

# Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

## Chapter 4 — Operations

**Section Number:** 4-4-3  
**Section Title:** Use of Taser  
**Most Recent Update:** 03/10/2026

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### I. Policy

- A. The purpose of this section is to identify the proper use of the Taser, a non-lethal electronic control device for officers of the Clive Police Department.
- B. It is the policy of the Clive Police Department to make available to its officers, in the performance of their duties, non-lethal electronic control devices to ensure their safety, the safety of the public, and the safe immobilization of hostile subjects when lethal force is not justified.

### II. Definitions

- A. The Electronic Control Device (ECD), commonly known as a TASER, is authorized for use by officers of the Clive Police Department.
  - 1. The ECD is a handheld, battery operated device that delivers low electrical amperage, which dominates the neuromuscular system, causing involuntary muscle contractions to temporarily incapacitate a person.
  - 2. The ECD is deployed by; (1) discharging a single use dart cartridge, (2) through a direct contact drive stun, or (3) through a combination of both techniques.
  - 3. The ECD is designed to temporarily immobilize a person who is actively resisting or is an immediate threat to themselves, officers, or others.

### III. Carrying of ECD

- A. Only Officers who have successfully completed the department's ECD certification program are authorized to carry and use the ECD.

- B. Officers assigned an ECD for designated periods of time are responsible for care and security of the device. If the ECD is damaged or malfunctions, the officer's supervisor will be notified. Any ECD deemed to be inoperable or unsafe will be given to the ECD instructor inspection and repair.
- C. Officers will carry the ECD in a departmentally approved holster, in the "safety on" position. The ECD will not be carried on the same side of the body as the officer's firearm.

#### IV. Deployment Parameters

- A. The ECD shall be used within the guidelines established by this Department's Use of Force Policy.
- B. The purpose of the ECD is to provide officers with a less-lethal force intervention option. Officers should refrain from the use of the ECD to gain compliance from persons who are exhibiting passive resistance, unless there is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact distance of the person, and all other options are not practical or effective.
- C. The deployment of the ECD will be evaluated using the Department's Use of Force Policy. The ECD may be used but is not limited to the following circumstances.
  - 1. To overcome violent or assaultive behavior or threat.
  - 2. To control people to prevent them from harming themselves or others.
  - 3. When other attempts to control or subdue the person by conventional tactics have been, or will be, ineffective in the given situation.
  - 4. To control an animal that presents a danger to the officer or the public.
- D. Officers should refrain from the use of the ECD in the following circumstances unless there are compelling reasons to do so which can be clearly articulated.
  - 1. Against a person operating a motor vehicle
  - 2. Against a person with known heart problems or is known to have an implanted cardiac defibrillator (pacemaker).
  - 3. Against a person with apparent debilitating illnesses.
  - 4. Against a young child or the elderly
  - 5. Against a person with known neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy.

6. Against a person known to be pregnant.
  7. Against a subject fleeing on foot.
  8. Against handcuffed subjects.
  9. In areas where deployment may cause the suspect to fall resulting in serious injury or death.
  10. The ECD should not knowingly be discharged or tested near flammable or explosive materials.
- E. Officers shall give a verbal warning, when practical, to the subject and other officers before deploying the ECD. Officers shall notify other officers on the scene by loudly and clearly announcing "TASER" if the ECD is to be discharged.
  - F. The ECD is not to be intentionally aimed at the head, neck, upper chest, or genital area.
  - G. Officers shall notify the supervisor immediately after a deployment is made and the subject is secure.
  - H. Upon deploying the ECD the officer should engage the subject with the least number of cycles to accomplish the objective. If at any time during the application of the ECD, the operator or supervisor determines that further cycles of power will not effectively incapacitate the person, use of the ECD will cease.
  - I. When a subject is armed with an ECD and attacks, or threatens to attack a police officer, the officer may defend themselves by whatever means necessary to avoid becoming incapacitated and risking the possibility that the subject could gain control of the officer's firearm. When possible, officers should attempt to move outside the ECD range and seek cover, as well as request back-up officers to mitigate the danger.

#### V. Medical Treatment Guidelines

- A. Restrain the subject with restraints.
- B. In ECD deployments where the darts have lodge in a sensitive area (head, neck, genital area) or if the subject requests to be checked by medics, notify EMS to perform an evaluation on the subject.
- C. Subjects with ECD darts lodged in the head, neck, or genital area will be transported to a medical facility.

- D. If the ECD darts are not in a sensitive area, officers trained in the removal of the darts may remove the darts without medics, unless the subject requests to be checked by medics.
- E. For all ECD deployments where serious injury or death occurs, the expended darts will be placed in a sharps container and placed into evidence. These darts should be labeled as biohazard. For deployments with no serious injury, the taser darts can be destroyed by putting them in a red sharps container.

## VI. Reporting

- A. Any deployment of the ECD which a cartridge is discharged or a drive stun technique is utilized will be reported by the officer on the Department Use of Force form.
- B. Photographs will be taken of the person and the contact sites on the person receiving the ECD in accordance with their reporting guidelines.
- C. An ECD Instructor should be contacted to download the data for the ECD deployment from the device and provide a printed copy to the officer's supervisor to be included with the appropriate reports.
- D. The deploying officer's supervisor will ensure that all applicable reports are forwarded through the chain of command in a timely manner. In addition, a copy of all applicable police reports relating to the deployment of the ECD shall be forwarded to the ECD Instructor/Coordinator.
- E. Whenever an officer exhibits the ECD during an incident or cautions a person that they may use the ECD, but does not discharge the ECD, it will be noted in Department reports.
- F. Accidental discharges of the ECD during administrative handling will be reported on an Inter-Office Memorandum to their supervisor.

VII. Equipment Procedures and Training

- A. Each ECD will be inspected annually and maintained by a certified ECD Instructor. All inspection records will be kept in accordance with this department's policy.
- B. Any ECD deemed inoperable or unsafe will be given to the ECD instructor for inspection and repair.
- C. Any unassigned ECD shall be stored unloaded with the safety mechanism on "safe" and secured.
- D. ECD in-service training shall be conducted on an annual basis or more frequently as needed.



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