



GOODYEAR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

POLICY 3.07 TASER DEVICES

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11/13/2025

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06/10/2022

Approved:

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of TASER devices. The TASER device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

2. ISSUANCE AND CARRYING OF TASER DEVICES

1. All sworn personnel below the rank of Commander will be issued a TASER device.
2. Officers shall only use the TASER device and cartridges that have been issued or approved by the Department. Officers who have been issued the TASER device shall wear the device in an issued holster on their person any time they take enforcement action.
3. Officers shall carry the TASER device in a belt holster on the side opposite the duty weapon, or in a cross draw on the outer vest carrier.
4. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER device is properly maintained and in good working order.
 - A. Officers will take the TASER out of service if any issues lead the operator to believe the TASER will not work properly.
5. Officers carrying a TASER device shall perform a function / spark test on the unit prior to every shift. At no time will the trigger need to be pressed during a function check.
 - A. To enter function mode, the officer will complete the following:
 1. Practice an appropriate draw.
 2. Point the TASER in a safe direction.
 3. Press both arc switches simultaneously.
 4. Confirm the Central Information Display (CID) screen is displaying (Firmware / battery icon / battery percentage).
 5. Disengage the safety and press the arc switch to initiate the function check.

3. VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

1. A verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:
 - A. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
 - B. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the TASER device may be deployed.
2. The officer may, but is not required to, display the laser in an attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER device. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes as it may permanently impair vision.
3. The officer also may, but is not required to, display the electric arc by pressing the arc switch in an attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER device.
4. The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the TASER device in the related report.

4. USE OF THE TASER DEVICE

1. Although the TASER device is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.
2. Officers shall not point both a firearm and the TASER device at a subject at the same time.
3. APPLICATION OF THE TASER DEVICE
 - A. The TASER device may be used in probe deployment when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a subject who displays the intent to physically harm the officer or another person and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons, or other actions which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another (Active Aggression).
 - B. Any use of the Taser shall be reasonable and based upon the totality of the circumstances. Each application, whether a drive-stun or probe deployment, shall require its own independent justification for use of force.
 - C. If safely permitted to do so, officers should attempt to handcuff as the taser is cycling in an attempt to gain control.
4. DRIVE-STUN MODE
 - A. Because the application of the TASER device in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without probes) relies primarily on pain compliance, the use of the drive-stun mode does not induce neuro-muscular incapacitation and generally does not pose the same level of risk of injury to the suspect (i.e., probe punctures, risk of fall, etc.). A drive-stun application does not rise to the level of probe deployment application.
 1. It does require close distance to the suspect and these factors should be considered by the officer.
 - B. When conducting a drive-stun the officers shall not intentionally target unapproved areas of the body to include but not limited to: Head, neck, groin, female breasts, and known pre-existing injured areas of the body.
 - C. Officers should realize a common reaction to pain is to move away from the source. In the case of using a TASER in the drive-stun mode, the subject will likely move and may cause the TASER to lose contact. This may result in multiple contact points, potentially leaving multiple application marks.
5. SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS
 - A. The use of the TASER device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:
 1. Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
 2. Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
 3. Individuals with obviously low body mass.
 4. Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
 5. Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray.
 6. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).
6. TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Reasonable efforts should be made to target center of mass on the back or lower center mass on the front of the body and avoid the head, neck, chest, and groin.

7. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER DEVICE

- A. Officers should apply the TASER device for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles. Multiple applications of the TASER device against a single individual are generally not recommended and should be avoided unless the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.
- B. If the first application of the TASER device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the TASER device, including:
 - 1. Whether the probes are making proper contact.
 - 2. Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply, following the completion of the five (5) second cycle.
 - 3. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.
 - 4. Officers should generally not intentionally apply more than one (1) TASER device at a time against a single subject.

8. ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENT

- A. Once it is safe to do so, officers may remove probes from non-sensitive areas as trained.
 - 1. Used TASER device probes shall be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.
- B. Photographs will be taken of the application sites.
- C. If one or more probes strike the head, neck, chest, or groin, officers should monitor the condition of the subject until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.
 - 1. Probe removal must then be conducted by medical personnel.
 - 2. Probes removed by medical personnel will be collected and placed into property.
- D. Evidence submission
 - 1. Officers will collect the expended cartridge. In addition, both probes and wires will be collected and loosely placed, without stretching the wires, into a property container or bag. Probes shall be placed into the expended cartridge as trained. The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

9. DANGEROUS ANIMALS

- A. The TASER device may be deployed 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.

10. OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

- A. 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.

5. DOCUMENTATION

- 1. Officers shall document all TASER device discharges in the related arrest / crime report and Blue Team Use of Force. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy.

6. MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. All persons who have been struck by TASER device probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device who fall under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:
 - A. The person is believed to be pregnant.
 - B. The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
 - C. The TASER device probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
 - D. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than fifteen (15) seconds) shall be medically evaluated.
 - E. If it appears, after removal and examination of the probes, that any part of the probes remain lodged in the person's body.
2. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by an officer and / or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.
3. 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.

7. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is likelihood the TASER device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where a TASER device was applied against a subject.
2. A supervisor shall review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the TASER device.
 - A. Incident data is uploaded through the rechargeable battery on the docking station.
 - B. The Axon administrator will then submit the incident evidence via Evidence.com to the case.
 - C. Following a TASER deployment, (i.e., probe deployment / drive-stun), the battery will be docked by the end of that working shift to allow the download to occur.
 - D. The reviewing supervisor will notify the body worn camera (BWC) Administrator in the Records Unit, or their designee, to provide the case information pertaining to the TASER incident so the download can be collected and added into Evidence.com.
3. Photographs of probe sites should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

8. TRAINING

1. Personnel who are authorized to carry the TASER device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial Department approved training. Any personnel who have not carried the TASER device as a part of their assignment for a period of twelve (12) months or more shall be certified by a department approved TASER device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.
2. Continuing training for personnel who have been issued TASER devices shall occur every year. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and / or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Training Unit. All training and proficiency for TASER devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
3. The Training Unit is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry TASER devices have received initial and annual continuing training.
4. The Training Unit should ensure that all training includes:
 - A. Performing support-hand draws or cross-draws to reduce the possibility of accidentally drawing and firing a firearm.

- B. Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the accidental application of probes near the head, neck, chest, and groin.