



# SOUTH KINGSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

1790 KINGSTOWN RD., WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

POLICY NUMBER	ORDER TYPE	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
410.04	STANDING ORDER	1/28/25	1/31/25
CHAPTER: SUBSECTION		TITLE	
LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS: USE OF FORCE		ADVANCED TASER 10 – ELECTRONIC RESTRAINT DEVICE	
REVIEW DATES		REVISION DATES	
(UPDATED WEAPON SYSTEM AS OF 1/25)		1/31/25	
DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCE		PAGES
SWORN PERSONNEL	RIPAC 2.12-2.14		7

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy to provide officers with guidance on the use of the Advanced Taser 10 Electronic Restraint Device, referred to hereinafter as “Taser 10” or “ERD.”

## II. POLICY

Consistent with the South Kingstown Police Department’s policy of using only that force that is reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives; while protecting the life of the officer or another, the Department authorizes the use of the Taser 10 ® Electronic Restraint Device by certified officers. The primary purpose of employing the ERD is to reduce injuries to officers and suspects by stopping threats from a safe distance. The ERD is not intended to be used in place of lethal force or as a general substitution for other less than lethal force options.

## III. DEFINITIONS

**Central Information Display (CID)** – A display screen which allows the Taser 10 ERD operator to observe system status information and view option changes. A green check mark will display if the weapon is in good working order during Function Test, or a red “X” if the weapon is not in good working order.

**Performance Power Magazine (APPM)**- The ERDs battery

**Taser 10 Magazine and Cartridges:**

**Red Magazine:** Inert with red training pegs (training only)

**Blue Magazine:** HALT (hook and loop training) Cartridge (training only)

**Purple Magazine:** Holds live cartridges with black rings for (training only)

**Black Magazine:** Live cartridges with black rings for on duty use

Red, Blue, and Purple Magazine discharges record as training use only, Black Magazine records as on duty use not for training.

**TASER 10 Warning Alert:** a 1,000-lumen light and an audible alert directed at the target. A warning alert may be used to gain compliance from a suspect who officers believe is about to resist their lawful commands and to avoid probe deployment.

**Function Test** – A daily test which assists in confirming the proper operation of electrical components

**Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI)** – NMI systems affect BOTH the sensory and motor nerves. The Motor Nervous System consists of the nerves that go out from the spinal cord and connect to the muscles, controlling the muscle movements. These are the nerves we really want to control to stop aggressive subjects. That is how NMI systems work; they stimulate these motor nerves causing uncontrollable muscle contractions that inhibit the subject from being able to perform coordinated movement.

## **IV. Procedures**

### **A. Discussion**

1. ERD's are designed to restrain violent individuals where alternative restraint tactics have or are reasonably likely to fail, and / or where it would be unsafe for an officer to approach a subject to apply restraints.

2. The Taser 10 utilizes a single probe without electrical input. Each trigger pull will deploy one (1) probe in an effort to achieve Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI). If a connection is established between two or more probes, an electrical output will begin for five (5) seconds and an audible connection alert tone will begin. Subsequent trigger pulls will deploy one probe per trigger pull. Each ERD magazine carries and can project up to ten (10) Taser probes. Thin, insulated wires leading back to the ERD connect the probes. An electrical signal transmits throughout the region where the probes contact the body. The result is neuro-muscular incapacitation (NMI), which affects the subject's neuromuscular control. Levels of NMI, range from limited area affects to significant body lockup. The greater the probe spread, the higher the likelihood of NMI. The subject should normally be immobilized long enough for the officers to apply restraints while the subject is under the ERD's power. ERD's may not achieve total NMI incapacitation. Manufacturers state that no permanent damage is caused by

the ERD under normal conditions; however precautions in its use shall be followed in accordance with provisions of this policy.

#### B. Training and Issuance

1. Only officers who have successfully completed the Department's approved course of instruction on the ERD are authorized to use it.
2. Officers will receive refresher training in the use of the ERD on an annual basis or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. A record of those officers who have successfully completed the department's approved course of instruction on the ERD will be maintained within the Training Division.
4. ERD's that are not issued are stored in the designated Weapons Locker. Certified Officers assigned to the Patrol Division will be issued an ERD. Officers issued an ERD will keep their weapon secure when not on duty. Batteries will need to be charged in the docking station every thirty (30) days or when deployed in the field in order to download data and charge. Officers who are not assigned an ERD will document the ERD they are using to the duty shift via a CAD entry and return it to the Weapons Locker at the end of the duty shift.
5. When on duty, ERD's are to be kept in the holster on the officer's duty belt or vest until circumstances determine its presentation.
6. ERD's will be reviewed, inspected and approved by a certified ERD instructor prior to being put into service in the weapons locker.
7. Should an ERD appear, become damaged or show an issue during a function test, it will be deemed out of service, secured in the Weapons Locker and the Training Officer will be notified.
8. Tasers will be mounted and carried in a cross-draw fashion, positioned on the opposite side of the firearm.

#### C. Usage and Handling

1. The ERD may be used when other less-than-lethal force options have been ineffective or when it reasonably appears that such an option will be ineffective in restraining the subject.

