

## **Chesterfield County (VA) Police Department Officer Safety**

Chesterfield County consists of 447 square miles and is home to 364,000 residents. The Chesterfield County Police Department (CCPD) chief, Col. Jeffrey S. Katz who was sworn in as Jan. 2, 2018, currently oversees 557 sworn officers, 132 non-sworn full time employees and 53 part-time employees. The department achieved Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) accreditation in 1998 and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation in 2017.

**CCPD owns and operates its own training academy**, which works to meet and exceed the training requirements set by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The academy trains basic police recruits, pre-certified (lateral transfer) police officers, police service aides, and provides annual mandatory and elective in-service training for all department members. Public Safety Training Center is a shared facility, with space dedicated to Chesterfield County Fire & EMS and the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office. **The facility offers classroom space, staff offices, a MILO training room, a gymnasium, and a weight room with shower and locker amenities. The training division is commanded by a captain who is assisted by a lieutenant.**

**CCPD operates a self-contained, 71-acre driving range where its members practice basic driving, skills driving, motorcycle training, skid pan driving, emergency vehicle operation (EVOC), and precision immobilization**

**technique (PIT) training. It consists of a classroom, a 1.4-mile emergency vehicle operators' course with four fully functioning traffic signals, an observation tower with a 360-degree view and state of the art traffic signal controls, the ability to restrict access during driving evolutions, a separate skid pan and skills pan area, a garage for minor vehicle repairs, and sheltered pavilions. The EVOC course is capable of training vehicle operations at speeds that exceed 100 mph.** The facility operates approximately 300 days a year training current and recruit police officers. The facility is also an asset to the region: several of our area law enforcement partners utilize the facility for their agency EVOC training. Beyond the extensive emergency driver training provided to police recruits, all officers receive biennial EVOC or pursuit training.

**CCPD issues several pieces of ballistic protective gear to all sworn police officers. All sworn officers are issued custom-fit concealable level IIIA soft body armor. CCPD officers are required by policy to wear their assigned soft body armor when in uniform and in a field assignment and while in firearms training.** Plain-clothes officers and those assigned strictly administrative functions must wear their assigned soft body armor when conducting business that will result in routine contact with the public. Issued body armor is replaced every five years or sooner, if necessary. **All sworn CCPD officers are also issued level IV hard armor plates and carrier and a level IV ballistic helmet to be worn during any incident or call for service that presents an imminent threat of gunfire. Officers are required to wear the level IV body armor during active shooter training.**

**CCPD issues out IIIA ballistic shields to all its patrol divisions and some specialty units, such as SWAT, the Special Enforcement Team (street crimes unit), and Vice and Narcotics. Each patrol division precinct is stocked with two ballistic shields, so they are available for high-risk situations. An additional 20 collapsible shields are issued out to patrol officers across the divisions. Each patrol officer is certified in shield operation via an eight-hour Tactical Shield Operator Course. All officers are also issued gas masks.**

**The CCPD operates a firearms range that consists of a main range building, a classroom, and a two-bay, fully baffled outdoor range.** Each bay has 10 lanes. Sworn police officers qualify with their firearms each year to maintain certification. The officers complete a classroom portion that covers policies related to use of force, weapon safety, nomenclature, and weapon maintenance. Officers are then required to pass the Department of Criminal Justice Services 50-round Tactical Qualification Course I with a minimum of 75 percent. Ammunition is provided for this training. **In addition, sworn officers are provided several dates throughout the calendar year to complete voluntary firearms accuracy and skills training (F.A.S.T.). Officers are provided ammunition and various firearm training drills designed to improve weapon handling, decision making, and accuracy with the department- issued firearm. Officers can also use the training opportunity to complete a secondary/back-up weapon qualification course.**

**Chesterfield County Police conducts judgmental use-of-force training for all recruits, officers, and supervisors annually.** This training is an advanced “shoot, don’t shoot” training. During this training, officers are provided with simmunition weapons.

**Chesterfield County Police offers an eight-hour block of instruction on Active Shooter.** The class covers the definition of an active shooter and goes into detail about priority of life. The material is taught using a presentation that includes various videos. Officers/recruits are then put through several force-on-force scenarios using simmunition weapons. This training has been conducted at Chesterfield County Public School buildings that are no longer in use and buildings that are in use but not open on the training day. This block of instruction is typically taught by members of CCPD’s SWAT Team. Additionally, CCPD conducts at least one large-scale active shooter training exercise yearly. Often these exercises involve other police agencies and Chesterfield Fire & EMS to enhance interdepartmental cohesion and to practice the rescue task force process. Locations for these large-scale training exercises have included schools, shopping malls, movie theaters, and bowling alleys.

**The Chesterfield County Police Defensive Tactics Program has 30 instructors who facilitate training for three basic recruit classes, three pre-certified officer classes and three police service aide classes annually.**

**Officers are reflective traffic safety vests and wearing them is mandatory while performing manual traffic direction and control. Police service aids and motorist assistants are also issued such vests. Officers and aids are also issued reflective raincoats to wear in the event of inclement weather. Policy also requires supervisors to ensure all members participating in traffic checkpoints are in uniform and traffic safety vest.**

**CCPD issues AXON Body 3 body-worn cameras (BWC) to all uniformed officers and plain-clothes officers below the rank of captain.** The required use of BWCs is regulated by policy and is monitored through required reviews in certain circumstances, such as vehicle pursuits and use-of-force incidents, as well as monthly random audits. The department requires BWCs be activated during all emergency driving, all enforcement contacts including vehicle and pedestrian stops, calls for service where the suspect is still on scene, arrest and transport of prisoners, encounters with potentially mentally ill subjects and any situation where the officer believes it would be appropriate to record the situation.

