



**Bend Police Department
Force Response Report
2017**

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Introduction

“The Bend Police Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life. Police officers are vested with the lawful authority to respond with force to protect the public welfare and themselves. This requires a careful balancing of all human interests. Because the duties of a police officer often present situations in which the use of force, or even deadly force may be necessary, the law and department policy authorizes the use of force in certain circumstances and requires an officer be armed while on regular duty.” —Bend Police Department Policy 300, *Force Response*.

A law enforcement officer is authorized to respond with force in specific circumstances. An extensive investment is made to train an officer to make objectively reasonable force response decisions and to employ the appropriate level of force under a variety of scenarios. An officer typically faces numerous incidents during their career when a force response (i.e., restraining violent combatants) is appropriate. Should the level of force exceed the level considered justifiable and reasonable under the circumstances, not only the officer, but also the department and the city would be open for criminal and/or civil recourse. Law enforcement agencies around the country have come under intense public, judicial and legislative scrutiny over force response issues.

The people of the City of Bend and the State of Oregon have placed great trust in their law enforcement officers by granting officers the statutory authority to respond with force in an objectively reasonable, prudent and justifiable manner. Violating this expectation jeopardizes the ability of a police officer to effectively and efficiently perform their duties and it undermines the ability of the department to protect our community. For police officers to effectively protect themselves and the community they serve, a quality relationship must be maintained. Public and officer safety, constitutional policing and community trust are, thus, interdependent.

Force response by a police officer is a necessary part of the profession. However, no other element in this field of service elicits such heartfelt emotion and attention. The majority of police officers choose a law enforcement career to serve their communities and fellow citizens. Police officers do not wish to injure anyone intentionally or accidentally. The force response statistics that follow show Bend Police officers truly wish to uphold the mission, vision and values of the Bend Police Department.



Vision

We are progressive, innovative, community based and acknowledge our most valued asset is the men and women who work at the Bend Police Department.

Mission

To protect and serve

Values

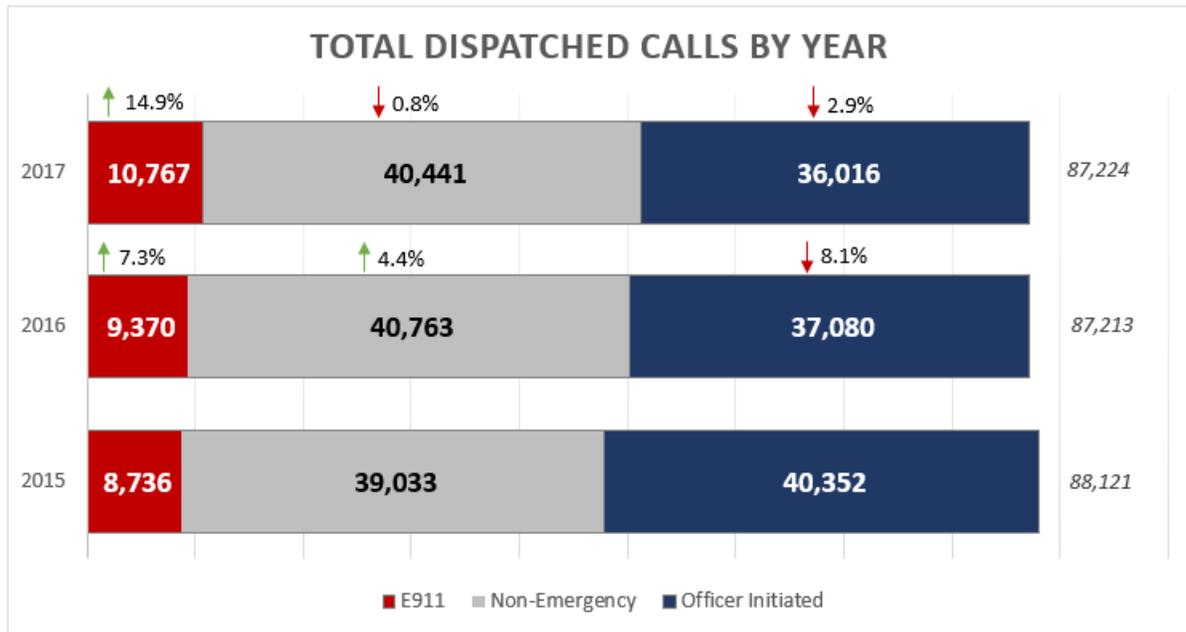
Teamwork, Integrity, Excellence

Definitions. To fully understand the information in this report, the following definitions are provided by the US Department of Justice.

