



# DE-ESCALATION AND TACTICAL DECISION MAKING

(2019-2020) APD TRAINING DETAIL

# WHAT IS DE-ESCALATION?

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A systems-based approach for using opportunities, knowledge, skills and abilities to resolve problems with minimal force where possible—which means there has to be an opportunity for it to occur.

NOT a magic formula



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# PERSON IN CRISIS VS CRIMINAL SUSPECT

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De-escalation most appropriate on person in crisis

De-escalation can backfire on noncompliant criminal suspect

(Someone can be both)



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# WHEN SHOULD DE-ESCALATION BE CONSIDERED?

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Do you have discretionary time?

Who is at risk?

Who is causing the risk?



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# IS TIME ON YOUR SIDE?

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**Discretionary Time (DT)**—Situation reasonably appears to allow for time to consider possible available options.

**No Discretionary Time (NDT)**—Situation requires an immediate response, without time to safely or effectively consider other options.

Is Time on Your Side?



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# PRESERVATION OF LIFE

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Isolate or disengage unless intervention is perceived necessary

Avoid placing yourself or others at risk –can trigger “state-created danger”

No legal duty to prevent a person from harming him/herself



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# CAN YOU MAKE CONTACT?

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Focus on the behavior, not the diagnosis

Try to understand their purpose

Remember that sometimes you can't establish contact



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# MAKING CONTACT DO....

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Appear confident

Want to succeed

Actively listen

Provide clear instructions

Demonstrate patience and concern



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# MAKING CONTACT DON'T...

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Don't patronize or insult

Don't use a raised voice or shout (except selectively)

Ask person over and over to do the same thing



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# BUILD RAPPORT AND INFLUENCE

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Communicate you are there to solve a problem

Ask relevant questions

Use emotional persuasion: Show how cooperating with you will help resolve their distress



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# IF UNSUCCESSFUL, WHAT'S NEXT?

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Maintain safe positioning to contain/control

Tactical intervention

Disengagement

Specialized take-down techniques

Remember: Traditional pain compliance techniques may not work on persons in crisis; increased risk to them and officer



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# TAKEAWAYS

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De-escalation is a systems-based approach for using opportunities, knowledge, skills and abilities to resolve problems with minimal force where possible

It is especially applicable when dealing with persons in crisis in situations with limited risk



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# TAKEAWAYS

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Individual's mental state is part of the Graham factors test

Officers need to be able to identify the difference between a noncompliant person and a person in crisis. Courts don't make a formal definition but do distinguish.



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# TACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

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Establish and control the zone

Make contact

Understand their perspective and purpose

Build rapport and influence

If unsuccessful, stop and disengage or solve tactically



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[info.lexipol.com/deescalation-fsi](http://info.lexipol.com/deescalation-fsi)



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