

ICAT is a police training program to diffuse critical incidents with proven de-escalation tactics.

The ICAT cycle of critical decision-making is viewed through the lens of the sanctity of human life, and considers police ethics, values, and proportionality.

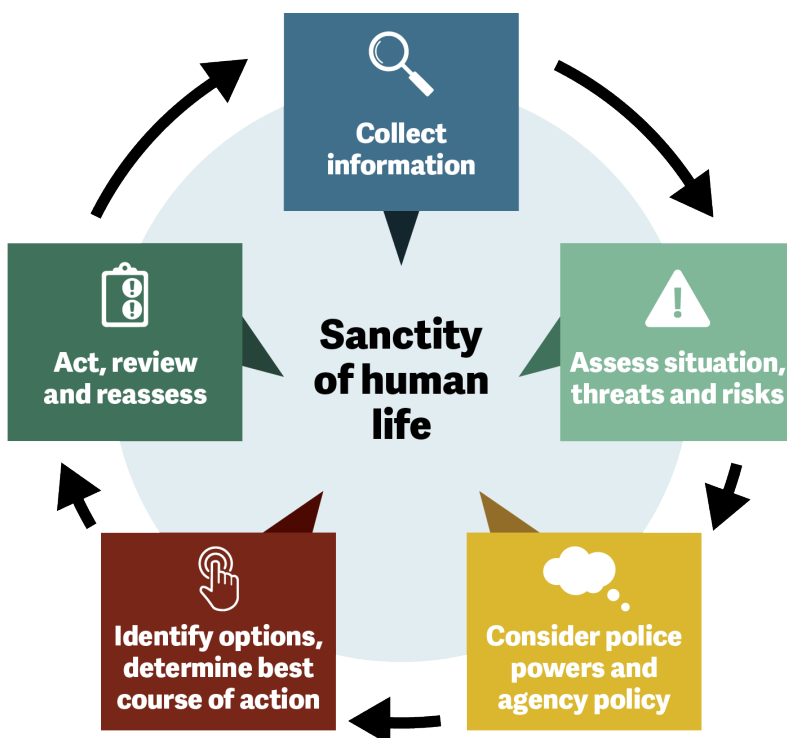


ICAT focuses on officers attempting to avoid the point where their lives or the lives of others become endangered, and the officers have no choice but to use lethal force.

- ICAT focus: Incidents with a subject in crisis who is unarmed or is armed with a weapon other than a firearm.

Critical Decision-Making Model

Phases of the model:



- **Collect Information.** The officer collects relevant information from callers, witnesses, potential subjects of force, observations on scene, and any other source.
- **Assess situation, threats, and risks.** The officer evaluates this information while considering the danger to the public and/or the officer.
- **Consider police powers and agency policy.** The officer reviews legal authority and applicable department policy.
- **Identify options and determine best course of action.** This may include collecting more information, communication, tactical repositioning, and/or taking decisive action. These are considered with the goal of proportionality.

- **Act, review, and reassess.** The officer's actions may have the desired effect, but if not, the officer can return to collecting information and moving through the model again.

Boulder Police Department

The department revised its previous Use of Force policy to emphasize ICAT on Nov. 16, 2020. This program was taught to 175 Boulder PD officers during the fourth quarter of 2020.

The graphic to the right shows the number of incidents in which Use of Force complaints were filed by community members.



14
Incidents with Use of Force Complaints, 2020

8
Incidents with Use of Force Complaints, 2021

Below is a comparison between categories of Use of Force by Boulder PD officers before and after their exposure to the concepts of the ICAT model.

Incident numbers represent individual incidents of uses of force, which may contain more than one type of force, or force used by more than one officer.

Data driven studies demonstrate that use of the ICAT system has led to changes in use of force behavior and injuries.

Commendations		
	2020	2021
Number of individual officers who received recognition by community members	150	151
Number of commendations for actions of department members as a whole (no specific officer identified)	41	16

Use of Force Incident Numbers			
	Pre ICAT (2020)	Post ICAT (2021)	Change (%)
Firearm display to gain compliance	140	93	- 34% ↓
Taser display to gain compliance	71	94	+ 32% ↑
TASER Discharge (Drive stun or probe launch)	13	19	+ 46% ↑
Leg Restraint Device	27	10	- 63% ↓
Takedowns	83	66	- 21% ↓
Total Use of Force Incidents	286	238	- 17% ↓

Nationally, in 40% of fatal Officer-involved Shooting incidents, the subject is either unarmed or is armed with something other than a firearm.

In the years 2020 and 2021, BPD officers did not discharge their firearms at unarmed individuals or individuals armed with something other than a firearm. In 2021, an officer discharged his firearm at an individual armed with a firearm, resulting in a non-fatal injury.