THREAT	Any person resisting arrest or being lawfully controlled, and/or demonstrating the intent, and having the means and opportunity to inflict injury, serious physical injury, or death. “Imminent threat” refers to an impending violent act or resistance that an officer reasonably believes will occur, based on the totality of the circumstances.
ACTIVE RESISTANCE	The subject’s verbal or physical actions are intended to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control, but are not directed at harming the officer. Examples include: walking or running away, breaking the officer’s grip.
AGGRESSIVE RESISTANCE	The subject displays the intent to harm the officer, themselves or another person and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons or other actions which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another.
LETHAL RESISTANCE	The subject’s actions are likely to result in death or serious bodily harm to the officer, themselves or another. These actions may include a firearm, use of blunt or bladed weapon, and extreme physical force.
OC SPRAY	A chemical irritant used as physical control to gain compliance from actively resisting Threats. OC Spray (oleoresin capsicum) is the distilled resin of various peppers in a solution carried by an aerosol propellant. Intermediate Force Option.
TASER	An electronic restraint device used as serious physical control to stun, restrain, control and incapacitate an actively resisting or combative Threat by way of delivering an electronic shock. Intermediate Force Option.
FOCUSED BLOWS	Strikes designed and used to distract, control, stun or incapacitate a suspect temporarily without causing severe physical injury or death. Strikes may include closed fist or open-hand punches, use of knees, elbows and/or head. Intermediate Force Option.
IMPACT WEAPON	Police baton, or ASP, or any other such instrument or device designed or used to block, jab, strike or temporarily restrain or control a suspect by way of physical impact or extending an officer’s ability to use control holds. Intermediate Force Option.
LESS-LETHAL PROJECTILES	Fired from a firearm or similar device, less-lethal projectiles are designed to stun or incapacitate a suspect temporarily, without penetrating the body or causing serious physical injury or death. Intermediate Force Option.
PATROL CANINE (K-9)	A canine trained for and employed by specially trained law enforcement officers, the use of which includes, but may not be limited to, handler protection and location and apprehension of suspects. Intermediate Force Option.
PHYSICAL CONTACT	Directing a subject by touch or use of physical restraints (e.g., handcuffs) or controlling a subject with an escort hold. Low Level Force.
PHYSICAL CONTROL	Use of chemical or organic weapons, pressure points, joint manipulation techniques or physical control holds.

SERIOUS PHYSICAL CONTROL	Use of focused blows and strikes, Taser, impact weapons, Police Canine and carotid restraint.
DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE	Deadly force is that degree of force, which is likely to produce death or serious bodily injury. Deadly force can also result from a force option being improperly applied. Deadly force is not limited to the use of firearms.

