

	<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b> State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number <b>TRA-021</b>
	Subject Conducted Electrical (Energy) Weapon (CEW/Taser)	
	Special Instructions Replaces TRA-021 dated February 9, 2021	Effective Date <b>August 18, 2023</b>

**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.

B. Issued CEW – A CEW issued by the Department, to sworn police employees.

**IV. PROCEDURE**

A. Tasers:

1. Shall fall into the category of intermediate weapons and may be used when reasonable as warranted by the totality of the circumstances
2. May be used to control active and/or forceable resistance as defined in [LEG-002](#). 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.
3. Shall not be applied to individuals utilizing only passive resistance as defined in [LEG-002](#), unless exigent circumstances exist to warrant usage.
4. The primary and preferred implementation of the Taser is by the deployment of the cartridge’s probes.

5. 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.

6. 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 in the corresponding Police Action Report and attached to the RMS incident report, if drawn. Taser downloads maintained in Evidence.com shall be categorized under the Taser Download and CAD number, if applicable.

7. Employees issued Tasers shall dock their Taser once every 30 days.

#### B. Certification/recertification for use of a Taser

1. Only properly trained and certified police personnel shall be issued to carry a Taser.

2. Only Department issued Tasers 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.

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.

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.

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.

D. 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.

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