

	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number TRA-021
	Subject Conducted Electrical (Energy) Weapon (CEW/Taser)	
	Special Instructions Replaces TRA-021 dated July 1, 2024	Effective Date August 16, 2024

I. PURPOSE

Establishes guidelines for carrying and deploying Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) by police employees. For the purpose of this standard operating procedure, the terms CEW and Taser are used interchangeably.

II. POLICY

Tasers may be carried by Department police employees as part of their law enforcement duties. The deployment or use of a Taser shall strictly follow the guidelines in this procedure and the Department’s Taser training program.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL (ENERGY) WEAPON (CEW)/TASER (IC 35-47-8-1 – 35-47-8-3) – means any mechanism that is designed to emit an electronic, magnetic, or other type of charge that exceeds the equivalency of five (5) milliamp sixty (60) hertz shock or is designed to emit an electronic, magnetic, or other type of charge through the use of a projectile and used for the purpose of temporarily incapacitating a person. For the purpose of this SOP, the terms CEW and Taser are used interchangeably.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Tasers general:

1. Shall fall into the category of intermediate weapons and may be used when reasonable as warranted by the totality of the circumstances.
2. Only properly trained and certified police personnel shall be issued a Taser.
3. Only Department issued Tasers shall be carried by Departmental personnel.
4. Initial certification and recertification for the use of a Taser shall be in accordance with the Department’s accepted and approved training program. Recertification shall occur on an annual basis.
5. Employees issued Tasers should dock their Taser once every 30 days.

B. Taser usage:

1. The primary and preferred implementation of the Taser is by the deployment of the cartridge's probes.
2. Tasers may be used in a "drive stun" manner to: supplement the probe mode to complete the incapacitation circuit; as a pain compliance technique in order to stop active aggressive type non-compliance; or when the officer is justified in the use of an intermediate weapon. Drive stun exposures should be kept to a minimum or stopped if found to be ineffective. If compliance or control is not quickly acquired, the officer should transition to another type of control technique as soon as it is tactically safe to do so.
3. Shall not be applied to individuals utilizing only passive resistance as defined in [LEG-002](#), unless exigent circumstances exist to warrant usage.
4. Taser may be used to control active and/or forceable resistance as defined in [LEG-002](#).
5. Department sworn employees shall not expose an individual to multiple Taser cycles unless necessary to control continuing active and/or forceable resistance. Once control/compliance is established and it is tactically safe to do so, officers shall transition, utilizing other control procedures to avoid additional, prolonged exposures from a Taser.
6. An employee shall not, unless exigent circumstances exist, use a Taser on the following:
 - a. known juveniles;
 - b. known pregnant women;
 - c. those with known disabilities, injuries or medical conditions that would cause a condition to deteriorate, worsen or become amplified;
 - d. instances of verbal or passive resistance;
 - e. any subject once secured and properly in custody and that has stopped any active or forceable resistance.
7. Tasers may be used against aggressive animals in lieu of deadly force unless the officer reasonably believes that deadly force is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury to himself or another party.

C. In each case where a Taser has been deployed against a subject, officers shall as soon as safe and practical:

1. Render/acquire First Aid, if applicable, as outlined below;
2. Advise the appropriate District of the incident.
3. Complete an RMS Incident report with notation of Taser utilization.
4. Complete a Police Action Report as outlined in [ENF-012*](#);
5. Submit evidence as outlined below.
6. Alert the jail staff or booking officer, at the location of incarceration, to the use of the Taser on the subject.

*NOTE - Officers shall also complete the Police Action Report when there is intentional deployment (excluding “Spark Testing” and training), unintentional deployment, or deployment resulting from a malfunction with the Taser and/or cartridge.

D. When subject to a Taser deployment, persons falling into the following categories should be medically evaluated:

1. If exposed to more than three (3) Taser cycles;
2. If exposed to a continuous cycle of 15 seconds or more;
3. If subject exhibited signs of erratic behavior prior to taser exposure;
4. If the person is a juvenile (under the age of 18), elderly, medically infirmed, has a pacemaker, may be pregnant, etc.; and
5. If the person complains of pain in the chest, has abnormal breathing, unconscious, is nauseous, or vomiting.

E. Evidence Collection and Submission:

1. Taser probes should be removed by the officer consistent with Department training or by EMS or other medical personnel.
2. Taser probes that have penetrated the body should be secured and treated in the same manner as contaminated needles (See [Physical Evidence Bulletin 20](#) and [Special Bulletin 2019-010](#)).
3. An officer should take photographs of any injuries that may have occurred from the probes or from a Drive Stun; however, any photographs involving the breasts, buttocks, or genitals shall only be taken by medical personnel with consent or after obtaining a court order; and
4. Data from a Taser shall be downloaded as soon as practical following any deployment, other than “spark testing” or training. The download shall be attached to the RMS incident drawn and referenced in the Police Action Report.

F. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.