



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-500-01 Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW)

Section 500 – Use of Force

Effective Date: 4/2/2026

Supersedes Date: 3/18/2021

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide department personnel with guidelines for the lawful and appropriate use of a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), as well as the proper storage, maintenance, issue, and carry of the CEW.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 320 Mental Health Response](#)

[GO 500 Use of Force](#)

[GO 501 Use of Prone Restraint](#)

[GO 510 Reporting Use of Force](#)

[DL-1011-02 Medical Clearances](#)

.03 Definitions

Active Aggression: A threat or overt act of an assault, coupled with the present ability to carry out the threat or assault, which reasonably indicates that an assault or injury to any person is imminent. Threatening body language includes, but is not limited to, blading the body, assuming a boxer stance, circling officer or marshal's position, clenching of the hands from an open to closed position, forming a fist, etc. Active Aggression is a higher level of resistance than Active Resistance.

Active Resistance: Physically evasive movements to defeat an officer or marshal's attempt to control, including, but not limited to, bracing, tensing, pushing, flailing arms, running away, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into or retained in custody. Active Resistance also includes attempting to avoid apprehension and failing to comply with an officer or marshal's order to reveal themselves from concealment or surrender. Walking away may be considered active resistance if the person continues to walk away from an officer or marshal after

having been given a lawful order or having been told the person is under arrest. Active Resistance is a higher level of resistance than Passive Resistance.

Arming: Moving the selector switch of the CEW from the safe position to the armed position, activating the CEW for use or deployment.

Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW): An electronic device designed to temporarily incapacitate a person by delivering electrical impulses that disrupt voluntary neuromuscular control. A CEW is also commonly referred to as an electronic control weapon or TASER energy weapon.

Central Information Display (CID): A display on the back of the CEW that provides information about the CEW. When the selector switch is moved to the up (ARMED) position, the CID will display icons that indicate the weapon's functional status.

Deployment: The firing of one or more cartridges to engage a person, by contact with live probes and activation of the five (5)-second electric pulse cycle, one or more times.

Download: The procedure of downloading the internal memory from the CEW, updating firmware, and resetting the internal clock if required. This occurs when the rechargeable battery is placed into a docking station for charging.

Evidence.com: Axon Enterprise, Inc solution for secure digital media storage and management.

Function Test Mode: A mode in which the weapon will conduct a fully automated diagnostic self-test.

Laser Painting: A technique used in conjunction with verbal commands when the operator points the targeting lasers of the CEW on the subject's body as a visual warning of the operator's intent to use the CEW.

Passive Resistance: Physical actions that do not prevent the officer or marshal's attempt to control, for example, a person who remains in a limp, prone position, or passive demonstrators.

Physical Distress: Includes objectively observable conditions such as loss of consciousness; respiratory distress (obvious difficulty breathing, gasping, agonal breathing); absence of breathing; observable seizure activity; sudden physical collapse; visible serious injury (e.g., uncontrolled bleeding).

TASER: The brand name of the CEW used by the department's authorized devices (TASER 7 and TASER 10).

TASER 7 Cartridge: A cartridge unique to the TASER 7 platform that has two (2) probes in it which expels them upon deployment. Types:

- Close Quarters (CQ) cartridge deploys at a 12-degree downward angle and is designed for use at a distance within 15 feet.
- Stand Off (SO) cartridge deploys at a 3.5-degree downward angle and is designed for use at a distance greater than 11 feet but less than 25 feet.

TASER 10 Cartridge: A cartridge tube that has one singular probe in it which expels it upon deployment with an effective range of 40 feet but has a maximum distance of up to 45 feet.

TASER 10 Magazine: A magazine that is inserted into the front of the TASER 10 device which holds 10 cartridges. Duty magazines (black in color) are the only magazines authorized for field use. All other magazines (training/purple, HALT/blue, and inert/red) are for training use only.

Warning Alert: A feature of the TASER 10 that projects 1,000 lumens of pulsing light and a loud sound to warn the subject.

Warning Arc: A sustained press of the ARC Switch on the TASER 7 that initiates an ARC across both cartridge bays without discharging the Cartridges. This technique is used in conjunction with verbal commands and is an auditory and visual warning of the operator's intent to use the CEW.

.04 Procedure

Authorized Users and Required Carry

Only sworn officers and marshals who have satisfactorily completed the department's approved training course are authorized to carry and utilize a CEW. Only personnel who have been trained in TASER 10 and subsequently issued a TASER 10 are allowed to use that model.

