. Enhance testimony
    - iii. Improves incident debriefing
  
- IV. OODA Loop

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- a. Observe
  - b. Orient
  - c. Decide
  - d. Act
  - e. Slow vs Fast Thinking
  - f. Growth vs Fixed Mindset
- V. Critical Decision-making Model... and what it isn't:
- a. Not appropriate for all situations;
  - b. Not about putting officers in unwinnable situations;
  - c. Does not prevent officers from using force (including lethal force);
  - d. Does not limit options for officers;
  - e. Does not solve all of the world's problems
- VI. Critical Decision-making Model... what it is:
- a. Method to more safely deal with dangerous people and/or situations
  - b. Creates a clear path to problem resolution
  - c. Clarifies exactly when, where, and how force is justified
  - d. Concept that provides additional options for officers to consider
  - e. Something that can be utilized everyday
  - f. Used at various levels
  - g. Ultimately... it is a tool to help us improve the things that we can control!
- VII. Discussion
- a. What factors can the responding officer's control on this call?
  - b. What factors are out of the officer's control?
  - c. What is the desired outcome of this call?
- VIII. The Road to Force
- a. Both parties
    - i. Can affect the speed in which there is a physical interaction and/or a use of force
    - ii. Can also take an "off-ramp" to avoid a physical interaction and/or a use of force
  - b. Options
    - i. Police
      - 1. Wait for Back-Up
      - 2. Show Less Lethal
      - 3. De-Escalation
      - 4. Tactical Repositioning
    - ii. Other party
      - 1. Comply
      - 2. Run Away
      - 3. Talk or Ask for Help

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- iii. Key Take-aways
  - 1. Identify previously “unseen” options
  - 2. Improve decision-making
  - 3. Protect officers from civil liability
- c. Discussion: Ohio State Police Trooper video

IX. Scenarios

- a. Scenario #1 – DV Call – Significant other with a knife
  - i. Plan/response
  - ii. Communication
  - iii. De-escalation/Tac Com
  - iv. Tactical considerations
  - v. Peer Intervention (if warranted)
  - vi. CDM Debrief
- b. Scenario #2 – Suicidal subject with a gun that just assaulted family member
  - i. Plan/response
  - ii. Communication
  - iii. De-escalation/Tac Com
  - iv. Tactical considerations
  - v. Peer Intervention (if warranted)
  - vi. CDM Debrief
- c. Scenario #3 – Suicidal subject on an overpass - Jumper
  - i. Plan/response
  - ii. Communication
  - iii. De-escalation/Tac Com
  - iv. Tactical considerations
  - v. Peer intervention (if warranted)
  - vi. CDM Debrief - including discussion on implicit bias and assumptions
- d. Scenario #4 – Armed subject - assault of an officer
  - i. Plan/response
  - ii. Communication
  - iii. De-escalation/Tac Com
  - iv. Tactical considerations
  - v. Peer intervention (if warranted)
  - vi. CDM Debrief