

# Seattle Police Department

## Directive

July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Directive Number 15-00035

### Failure to Follow Training is Not a Policy Violation

There is a recent misconception circulating the Department that any failure to follow training (for example, not waiting for backup or utilizing contact/cover) is a policy violation and should be referred to OPA. This is not the Department's policy or practice.

Although Manual Section 5.001 (employees are responsible for adhering to Department training) and Manual Section 8.100 (force must comply with Department training) reference obligations for SPD employees to follow Department training, these sections are not intended to create an independent basis for discipline based solely on failure to follow training. **Training is intended to provide guidance on how to implement and follow policy, not create additional policy requirements.** As feasible, APRS will revise the appropriate manual sections to achieve greater clarity.

Supervisors shall continue to counsel and instruct employees to follow Department training and refer for additional training as appropriate.

Please read the attached policy.  
Questions may be directed to the Policy Unit  
[email: SPD\\_aprs@seattle.gov](mailto:SPD_aprs@seattle.gov)  
Phone (206-684-4116)