



EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE



REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: 2011 May 06

SUBJECT: Injuries to Subjects and Police Officers Due to Strikes and Stuns
in 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received for information.

INTRODUCTION:

On an annual basis the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) provides a statistical summary of use of force events. The 2010 EPS Control Tactics Year-End Report was presented at the 2011 March 17 public EPC meeting. Out of the 18 use of force categories, 3 showed an increase when compared to 2009. The physical strikes category showed the most significant increase of 20.2% over the 2009 results.

During the question period of the presentation, Commissioner Anderson requested a follow-up report detailing the injuries to both police officers and subjects in the categories of physical strikes and stuns.

BACKGROUND:

The EPS captures use of force data using an electronic control tactics report data process. Control tactics reports are submitted whenever a police officer utilizes force and one or more of the following circumstances are present:

1. An injury resulting to any person;
2. The level of force used was higher than empty hand (soft) control which is used for cooperative handcuffing;

3. Any of the following control tactics were used: strikes, stuns, joint manipulations, chemical agents, conducted energy weapon (CEW), holding techniques, impact weapons, special impact munitions;
4. A firearm was drawn, displayed, pointed or discharged;
5. Unusual circumstances exist that necessitate the submission of the report, in the opinion of the investigating member and/or supervisor.

The EPS also collects data related to use of force injuries sustained by both police officers and subjects which is classified into these four categories:

- No reported or visible injury;
- Minor visible, outpatient (e.g. stitches, sprains);
- Disabling, outpatient (e.g. broken bones);
- Disabling, hospitalization.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

The 2010 Year-End Control Tactics report revealed that the tactic of using “strikes” occurred in 482 instances. The category of “stuns” occurred 570 times. Combined there were a total of 1052 strikes and stuns captured in the electronic control tactics reports for 2010.



In 2010 when strikes or stuns were utilized, there were 61 separate EPS occurrences which resulted in injuries to either a police officer or the subject. It should be noted that there may have been multiple officers, multiple subjects or a combination of strikes and stuns used during one occurrence.

In 2010, of the 1052 times that strikes and/or stuns were used there were 17 incidents of injuries to police officers and 54 incidents of injuries to subjects. The chart below depicts the categorization of these events.

2010 Strikes/Stuns Injuries	Disabling, Hospitalization	Disabling, Outpatient (i.e. Broken Bones)	Minor Visible, Outpatient (i.e. Stitches, Sprain)	Total
Officer Injuries	0	5	12	17
Subject Injuries	0	2	52	54

CONCLUSION:

The EPS is currently working with other Alberta law enforcement agencies on a provincial project which will eventually standardize all use of force data collection across the province. This provincial data collection will lead to a more robust model for the collection of use of force data including the categorization of injuries.

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Approved by: Acting Deputy Chief Chris Kellett, Corporate Services Bureau 

A/Chief of Police:  _____

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