All marshals and police officers at the rank of lieutenant and below performing duty in uniform, including voluntary assignments and extra duty assignments, will carry the approved CEW supplied by the department at all times. Members of the Tactical Enforcement Unit are exempt from the individual carry requirement when operating in a team deployment as directed by the unit supervisor or operational plan.

Officers performing a non-uniformed assignment have the option of carrying the approved CEW.

Device Readiness

Authorized Models and Equipment

The approved CEWs for use by department personnel are AXON's TASER 7 and AXON's TASER 10. Personnel are only authorized to use CEWs, holsters, and load-bearing vest (LBV) attachments issued specifically to them by the department and will not modify the CEW, issued holster, or an issued LBV attachment. Department members will not swap or borrow a magazine (TASER 10) or battery from another person. An authorized vendor or designated member of the Training Division will make all repairs to the CEW.

CEW Download and Battery

- Only agency-approved battery power sources will be used in the CEW.
- Department members will exchange their battery upon discharge of the CEW.
- Department members will exchange their battery no later than every 30 days unless the battery level drops to 20% or lower. If the battery level drops to 20% or lower, the battery must be exchanged.
- All battery exchanges will be retrieved from the battery docking stations.
- Department members will not take a spare battery from the battery docking stations; they will only do a one-to-one swap.
- When placed in the battery docking station, the rechargeable battery pack will upload the weapon data and firmware automatically as well as recharge and condition the battery.
- When a new battery pack is inserted in the handle, it will automatically synchronize the weapon's logs to the battery pack and may update the firmware. Department members will not remove the battery pack or perform any other action until this is complete, as indicated by the icon disappearing from the CID.

Initial Issue of Device and Authorized Wear

All officers and marshals at the rank of lieutenant and below will be issued a CEW through the Training Division. A representative from the Training Division will issue the CEW, the duty magazine, and 10 live cartridges and will ensure the assignment is entered in Evidence.com.

All 10 cartridges will be kept loaded in the TASER 10 magazine.

Officers and marshals are not authorized to carry a CEW off duty.

Duty Belt Carry

The CEW may be carried on the duty belt in the issued holster on the support side (non-dominant side) of the body, on the opposite side from their duty handgun and will be drawn in a cross-draw fashion.

Load-bearing Vest Carry

The CEW may be carried on the torso area in the issued holster with issued attachments. It must be readily accessible to the officer and in a position on the opposite side of the duty handgun, in a cross-draw fashion.

Malfunctioning CEWs/Return of CEWs

If a CEW malfunctions or requires repair, officers or marshals will contact an on-duty member of the Technology Operations Section for assistance and a replacement 24/7. Technology Operations Section personnel will issue the replacement, make necessary changes to the officer's assigned CEW in Evidence.com, and will send the CEW that needs repair to the Training Division for return to Axon. The replacement will be sent to the Training Division.

Inventory and Tracking

The Training Division is responsible for issuance, maintenance, tracking, inventory, and return/replacement of CEWs.

Required Inspection of the CEW

At the beginning of their shift, each officer and marshal will inspect their CEW for any visible damage, ensure the magazine and battery are properly seated, and will check the battery level and perform a test utilizing the Function Test Mode. Officers and marshals will not press the trigger during the function test. This inspection will be conducted during the same time as the officer or marshal is doing their body-worn camera status check, so the test is recorded.

If a CEW is damaged or malfunctioning, the officer or marshal will follow the repair procedure in this directive.

Function Test Mode Procedures

If the function test indicates a malfunction, follow the guidance for assistance in this directive.

TASER 7

- Ensure the TASER 7 is pointing in a safe direction.
- With the safety in the down (SAFE) position, press and release both ARC switches simultaneously. The CID will display the firmware version and the battery percentage
- Move the safety to the up (ARMED) position. The TASER 7 is now in Function Test mode.
- Press either ARC switch or both ARC switches. The TASER 7 will ARC for five (5) seconds. After it is over, look at the CID to verify there are no fault icons; there are two (2) cartridges present; and there is adequate battery capacity.

- When the TASER 7 is placed back to the down (SAFE) position, it will return to normal operation.

TASER 10

When the TASER 10 is in the Function Test mode, the Axon Signal capability is turned off. Do not pull the trigger during a function test. *Pulling the trigger will deploy a cartridge, even if the weapon is in the function test mode.*

- Ensure the TASER 10 is pointed in a safe direction
- From the Safe position, press and hold the selector switch in the down position until a blue circle completes on the CID. This should take approximately three (3) seconds, and once complete, the side rail lights should illuminate blue in color. The CID then displays the settings icon and firmware version.
- Move the selector switch to the up (ARMED) position. The weapon will conduct the test and display the results. A green checkmark icon indicates the weapon is functioning properly. The flashing red X icon indicates an error. Move the selector switch to the SAFE position to exit function test mode.

