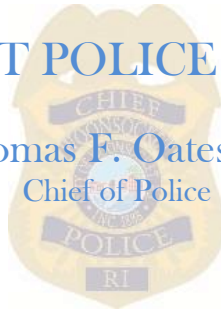


WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas F. Oates, III
Chief of Police



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	310.05	2/7/2024	2/7/2024
SUBJECT		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Conducted Electrical Weapons		3/15/2002, 6/13/2013, 1/12/2018	
ACCREDITATION		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
RIPAC: 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.19 CALEA: 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7, 1.3.9, 1.3.10		2/6/2020, 1/9/2023 11/16/2023	
INDEX		DISTRIBUTION	
Weapons Procedures		Sworn Personnel	

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPONS

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide officers with guidance on the use of the Taser® Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW).

II. POLICY

Consistent with the Woonsocket Police Department's policy of using only that force that is objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives, while protecting the life of the officer or another, the department authorizes the use of the Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) by certified officers. The primary purpose of employing the CEW is to reduce injuries to officers and suspects by stopping threats from a safe distance.

The CEW is considered an intermediate force option that is designed to restrain violent individuals.

III. DEFINITIONS

Authorized Officer: Sworn officers who have been trained and certified in the use of the Taser® CEW.

Lethal Force: Any use of force that is likely to cause death or serious bodily injury. Lethal Force is also referred to as deadly physical force.

Less-Lethal Force Option: Any use of force other than that which is considered a lethal force or deadly force.

Objectively Reasonable Force: Objectively reasonable force is the level of force that is appropriate when analyzed from the perspective of a reasonable officer possessing the same information and faced with the same circumstances as the officer who has used force. Objectively reasonable force is not judged with hindsight and will take into account, where appropriate, the fact that officers must make rapid decisions regarding the amount of force to use in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations. Important factors to be considered when deciding how much force can be used to apprehend or subdue a subject include but are not limited to, the severity of the crime at issue, whether the subject poses an imminent threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight. This policy guideline applies to all uses of force, including lethal force.

Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW): A less-lethal force option primarily designed to disrupt a subject's central nervous system through the application of electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual's voluntary motor responses. The result is an instant loss of the subject's neuromuscular control and any ability to perform coordinated action. The subject should normally be immobilized and dazed by the electricity long enough for officers to apply restraints. Precautions in its use shall be followed per the provisions of this policy and manufacturer recommendations.

Drive Stun: A function of the CEW where direct contact of the CEW with the body of a suspect occurs which causes a Sensory Nervous System reaction. Precautions in its use shall be followed per the provisions of this policy and manufacturer recommendations.

Cartridge: An attachment to the front of the taser that shoots out two electrified prongs that will attach themselves to any target. The moment the prongs make contact with, for instance, an assailant or a vicious animal that is attacking, they send a massive electrified charge into the central nervous system that will temporarily stop the brain from successfully sending the proper signals to the rest of the body to move.

Tilt Select: TASER 7 will change its cartridge selection if you quickly flick your wrist to the side 90 degrees while holding the energy weapon. This is useful when the energy weapon is loaded with both Close Quarter and Standoff cartridges, and you want to select the cartridge for the target at the appropriate range. The LASER sights will adjust automatically for the cartridge that is in the active bay.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. DISCUSSION

1. CEWs are designed to restrain individuals who are resisting the actions of the police where alternative restraint tactics have or are reasonably likely to fail, and/or where it would be unsafe for officers to approach a subject to apply restraints.
2. The CEW projects two ADVANCED TASER Probes during each deployment. Thin, insulated wires that lead back to the CEW connect the probes. An electrical current transmits throughout the region where the probes contact the body or up to 2" of clothing. The intended result is an instant loss of the subject's neuromuscular control and any ability to perform coordinated action. The subject should normally be immobilized long enough for officers to apply restraints. No permanent injury is caused by the CEW under normal conditions; however, precautions in its use shall be followed under the provisions of this policy.

B. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Tasers

RI 2.12(a)

- a. The Taser 7 and X26P are the CEW authorized to be carried by members of the Woonsocket Police Department.
- b. Only officers who have completed the approved course of instruction given by a certified *Taser*® instructor on the CEW are authorized to carry and use the CEW.

RI 2.12(c)

- c. Before being issued, a certified instructor shall inspect and approve all department-issued CEWs.

RI 2.12(e)

RI 2.12(d)

RI 2.12(f)

- d. During training, a certified instructor will perform a documented inspection of all CEWs. Defective or unsafe CEWs shall be taken out of service and replaced.
- e. When not worn on the duty belt or vest carrier, the CEW shall be kept in a safe location (i.e. locked patrol vehicle, locker, etc.)
- f. The department-issued CEW is not authorized to be utilized as an off-duty weapon.