**All sworn members are issued and trained in the use of Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). These kits are stored in every patrol vehicle and at each police facility.** The contents of the kit is kept in an easily accessible nylon pouch with a carabiner for quick attachment to the exterior vest carrier for a rapid response to an active threat situation. In addition to trauma bandages, each IFAK contains two tourniquets and a nasal airway. Fortunately, CCPD has not had to use these tools to treat an officer, but **these kits have been used on multiple occasions to treat gunshot victims in the field prior to EMS arrival. Between 2019 and 2021, CCPD awarded eight lifesaving awards and three police rescue certificates to officers who were able to use the tools in their IFAKs to render lifesaving aid.**

**All officers are issued Naloxone (Narcan nasal mist).** All members received training in the use and deployment of Narcan beginning in 2018. All officers receive biennial training regarding Narcan and CCPD has a policy in place to guide officers in recognizing the signs of opioid overdose, the use and deployment of Narcan, after-use protocol, storage, inspection, and replacement. **Between 2019 and 2021, 14 officers were awarded police rescue certificates for lifesaving efforts using Narcan. CCPD has one documented case of an officer being successfully treated with Narcan when she fell ill after handling drug paraphernalia; this incident occurred on Jan. 2, 2020. In 2021, officers administered 119 doses of Narcan to overdose victims.**

**All CCPD officers are trained and certified biennially in the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). 150 AEDs are issued out for patrol operations** on each platoon or shift and at police facilities. Emergency Communications Center protocol dictates that an officer assigned an AED be dispatched to any medical call for service indicating a possible cardiac arrest. **From 2019 to 2021, CCPD awarded nine police rescue certificates to officers for lifesaving efforts that involved use of an AED.**

All officers are issued Glock 17 9mm pistols and Remington or Mossburg 12 guage shotguns. Each shotgun is equipped with a tactical sling and a "side saddle" that attaches to the shotgun and stores extra ammunition. Officers are allowed to carry secondary/back up guns providing they qualify annually. 100 officers are certified to use patrol rifles are issued the Smith and Wesson MOE .223/5.56 caliber. Each rifle is equipped with a tactical sling, tactical light, sighting system and three, 30 round magazines. The department is Constantly adding to their inventory of rifles. All long guns are mounted horizontally to the roof in the back portion of the patrol vehicle.

**CCPD provides its officers with a variety of less-lethal use-of-force options.** All less-lethal weapons systems require annual or biennial re-certification in an in-service, roll call, or on-line setting and only officers trained and certified have access to and are authorized to use such weapons. **These weapons include the ASP expandable baton, OC pepper spray and a Taser. All officers are certified in the use of the pepperball gun. Specialized units are trained in the use of the 40mm foam baton rounds.**

**CCPD also has a Police Emergency Response Team (PERT) which consists of SWAT and Hostage Negotiations teams. The SWAT team also utilizes the Lenco BearCat armored vehicle.**

**CCPD has an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or Drones, as part of the Special Operations Division.** The team is a collateral duty unit whose members are assigned throughout the department allowing for significant 24/7 availability. **The members of the team are also subject to call out when needed. All members of the team must be trained, licensed, and registered through the FAA.** The team trains monthly in both daylight and nighttime operations. The team

also trains jointly with the SWAT team and SRU. These joint trainings allow the SWAT and SRU commanders to utilize the UAS to enhance their decision making during tactical operations. The department also has mini-UASs that can be used in conjunction with their robot to clear the interior of residences and the minis have even been used to enter residences.

**CCPD patrols the James River, on our eastern border, and Lake Chesdin, on our southern border. Our vessel is a 25' SAFE Full Cabin Boat which is fully enclosed making it usable year-round.**

**The department has a 57-member Special Response Unit, which is a team of officers, detectives, and supervisors specially trained and equipped to respond to civil unrest, riots, and search-and-rescue operations.** The team also routinely trains with its counterparts from police agencies in the region and the Virginia National Guard. These joint training exercises allow for consistency in training, tactics, and communications during events involving mutual aid. **In the early summer of 2020, the City of Richmond experienced several nights of severe civil unrest and riots. CCPD's SRU, along with several other regional teams, responded to Richmond's call for mutual aid and successfully protected lives and property in a coordinated manner.**

**CCPD issues each officer a GPS-equipped PMDC.** When logged on, each officer can be located by the dispatch center and other officers/supervisors who are logged in to mobile CADS. **This is a great asset for officer safety, allowing officers and supervisors to easily establish and adjust perimeters during response to crimes.**

**\*\* This summary is only a brief overview of many of the Chesterfield County Police Department's programs. In the actual submission you will see that CCPD has other programs and incentives to benefit its members. Please review their entire submission and its associated documents to gain a complete understanding of their program.**