
Conducted Energy Device

313.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of TASER devices.

313.2 POLICY

The TASER® device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual and/or animals, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

313.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING TASER DEVICES

Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be issued and carry the TASER device.

TASER devices are issued to all sworn officers and Animal Services Officers (ASO). For purposes of this section, the term "Officer" refers to both sworn officers and Animal Services Officers who have been trained and authorized to carry a TASER device. ASOs are expected to abide by the Animal Services policy which also refers to the Conducted Energy Device.

Officers shall only use the TASER device and cartridges that have been issued by the Department. Uniformed officers who have been issued the TASER device shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person. Non-uniformed officers may secure the TASER device in the driver's compartment of their vehicle.

Members carrying the TASER device should perform a spark test on the unit prior to every shift.

Unless otherwise authorized, when carried while in uniform, officers shall carry the TASER device in a support-side holster on the side opposite the duty weapon.

- (a) All TASER devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked yellow to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
- (b) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER device is properly maintained and in good working order.
- (c) Officers should not hold both a firearm and the TASER device at the same time, unless justified by changing or evolving circumstances.

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313.5.6 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

The TASER device may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

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313.5.7 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Officers are not authorized to carry department TASER devices while off-duty.

Officers shall ensure that TASER devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

313.6 DOCUMENTATION

Officers shall document all TASER device discharges in the related arrest/crime report and the Force Evaluation form. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy. Pointing the device at a person, laser activation and arcing the device will also be documented in the narrative report and Force Evaluation form. Unintentional discharges shall be made known to a supervisor.

313.6.1 TASER DEVICE FORM

Items that shall be included in the Force Evaluation form are:

- (a) The type and brand of TASER device and cartridge and cartridge serial number.
- (b) Date, time and location of the incident.
- (c) Whether any display, laser or arc deterred a subject and gained compliance.
- (d) The number of TASER device activations, the duration of each cycle, the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined) the duration that the subject received applications.
- (e) The distance at which the TASER device was used.
- (f) The type of mode used (probe or drive-stun).
- (g) Location of any probe impact.
- (h) Location of contact in drive-stun mode.
- (i) Description of where missed probes went.
- (j) Whether medical care was provided to the subject.
- (k) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
- (l) Whether any officers or others sustained any injuries.

The Training Manager should periodically analyze the report forms to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness. The Office of Professional Development should also conduct audits of data downloads and reconcile Force Evaluation forms with recorded activations. TASER device information and statistics, with identifying information removed, should periodically be made available to the public.

313.6.2 REPORTS

The officer should include the following in the arrest/crime report:

- (a) Identification of all personnel firing, pointing a laser, or arcing TASER devices
- (b) Identification of all witnesses

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- (c) Medical care provided to the subject
- (d) Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions
- (e) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems

313.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove TASER device probes from a person's body. Used TASER device probes shall be treated as a sharp biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

All persons who have been struck by TASER device probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

- (a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- (b) The person may be pregnant.
- (c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
- (d) The TASER device probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- (e) The person requests medical treatment.

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the TASER device.

313.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the TASER device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the TASER device was activated.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the TASER device. The device's onboard memory should be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor or armorer and saved with the related arrest/crime report. Photographs of probe sites should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

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313.9 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the TASER device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training or Academy. Any personnel who have not carried the TASER device as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a department-approved TASER device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been issued TASER devices should occur as required by OPD. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Training Manager. All training and proficiency for TASER devices will be documented in the officer's training file.

Command staff, supervisors, investigators and Animal Services Officers should receive TASER device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

The Training Manager is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry TASER devices have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification.

Application of TASER devices during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Training Manager should ensure that all training includes:

- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Use of Force Policy.
- (c) Performing support-hand draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing and firing a firearm.
- (d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin.
- (e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the TASER device and transitioning to other force options (e.g.: cuffing under power).
- (f) De-escalation techniques.
- (g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the TASER device.