2. Training and Proficiency

RI 2.19(a)

- a. Certified officers will receive refresher training in the use of the CEW on an annual basis or following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- b. Should an officer fail to demonstrate proficiency, they shall no longer be authorized to carry or use a CEW; however:

RI 2.19(c)

- i. A certified *Taser*® instructor may provide documented remedial training to officers, and;

- ii. Once proficiency has been demonstrated, officers will be recertified and authorized to carry and use the CEW.

RI 2.19(b)

3. The Training Officer shall maintain documentation of CEW training, including relevant lesson plans, attendance sheets, and proficiency records.
4. A list of those officers who have completed the department's approved course of instruction on the CEW will be maintained by the Training Lieutenant.

C. STORAGE AND ISSUANCE OF CEWs

1. CEWs will be inspected by a certified *Taser*® Instructor before being placed in service or identified as ready for operational use and issuance.
2. Selected authorized users are issued department-owned CEWs for use on duty.
3. Each X26P should be arc-tested before each officer's shift.
4. Each *Taser*® 7 should be function tested before each officer's shift.
5. Battery readings in the *Taser*® X26P of 20% or less require the batteries to be replaced.
6. Batteries in the *Taser*® 7 will be recharged once a month, or at 20% or less.
7. *Taser*® 7 must be docked every 30 days to update firmware.
8. The Training Lieutenant shall issue and maintain an inventory of all department-issued CEWs.

RI 2.12(b)

D. USAGE AND HANDLING

1. To use the CEW, the officer must reasonably perceive the subject to be:
 - a. An immediate threat of harm/injury to the officer(s), themselves, or others; or
 - b. Fleeing or flight risk from serious offense crime and the officer is justified in tackling the person.
2. Examples of situations in which the CEW may be used include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Dealing with the emotionally disturbed person who is displaying violent behavior;
 - b. Armed subjects with dangerous weapons such as blunt force, chemical, or edged weapons;
 - 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 when those means present circumstances in which ordinary restraint tactics are likely to fail or it would be unsafe for officers to approach; or
 - f. When deemed a reasonable alternative to other force options that will likely be ineffective or may be inappropriate given objective circumstances.

3. A CEW in probe mode constitutes a force option that must be justified under the totality of the circumstances, while an officer is attempting to accomplish lawful objectives, like other force options such as pepper spray and baton.
4. Whenever practicable an officer deployed with a CEW encounters a situation that may require its use, they should request a patrol supervisor and a backup officer to the scene before its use, if circumstances and time permit.
5. The CEW device may visually resemble a firearm. Therefore, the deploying officer shall warn others, when tactically feasible, that the CEW is being deployed by notifying dispatch of its use.
 - a. The dispatcher, in turn, shall notify other responding personnel; and
 - b. The dispatcher will also notify a road supervisor of this information.
6. Because the CEW possesses greater distance capability than other intermediate defense options, officers should consider and assess the target's surroundings before deployment.
7. When feasible, officers should give a verbal warning to a suspect before deploying the CEW.
8. The deploying officer shall repeatedly and in a loud voice shout the word **"TASER"** as a warning to the subject and others.
9. Officers carrying the Taser® 7 CEW are equipped with two cartridges; a "close-quarters" cartridge in bay #1 and a "stand-off" cartridge in bay #2. Given this, officers should consider the following:
 - a. The distance between themselves and the subject;
 - b. The knowledge of each cartridge's capabilities and maximum effective distance; and
 - c. Consideration of how rapidly evolving the incident may be and whether it would be beneficial to utilize the "tilt-select" option. Here the officer can transition from the "close quarters" cartridge to the "stand-off" cartridge.
10. Unless unique circumstances arise, officers should refrain from exposing two subjects in succession from one Taser® 7.
 - a. Taser® 7 contains two pairs of prongs. Once the first cartridge is deployed, the Taser® is loaded with the second cartridge.
 - b. Exposing an additional subject from the same Taser® will expose anyone in contact with the first pair of deployed prongs.
 - c. Consideration must be given to ensure a second exposure to the first subject is objectively reasonable given the circumstances.
11. For maximum effectiveness, the CEW should be discharged towards the belt line from nine (9) to twelve (12) feet away avoiding sensitive target areas if possible while considering the heart-to-dart distance.

