



POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO. 400.5

Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser)

Guidelines

Date Issued: December 12, 2022

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4 Pages

1. PURPOSE:

To provide members of the Worcester Police Department with Guidelines in the use of the Taser system.

2. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Worcester Police Department that the use of the Conducted Energy Weapon (C.E.W.) on a person be in compliance with this protocol and the Worcester Police Department's Use of Force Policy (# 400).

3. PROCEDURES:

The authorized C.E.W. of the Worcester Police shall be the Taser 7 and Taser X26P, color yellow, manufactured by Axon Enterprise.

Prior to being authorized to carry the C.E.W., all officers assigned to carry the C.E.W. will receive proper instruction and training about C.E.W.'s and their application as how it relates to the M.P.T.C. force model. This training will include familiarization with C.E.W. and Axon's product warning for law enforcement.

Only sworn members of the department that have been trained and certified in the C.E.W. are authorized to deploy and discharge said devices.

The C.E.W. shall be carried fully armed with the safety on in preparation for immediate use when authorized.

The C.E.W. shall be stored as it is carried with cartridges remaining in the C.E.W. in its approved holster. All C.E.W.'s stored within the Worcester Police Headquarters shall be kept within authorized secured areas not accessible to the general public to include the secured SWAT locker room(s) and the secured police employee's locker rooms situated on the second floor of HQ. When off-duty, officers shall secure the department issued C.E.W. in a safe designed for the storage of a firearm. Officers must ensure that department issued C.E.W.s are inaccessible to children or any other unauthorized persons.

Loading and unloading will be consistent with training. The C.E.W. should be pointed in an upward safe direction this will also apply during "tactical reload" situations.

A C.E.W. shall be secured in it's holster on the officer's support side, the side of the officers body opposite their firearm to mitigate the risk of weapon confusion. The C.E.W. shall be drawn in a cross-draw manner from the holster on the officer's support side.

Basis for Deployment. There are 2 levels where the C.E.W. are authorized:

- C.E.W. used in drive stun mode or sparks display is justified as a compliance technique in response to a perceived or actual active resistance by the subject (Level Three - see policy # 400, Use of Force).
- C.E.W. used in probe deployment mode is justified as a defensive tactic in response to a perceived or actual assaultive bodily harm behavior of the subject (Level Four - see policy # 400, Use of Force).

Only one officer at a time should deploy probes from a C.E.W. against a person. In the event that a probe deployment against a subject is ineffective e.g. not achieving full Neuromuscular Incapacitation, or the subject remains assaultive, subsequent probe deployments are authorized.

A C.E.W. may be used to control an aggressive animal that is threatening the safety of a person.

A verbal warning should be given if possible prior to deployment.

The preferred target for the C.E.W. is below center mass (subject's torso) or legs. Officers should avoid sensitive tissue (neck, head and genitalia).

All deployments should be aimed shots utilizing the C.E.W.'s laser aiming device.

If the C.E.W. is ineffective in achieving the desired effect, officers should consider reloading and redeploying or using other department authorized force option(s).

Officers should begin control and restraint procedures as soon as it is safe to do so in order to minimize the total duration of exertion and stress experienced by the subject.

4. DEPLOYMENT/RESTRICTIONS:

Pursuant to Massachusetts 550 CMR 6.00 Officers shall not use force upon another person, unless de-escalation tactics have been attempted and failed or are not feasible based on the totality of circumstances.

Officers should avoid deploying the C.E.W. when there is a known presence of combustible vapors and liquids or other flammable substances.

Officers should avoid deploying the C.E.W. against a suspect in control of a motor vehicle in motion to include automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, A.T.V.'s, bicycles and motorized scooters unless exigent circumstances exist.

Officers should avoid deploying the C.E.W. where a suspect is in a position where a fall will likely cause substantial injury or death.

Officers should avoid deploying the C.E.W. against pregnant persons unless exigent circumstances exist.

Officers should avoid deploying the C.E.W. against persons located in water.

Officers should avoid deploying the C.E.W. on persons who fall under the "susceptible populations" category (i.e.: children, elderly and infirm) unless exigent circumstances exist.

The Taser 7 allows for two cartridges to be deployed in a semi-automatic manner with one cartridge deploying with each trigger pull. In the event that cartridges are deployed on two separate individuals the trigger or arc switch will re-energize both sets of cartridges. Officers must use caution and evaluate each cartridge deployment to ensure that probes are not re-

energized against a subject that is not displaying what the officer perceives as or actual assaultive behavior.

5. MEDICAL ATTENTION:

A subject that has been exposed to a C.E.W. probe deployment SHALL be taken to an emergency care facility for removal of the C.E.W. probes. Officers are not to remove the probes from the subject in the field.

Note* Per an advisory from the Executive Office of Human Services Department of Public Health dated September 1, 2006 E.M.S will treat the subject as a patient with an impaled object.

A subject that has been exposed to a C.E.W. drive-stun deployment SHALL be taken to an emergency facility if the deployment site shows obvious injury or if subject claims injury.

6. REPORTING PROCEDURES:

The use of the C.E.W. (Taser) is a reportable Use of Force. See policy # 400, Use of Force (section 10D “Written Reporting”). C.E.W. reports of use should be forwarded in hard copy form or via email through an officer’s chain-of-command to the following:

- The Deputy Chief of Operations,
- Bureau of Professional Standards,
- Training Division

Additionally, electronic control device instructors are required to review usage data stored in each individual Taser and submit the usage data in a bi-annually report to the Executive Office of Public Safety.

NOTE: remember to record assigned Taser number, A.F.I.D. number found on cartridge, and number of cycles. Deployed cartridge, and when possible probes should be collected/bagged as evidence and turned in as evidence. If probes have entered a sensitive soft tissue area (above the neck or genital area C.S.U should be notified for photographs). If deploying officer believes that the deployment fails, within approved targeted areas photographs are not necessary.

Per:

Steven M. Sargent
Chief of Police

Updated from April 13, 2007 (original issuance):

**Section 3: #1 updated to TaserX26P; # 5 & #6 updated concerning storage and loading; #11 “below center mass”.*

**Section 4: #6 “susceptible populations” update.*

**Section 5: probe removal and medical attention update.*

**Section 6: Photographing update.*

Updated August 4, 2015 to specific define Reporting Procedures section 6.

Updated December 12, 2022

**All sections updated from E.C.D. device to C.E.W. (Conducted Energy Weapon) device*

**Section 3: #1 updated to Taser 7 and Taser X26P; amended manufacturer name to Axon Enterprise*

#2 updated to Axon product warning

#5 updated wording pertaining to securing C.E.W.'s in station; added language regarding storage of C.E.W. outside station

#7 added language regarding holstering on support side and language regarding cross-draw

#9 added language clarifying deployment of C.E.W. cartridges by multiple officers

**Section 4: #1 added language regarding de-escalation tactics*

#8 added language regarding capability of Taser 7 to deploy cartridges with each pull of the trigger on the device and recognition of proper use of force