Bend Police Department's calls for service



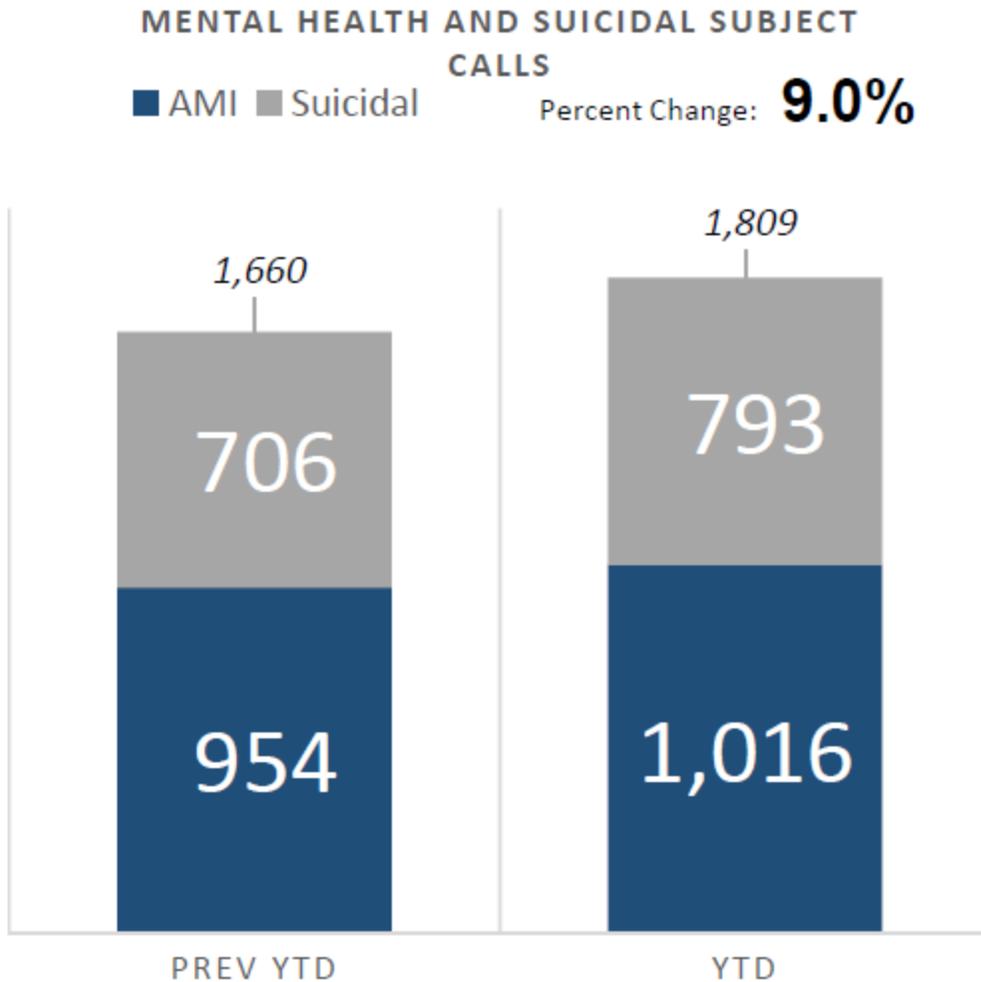
How these types of calls impact the Bend Police Department

Calls come into the Deschutes County 911 Center and then they are dispatched to the Bend Police Department in three categories, 911 emergencies, Non-Emergency, and Officer Initiated. By looking at the graph above, you can see that the number of 911 emergencies increased by 14.9% and the Non-Emergency calls decreased by 0.8% between 2016 and 2017. Officer Initiated calls dropped in that same time period by 2.9%. There are several factors that can attribute to this decline in Officer initiated calls for service. Some factors that affect this are that 911 emergency calls typically require more personnel to respond. Staffing shortages on patrol have also reduced the number of officers on the street. The above-mentioned factors all reduce the officers unoccupied patrol time.

Another growing trend in calls for service is in the area of mental health crisis and suicidal subjects. This trend has been on a steady increase in the last 5 years and that trend has continued into 2017. Calls for service that involve a person having a mental health crisis are entered into the system as an “AMI” call. “AMI” stands for “allegedly mentally ill”. Calls for service for which a person has threatened to commit suicide, or has demonstrated the desire to kill themselves, get entered into the system as a “Suicidal”. Between 2016 and 2017 there was a 36.1% increase in AMI and Suicidal calls for service. These calls for service often involve intoxicated subjects, people with mental health disorders, and require

the officer to transport the persons to the hospital for medical evaluation. These calls for service are very time consuming and often involve multiple officers due to the potential threats posed by intoxicated people and people suffering from a mental illness.

The graph below demonstrates the increase for AMI and Suicidal subject calls between 2016 and 2017. Since 2015, the Bend Police Department has seen a **44%** increase in these types of calls. Between 2016 and 2017, these calls increased by **9%**.



2017 Bend Police Department Arrests

The table shown below details the total arrests made by the City of Bend Police Department for 2017, categorized by **race** and **gender**.

Total Unique Adult Arrests	Male		Female	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
American Indian Alaskan Native	17	20	20	15
Asian	8	10	4	12
Black	76	76	32	20
Hispanic	116	147	26	49
Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	7	2	--	2
White	2011	1989	800	801
Unknown	22	19	8	16
Grand Total	2257	2263	890	915

Total Arrests %	Male		Female	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
American Indian Alaskan Native	0.8%	0.9%	2.2%	1.6%
Asian	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	1.3%
Black	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	2.2%
Hispanic	5.1%	6.5%	2.9%	5.4%
Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.1%	--	0.2%
Unknown	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	1.7%
White	89.1%	87.9%	89.9%	87.5%

Bend Police Department Force Response

When assessing the department-wide force response information, several factors are considered. Multiple officers may respond to a single incident. Multiple officers may use a variety of force response options while attempting to gain compliance from a single threat. A single officer may be confronted by multiple threats at the same incident.