12. The CEW delivery device can deliver its projectiles with enough kinetic energy to produce temporary abrasions, bruises, welts, and/or puncture wounds. Therefore, the potential exists for CEW projectiles to inflict injury when they strike the face, eyes, neck, groin, and other sensitive areas.
 - a. Deploying officers shall avoid intentionally striking those body areas noted above unless a greater use of force is justified.
13. CEW control cycles are to be used in controlled, minimal amounts during an arrest or while controlling an unlawful situation. Officers deploying the CEW shall deliver one (1) standard control cycle and then assess the situation. More than three (3) five (5) second cycles should be avoided.
14. Additional sworn officers at the scene should be ready to handcuff or control the subject while the subject is temporarily incapacitated by the CEW.
15. The CEW may also be deployed in a “drive stun” mode in the event a probe is ineffective, only when circumstances inhibit the timely replacement of an additional cartridge or for the immediate safety of all personnel involved. It is important to note that when the CEW is deployed in this “drive stun” manner it is:
 - a. Primarily a pain compliance tool;
 - b. Minimally effective as compared to cartridge-type deployments;
 - c. More likely to leave marks on the subject’s skin; and
 - d. Subject to the same deployment guidelines and restrictions as cartridge deployments.
16. If the first cartridge is deployed and fails, the second cartridge will be deployed as necessary.
17. Under no circumstances shall authorized department personnel use the CEW as a means of interrogation, coercion, or punishment.
18. Under no circumstances will the CEW be used on a passive, resistant subject.
19. An authorized officer shall not have a CEW and firearm for use in their hands simultaneously.
20. The CEW will not be pointed at any individual unless the officer reasonably believes it will be necessary to use the device.
21. It is excessive and an unreasonable use of force for a police officer to administer repeated cycles with a CEW on an individual who is not holding a weapon / dangerous object, or no longer actively resisting arrest, or has been restrained physically and brought under control by officers.
22. The CEW 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;
 - d. In situations where the suspect were to fall, it may result in serious physical injury or death; or
 - e. On a handcuffed or secured prisoner absent overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other less intrusive fashion.
23. In non-lethal force situations, when possible, officers should avoid using the CEW 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 an apparent debilitating illness or the elderly;
 - f. Children or those under 80 pounds;
 - g. Individuals with known neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy.
24. CEWs may be used on animals in matters of self-protection or circumstances when it is infeasible or impractical to use leash or lanyard devices to capture or deter animals that are acting against the greater public good.

RI 2.13

E. POST CEW CARE OF SUSPECTS

1. Only medical staff may remove probes (probes can only penetrate to a maximum depth of ¼ inch).
2. Subjects who have been restrained by the use of a CEW who have been injured or claim to be injured shall be treated as follows:
 - a. Once in custody, police will transport the person to a designated medical facility. Rescue personnel will transport if injuries are serious. At least one officer will accompany the suspect if taken in the rescue. The officer will inform the medical staff that the person was subjected to a CEW and relate the approximate time the action occurred. The officer will request the medical staff perform a physical examination of the person to include any secondary injuries that may have occurred.
 - b. The officer will request a supervisor or designee respond to the emergency room and photographs will be taken of the person whenever practicable in the area where the probes penetrated and any secondary injuries that may have occurred.

- c. The officer will obtain medical clearance from the emergency room physician before transporting the person to the police department or another facility.
3. Subjects who have not been injured nor claim to be injured will be closely monitored for any adverse effects.

F. INVESTIGATIVE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. If a supervisor is not on the scene, one will be requested and respond immediately after a CEW use occurs. Attempts to identify any witnesses to an incident involving the use of a CEW will be made. Witnesses should then be interviewed and requested to provide statements. Photographs of the scene and suspect should be taken as soon as possible to prevent the loss of information necessary in an investigation into the use of a CEW.
2. All evidence identified and associated with the use of a CEW should be identified and secured, including but not limited to:
 - a. 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 the Blood Borne Pathogens policy.
 - b. Cartridge packs used against individuals will be tagged as evidence.
 - c. For the X26P, officers will retrieve at least 3 or 4 “tabs” (AFIDS) that are left behind after firing the probes and tag them as evidence. Taser® 7s do not expel AFIDS.
3. Use of a CEW is considered a use of force and the officer is required to fill out a Response to Resistance Form (reference *Policy 300.01, entitled “Response to Resistance”*). The Officer-in-Charge will ensure the reports are completed. The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) will ensure the data is downloaded from the CEW after each incident involving a CEW discharge.
4. Except for training, all instances of CEW usage, including accidental discharges, will be reported and reviewed by the OPS.

RI 2.14

RI 2.15

G. MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF CEWs

1. Testing and maintenance of the CEW will be consistent with the manufacturer’s specifications.
2. The firing bay shall be cleaned regularly with a denatured alcohol-treated lint-free swab after cartridge discharge to prevent the buildup of carbon residue and potential firing complications.
3. Cartridges should be stored in a cool, dry environment and will be replaced according to the manufacturer’s expiration date.
4. CEWs should not be left in direct sunlight due to the possible adverse effects on plastic parts.

RI 2.12(d)

5. A department Taser® instructor will develop and maintain testing, and maintenance schedules for all department CEWs and their parts to include monthly data downloads and firmware updates. Any CEWs found to be defective or unsafe shall be taken out of service and repaired and/or replaced.
6. Each CEW should be function tested before each issued officer's shift.
7. OPS with assistance from the Taser® instructor(s) will download the information in each CEW monthly and a log will be kept of this information by OPS. A copy of this report will be forwarded to the Uniform Captain.

Per order,

Thomas F. Oates, III

Chief of Police

Written directives published within PowerDMS are in full force and effect on the referenced dates and have been approved by the Chief of Police