2. Examples of situations in which the ERD may be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Dealing with an emotionally disturbed person (EDP) who is displaying violent behavior and is an immediate danger to himself or others;
- b. Armed subjects;
- c. Execution of a warrant where the subject is perceived to be violent;
- d. Violent persons under the influence of drugs and / or alcohol;
- e. Persons expressing the intent and having the means to commit suicide or otherwise harm themselves.
- f. When deemed a reasonable alternative to lesser force options that will likely be ineffective or greater force options that may be inappropriate given objective circumstances.

3. When an officer deployed with an ERD encounters a situation that may require its use, he will request a supervisor and a back-up officer to the scene prior to its use, if circumstances and time permit. If this is not possible, the OIC will be notified as soon as possible after deployment.

4. The ERD will not be pointed at any individual unless the officer reasonably believes it will be necessary to use the device.

5. An officer will, when practical, verbally express their intent to utilize the Taser and shout "TASER!" as a warning to the intended target, other officers and anyone else in proximity.

6. A warning alert can be displayed according to departmental training as an attempt to deter an attacker/aggressive subject or crowd. This is not mandated and largely depends on the situation. The ERD can be used to attempt de-escalation with an individual who has displayed behaviors that would lead a reasonable officer to believe presentation may be effective in changing the subject behavior/compliance. These tactics can include, power on the weapon, laser painting, or initiating a Warning Alert in an attempt to achieve compliance.

7. The ERD will not be used in the following situations:

- a. When the officer cannot, for safety or other reasons, approach the subject within range;
- b. In proximity to flammable liquids, gases, blasting material or any other highly combustible materials that may be ignited by use of the device, including but not limited to any subject who may have been contaminated with combustible liquids;
- c. When it is reasonable to believe that incapacitation of the subject may result in serious injury or death, (e.g., incidents as noted in Section IV, paragraph C

(9) below, and situations where the suspect's fall may result in serious physical injury or death).

d. On a handcuffed or secured prisoner, absent overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other less intrusive fashion.

8. For maximum effectiveness the ERD should be fired at approved target areas, with a maximum range of forty-five (45) feet away. The face and neck areas are to be avoided if at all possible.

9. In non-lethal force situations, when possible, an officer should avoid using the ERD on the following:

- a. Persons in control of a vehicle;
- b. Persons in wheelchairs;
- c. Pregnant women;
- d. People with known heart problems;
- e. People with apparent debilitating illness or the elderly;
- f. Children or those persons under 80 pounds;
- g. Individuals with known neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy.

10. Probes that have been removed from a subject or fired at a subject will be placed in a biohazard evidence tube and stored according to department evidence procedures. Cartridges used against individuals will be tagged as evidence.

14. Before the officer's shift, each utilized ERD should be function tested, contacts should be inspected for carbon buildup, and officers should check the CID to ensure the APPM has sufficient charge. If a battery alert is shown, the Officer should utilize a spare battery and place the alerted battery on the charger. A full charge will take eight (8) hours to complete.

#### D. Officers Discharging an Electronic Restrain Device (ERD)

1. If a supervisor is not present, request the response of a supervisor.

2. Subjects who have been restrained by use of an ERD, whether or not the probes penetrated the skin, shall be treated as follows:

a. Once in custody, police will initiate an EMS response to ensure medical care for the restrained subject in accordance with the RI EMS Pre-hospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders. At least one officer will accompany the suspect if taken in the rescue.

b. The officer will inform the responding EMS staff that the person was subjected to a ERD and relate the approximate time the action occurred. The officer will request of the medical staff a physical examination of the person

with particular emphasis on secondary injuries due to the fall. Only emergency room staff may remove probes.

c. The supervisor will ensure photographs will be taken of the person – in the area where the probes penetrated and any secondary injuries that may have occurred.

d. The officer will obtain medical clearance from the emergency room physician before transporting the person to the Police Department or another facility.

#### E. After – Action Report

1. Use of an ERD is considered a use of force and the officer is required to fill out a “Response to Resistance” as well as a providing proper documentation in the arrest report. The OIC will ensure the reports are completed and forwarded to the Squad Commander. The ERD APPM will be docked for the purpose of downloading the data.
2. Drawing and pointing of an ERD or use of the Warning Alert for the purpose of obtaining and/or maintaining control of a person requires a Response to Resistance report be completed.
3. Except for training, all instances of ERD usage including accidental discharges at or towards a person or animal will be reported on a Response to Resistance and reviewed by the Deputy Chief of Police. Other accidental discharges will be reported in memo format and forwarded through the chain of command to the Deputy Chief of Police.


#### F. Maintenance

1. Testing and maintenance of the ERD will be consistent with manufacturer’s specifications.
2. After an ERD is discharged, the APPM used during the deployment will be docked for data download. The officer will be issued a spare APPM, and discharged cartridges will be replaced through the shift supervisor.
3. Cartridges should be stored in a cool, dry environment and will be replaced according to the manufacturer’s expiration date.
4. An ERD should not be left in direct sunlight due to the possible adverse effects on plastic parts.
5. The Department Training Officer and Taser Instructor(s) will develop and

maintain a testing and maintenance schedule for all Department ERD's and their component parts.

6. Downloaded information will be maintained in evidence.com in accordance with Rhode Island retention laws and manufacturer suggestions.

By Order of:



Matthew C. Moynihan  
Chief of Police