During 2017, reports reveal that Bend Police Department officers responded with force 67 times. By comparison, during this same time frame in 2016 there were 65 force responses. In 2015, Bend Police officers responded with force 61 times, in 2014 the number was 72, in 2013 the number was 71 and in 2012, officers responded with force 87 times.

A force response is characterized as an incident wherein an officer uses a level of force equal to or greater than physical control. According to Bend Police Department, Policy 300–*Use of Force*, OC Spray and takedowns are considered physical control. Changes in patrol tactics, increases in scenario based training, CIT training, officer wellness and force response legal updates have helped reduce our force responses. **Between 2012 and 2017 there has been an average overall reduction of 34% in the number of force responses by Bend Police Officers.**

Force Response by Race and Gender

The table shown below details a race and gender breakdown of the subjects who were involved in a force response incident in 2017.

Force Response Numbers	Male	Female
	2017	2017
American Indian Alaskan Native	1	1
Asian	0	0
Black	4	0
Hispanic/Latino	2	0
Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	0	0
Unknown	6	1
White	42	10

Types of Force

The next table shows the breakdown of different force response options used in 2017. As in previous years, *Other Takedowns* are the most common form of force employed by officers. *Other Takedowns* is the term used to describe the force response option where an officer uses a grabbing or shoving technique to take a suspect to the ground. This specific technique accounted for highest percentage of all force options used by officers in 2017.

The table below compares the previous five (5) years by **type of force option** used by Bend Police officers.

Type of Force	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pepper Spray	2	2	5	18	2
Joint/Arm Takedown	8	7	10	4	20
Hair/Head Takedown	4	3	0	2	8
Other Force Used	0	0	2	4	17
Other Takedown	31	35	31	31	23
Taser	9	15	9	12	9
Focused Blows	8	7	1	4	7
K9 Capture	8	0	2	1	2
Impact Weapon	0	0	0	0	0
Less Lethal Projectile	0	1	1	0	0
Carotid Restraint	0	0	0	0	0
Deadly Force	1	0	0	1	0
Pressure Points	0	1	0	0	0
Road Block	0	1	0	0	0
Total	71	72	61	77	88

Total Arrests and Total Force Responses

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Arrests	3297	3126	3353	3148	3178
Total Force Responses	57	57	56	65	67

¹A single arrest may require multiple force options to physically detain a suspect.

Conclusion

During 2017, when officers responded with force, the suspect was male and his race was white/Caucasian 44 times. Male Hispanic/Latino suspects were involved in 2 of these incidents. Black males represented 4 of these responses while, White/Caucasian females were involved in 11 incidents. Native-American males and females were involved in one incident each. Unspecified/unknown females were involved in 1 incident and unknown males were involved in 3 incidents. Officers are trained to use a reasonable force response based on the level of threat presented. Bend Police Department policy and current case law dictates that officers use a reasonable amount of force when a force response is justified.

The results of this report show that only a small percentage of police contacts with suspects involve a law enforcement force response.

- In 2017, Bend Police Department officers arrested **3,178** suspects and used force in **67** of those events (i.e., 2% percent).
- **66%** of all the force responses involved an intoxicated, AMI subject or suicidal subjects
- Moreover, of the averaged **87,000** citizen contacts, a force response occurred in only **67** incidents.

When a force response was applied, Bend Police Department officers typically used lower levels of force, such as physical control techniques. As a result, suspects were often uninjured or minimally injured (e.g., small bruises, abrasions or Taser-probe penetration).

While a force response is sometimes unavoidable, Bend Police officers strive to de-escalate a situation and find a peaceful resolution. **Since 2012, the Bend Police Department has focused its crisis intervention techniques toward de-escalation through a multi-modal approach. By implementing scenario-based training and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), officers focus on creating time and distance to gain greater compliance, rather than having an event rise to the level of a need for force. CIT techniques allow an officer to implement creative, patient and flexible responses toward crisis resolution.** These two methods are also combined with force response legal updates to provide a comprehensive response to threats.

The Bend Police Department finds that these minimal force responses are a result of our commitment to Crisis Intervention training and its progressive training efforts, which are all in alignment with the department vision, mission and values.