The TASER 10 is equipped with an AXON Signal device. When the selector switch is moved to the up (ARMED) position, the TASER 10 will broadcast a signal activating the assigned officer's BWC.

Warning before Use of CEW

Warning Subject

- Identify themselves as a police officer
- Give a clear verbal warning of their intent to use force and give the individual the chance to comply with verbal orders.
 - This warning is not required when giving it would unduly place the sworn department member at risk of injury and/or would create a risk of death or injury to other persons. When a warning cannot be used, the sworn member will document the reasons why in the case report.
- The sworn member should consider using laser painting, a warning alert (TASER 10), or warning ARC (TASER 7) in conjunction with verbal commands.
 - It is important that officers and marshals using TASER 10 understand they cannot attempt a warning alert after cartridges have been deployed. After they have been deployed, placing the selector switch in the up position will re-energize the CEW.

Warning Other Department Members

If practicable, the sworn member will warn others on scene that a CEW is being deployed. This is important situational awareness for other officers and marshals and reduces the chance of the sound being mistaken for the firing of lethal rounds. [REDACTED]

Authorized Deployment

Officers and marshals are authorized to use a CEW, within the limitations described in *Restricted Use of CEW*, if:

1. Officers or marshals have grounds to arrest or detain the person and the person's actions are at a level of Active Resistance or Active Aggression and/or
2. The officer or marshal has a reasonable belief that the person poses an imminent danger to themselves or others.

Restricted Use of CEW

Officers and marshals are prohibited from using a CEW in the following situations because they may increase the risk of serious injury or death to the subject or others:

- Using a CEW on a driver of a running motor vehicle.
- Intentionally drawing or pointing a CEW simultaneously with a firearm.
- Using a CEW when the officer or marshal reasonably believes flammable liquids, vapors, or substances are present on the subject or in the immediate environment, creating a risk of fire or explosion (e.g., gas pumps, fuel spills).
- Using a CEW on a subject where a fall is likely to result in life-threatening injury or death (e.g., rooftops, bridges).

Officers and marshals are prohibited from using a CEW in the following situations unless the circumstances involve the subject posing a risk of imminent serious bodily injury or death to a person other than the subject:

- Using a CEW on a person the officer or marshal believes is pregnant, elderly, an elementary school aged or younger child, has visible very low body mass index, and/or visibly frail or infirm.
- Using a CEW on a person who is handcuffed, restrained, or otherwise incapacitated or immobilized.
- Intentionally activating more than one CEW at the same time on the same subject.

Danger to Self Only

When making force decisions involving a person who poses a danger only to themselves, officers and marshals will only use force in circumstances and in a manner consistent with [GO 320 Mental Health Response](#).

Fleeing Persons

Because CEW use on a person who is actively fleeing presents an increased risk of injury due to loss of control, the following additional restrictions apply:

- When the use of a CEW is based on the person's attempt to evade arrest, the officer or marshal must have probable cause to arrest the person for a misdemeanor or felony offense.
- When the use of a CEW is based on the person posing an imminent danger, the risk must be to others. Risk of harm to the person alone does not justify the use of a CEW in this context.

Use on Suspects in a Prone Position

Personnel will only deploy a CEW on a person in a prone position in a manner consistent with [GO 501 Use of Prone Restraint](#).

Deployment Procedures

Range

The CEW should only be operated when its operator can safely deploy the device within its operational range. For the TASER 7, the close quarters cartridge is designed for use within 15 feet and the stand off cartridge is designed for use at a distance greater than 11 feet but less than 25 feet. For the TASER 10, the range is zero to no more than 45 feet.

