

	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number TRA-021
	Subject Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser)	
	Special Instructions Replaces TRA-021 dated January 15, 2015	Effective Date February 9, 2021

I. PURPOSE

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

II. POLICY

Tasers (issued or authorized) 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. Issued CEW – A CEW issued or authorized by the Department, to sworn police employees.

B. Authorized CEW – A specified brand and model of CEW, approved by the Department, for police employees to purchase or obtain, at their expense, to be carried on-duty after proper inspection and training by the Training Division.

Note: The Department shall assume no responsibility for loss, theft, damage or any costs associated with non-issued devices.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Tasers:

1. Shall fall into the category of intermediate weapons and may be used when physical control techniques are or may be insufficient to establish control or when the totality of the situation warrants.

2. May be applied as necessary or reasonable, to control active resistance, aggressive behavior or violent behavior. Department sworn employees shall not expose an individual to multiple Taser cycles unless necessary to control continuing active resistance, aggressive or violent behavior. 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.

3. The primary and preferred implementation of the Taser is by the deployment of the cartridge’s probes. This brings about the best possible success of creating Neuro Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) so control can be established. Probe deployment also allows for the greatest distance of utilizing the Taser.

4. 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. (A passive non-threatening subject, should not be “drive stunned” into submission/control, unless exigent circumstances warrant it. (Example: someone’s life is in possible imminent danger/jeopardy)).

5. Unless exigent circumstances exist, a Taser should not be used on:

- 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. verbal/passive resistance;
- e. any subject once secured and properly in custody.

6. A Taser shall only be used on an individual known to have a pacemaker when deadly force is authorized.

7. 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.

8. All issued or authorized Tasers shall have stored data downloaded annually. This will typically occur during the officer’s yearly scheduled audit/inspection.

a. Only authorized Department personnel shall download data from the Taser.

b. The annual Taser download document will be stored on the J drive server in a folder titled Taser – “**Annual Downloads**” and be identified by date.

B. Carrying a Taser on the duty belt

1. The Taser shall be carried in a cross draw location on the duty belt, behind the magazine pouch, that is easily accessible to the officer.

2. Any use or carry not consistent with Department procedures or training will result in revocation of the authorization to carry or use the device.

C. 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.

D. Certification/recertification for use of a Taser

1. Only properly trained and certified police personnel shall be issued or authorized to carry a Taser.
2. Only Department issued or authorized Tasers (after being inspected and approved by the Training Division) shall be carried by Departmental personnel.
3. 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.

E. Medical response to Taser deployment

1. Subjects in custody on whom a Taser has been deployed shall be evaluated and provided first aid, if applicable, as soon as the situation allows.
2. When subject to a Taser deployment, persons falling into the following categories should be transported to a medical facility for examination:
 - a. If exposed to more than three (3) Taser cycles;
 - b. If exposed to a continuous cycle of 15 seconds or more;
 - c. If exhibited signs similar to or associated with Excited Delirium (ED) prior to exposure
 - d. If the person is a juvenile (under the age of 18), elderly, medically infirmed, has a pacemaker, may be pregnant, etc.; and
 - e. If the person complains of pain in the chest, has abnormal breathing, is unconscious, and is nauseous or vomiting.
- (5) Unless exigent circumstances exist, no more than two (2) cycles of five seconds each should be used on an individual suffering from ED.

Note: The method described in this SOP for the use of the Taser is intended to bring about the quickest and safest method in which to control someone suffering from ED. It is not intended to restrict established legal guidelines concerning the use of force.

3. Removal of probes from the suspect may be accomplished by the officer following the established guidelines of the Department's accepted and approved training program. Officers have the discretion of using EMS or other medical personnel to remove probes. Personnel should exercise care and use universal precautions when removing probes and place them in a secure location until later proper disposal. Probes that penetrated the body should be treated in the same manner as contaminated needles. [Physical Evidence Bulletin 20](#) and [Special Bulletin 2019-01](#) shall be followed when collecting evidence from a Taser deployment.

F. In each case where a Taser has been deployed against a subject, officers shall as soon as tactically secured:

1. Render/acquire First Aid if applicable.
2. Advise the appropriate District of the incident.
3. Complete an RMS Incident report.
4. Complete a Police Action Report.
5. Submit evidence as outlined above.
6. 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.
7. Alert the jail staff or booking officer, at the location of incarceration, to the use of the Taser on the subject.
8. Note the use of the Taser in the officer's RMS Incident report to include any first aid given and evidence collected.

G. Officers shall also complete the Police Action Report when there is an:

1. Intentional deployment (excluding "Spark Testing" and training);
2. Unintentional deployment; or
3. Deployment resulting from a malfunction with the Taser and/or cartridge.

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