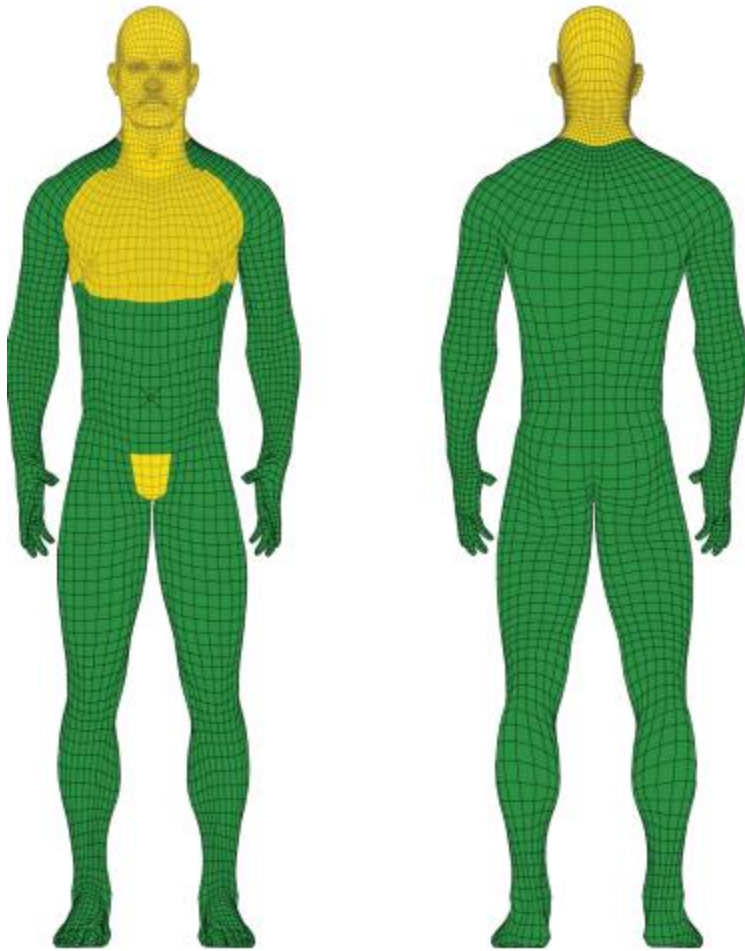
Aiming or Targeting

Recognizing that the dynamics of the situation and movement of the subject may affect target placement of probes, officers and marshals should aim the CEW at the preferred target areas of the body, which are the lower torso and legs when the subject is facing the officer or marshal, or the subject's back if they are turned away from the officer or marshal.

Officers and marshals should avoid intentionally targeting sensitive areas of the body such as the face, eyes, head, throat, chest area, breast, groin, genitals, or known pre-existing injury areas, when feasible.

If circumstances result in one or more probes inadvertently striking an area outside of the preferred target zones, the subject should be closely monitored until examined by medical personnel.

Figure 1. Probe and aiming placement



The areas of the body that are considered sensitive areas are in yellow in Figure 1.

Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI)

NMI is the effect produced by a conducted electrical weapon (CEW) in which electrical impulses override voluntary motor control, causing involuntary muscle contractions and a temporary inability to perform coordinated, purposeful movements. NMI does not rely on pain compliance and may vary based on factors including probe placement, probe spread, and individual subject characteristics. A CEW may not achieve total NMI. A subject may maintain some degree of voluntary movement, depending on the circumstances.

The deployment of the CEW does not need to result in NMI to be considered effective.

Application

Once activated on a subject, the initial CEW activation duration is five (5) seconds. Whenever possible, cover officers should take positions of advantage to control the subject and take them

into custody while the subject is under the effects of the CEW or as soon as reasonably safe thereafter.

Officers should avoid touching the probes and wires and the areas between the probes during the electrical discharge.

Multiple or Prolonged CEW Deployments

Repeated or prolonged CEW deployments should be avoided when feasible, as they may increase the risk of serious injury or death. After an initial CEW deployment, officers and marshals must continually assess the subject to determine whether additional deployments are objectively reasonable and necessary. Each deployment and subsequent re-deployment of the CEW is a separate use of force and must be independently justified. Officers and marshals must not deploy CEWs more than is objectively reasonable and necessary to gain control of a subject or safely resolve the encounter. Multiple deployments of the CEW are not justified solely on the grounds that a subject fails to comply with a command, absent behavior indicating the subject is about to flee or poses an immediate threat to an officer or marshal.

Additional factors to consider in subsequent deployments include the following:

- Whether the need to control the individual outweighs the risks associated with additional deployments;
- Whether the CEW is effectively impacting the subject;
- Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply; and
- Whether verbal commands or other options or tactics may be more effective.

If a CEW deployment is ineffective in achieving compliance, officers or marshals should consider alternative control measures in conjunction with or separate from the CEW.

The TASER 7 deploys two (2) cartridges with one trigger pull. An officer or marshal who pulls the trigger more than once (i.e., deploys more than one (1) cartridge) must have independent justification for each additional use of force in accordance with this directive.

For the TASER 10, two (2) cartridges must be deployed (i.e., two (2) trigger pulls) to potentially achieve NMI. An officer or marshal that deploys more than two (2) cartridges must independently justify each use of force in accordance with this written directive.

Operation of TASER 10

The TASER 10 magazine has a total of 10 individual cartridges capable of being discharged. It should be noted there is no electrical output from the CEW with a single cartridge being fired. A second fired cartridge and successful connection between two or more probes will begin a 5 second electrical output from the CEW, and an audible connection alert tone will begin. The maximum number of cartridges that the system will allow to be energized at once is four (4). The TASER 10 platform will select the optimal connection amongst the deployed cartridges to complete the circuit. The optimal spread between probes to achieve NMI is 12 inches or greater and ideally splits the beltline of the suspect.

Drive Stun

The CEW is most effective when used to discharge probes from an adequate distance, allowing sufficient probe spread, not in drive stun mode (TASER 7)

The TASER 7 has a drive stun option. Because the use of the TASER 7 in drive stun mode relies on pain compliance, the use of the drive-stun mode generally should be limited to supplementing the probe-mode to complete the circuit, or as a distraction technique to gain separation between officers and the subject, giving officers time and distance to consider other force options or actions.

The TASER 10 does not have a drive stun option.

Post-Deployment Actions

Medical Treatment Requirements

Following the deployment of a CEW, officers or marshals will secure the subject and request a medical unit response. As soon as it is safe to do so, an officer or marshal will turn a person in a prone position onto their side or in a seated position in accordance with [GO 501 Use of Prone Restraint](#).

The subject must be monitored following the use of a CEW for signs of physical distress. If physical distress is observed, an officer or marshal will request a Code 3 medical response. A subject in physical distress must be continuously monitored, and officers or marshals will provide first aid within the scope of their training and experience until medical assistance arrives. An officer or marshal will brief arriving medical personnel on the CEW use and the subject's condition.

The individual will be transported and/or cleared in accordance with [DL-1011-02 Medical Clearances](#) prior to transport to a detention facility.

Probe Removal and Cartridge Disposal

After a subject has been secured in handcuffs or other appropriate restraints, the officer or marshal deploying the CEW will evaluate the subject to determine if the probes have penetrated the skin. An officer or marshal may remove the probes if the probes have not penetrated a sensitive area. Only trained medical personnel will remove probes from sensitive areas.

Photographs of the probe sites will be taken, prior to and following probe removal, if possible. Probes should be inspected for any breakage that may remain in the subject. Officers or marshals may request the on-scene paramedics remove the probes, while they take appropriate photographs.

Removed TASER 7 probes will be secured by inverting the probes and placing them back into the spent cartridge. The wires will be wrapped around the cartridge. Both the probes and wires will then be secured in place by wrapping tape over the cartridge. This will prevent the sharp ends of the probe from penetrating other objects. The cartridge will then be disposed of, in a biohazard container.

TASER 10 probes will be disposed of in a biohazard container. Wires and cartridge bodies can be thrown in a trash receptacle.

In cases involving critical incidents, the probes/cartridge/wires will be placed into evidence after being properly secured. When collecting the probes/wires/cartridges for evidence, avoid breaking the wires by gathering them loosely, and placing them in the appropriate container.

Reporting

An officer or marshal that deploys a CEW will do the following:

- Complete reports as required by [GO 510 Reporting Use of Force](#).
- Perform a battery exchange to synchronize the TASER log to Evidence.com
- Go to Evidence.com and find your deployment log on your device. Copy your deployment log to evidence. Tag the log using your case number.
- Attach a copy to the use of force report.
- Complete the additional fields for a CEW deployment in the use of force report. The probe cartridge serial number does not need to be entered.

All accidental firings of a CEW that strike another person will be documented on a Use of Force Report.

Training and Qualifications

Only those personnel specifically trained in their use will deploy CEWs. All officers and marshals issued a CEW will attend and successfully complete an approved course of training taught by

TASER instructors and will demonstrate proficiency prior to deploying these munitions in the course of their duties. Training will include the following:

- Classroom instruction
- Scenario exercises
- Live fire exercises
- Written test(s)

Officers and marshals are required to re-qualify on an annual basis. Re-qualification courses will be developed and administered by the Training Division.

All officers and marshals receive training to understand the responsibilities of deploying a CEW - before, during, and after a deployment. Periodic training should include a review of relevant directives, de-escalation techniques, and target area considerations.

The Training Division will maintain documentation of all CEW training.