

5-06/040.95 - Electronic Immobilization Device (TASER) Procedures

The TASER is a less lethal hand held electronic immobilization device used for controlling assaultive/high risk persons. The purpose of this device is to facilitate a safe and effective response in order to minimize injury to suspects and deputies.

Use of the Electronic Immobilization Device (TASER)

The following policy guidelines shall be adhered to:

- Only a Department-approved TASER shall be utilized by personnel;
- A TASER shall be issued to and used only by those personnel who have completed the Department's TASER Training Program;
- Personnel authorized to carry a TASER on duty, may purchase a Department-approved TASER for on and off duty use;
- Personnel authorized to carry a TASER and issued or using a personal TASER, shall carry the TASER on their person, in a Department-approved TASER holster, as specified in the Department-approved TASER Training Program;
- Prior to the use of the TASER, whenever practical, Department personnel shall request a supervisor;
- Any individual subjected to an application of the TASER, in either the "probe" or the "touch/drive stun" mode, shall be taken to a medical facility prior to booking, for appropriate medical treatment and/or removal of the probes; and
- Application of the TASER shall be discontinued once the suspect does not pose an immediate threat to themselves, Department personnel or the public.

Except in emergent circumstances, the TASER should not be applied to the following or used in any other situation where there is a reasonably foreseeable likelihood of severe injury or death. In the extraordinary instance that Department personnel feel compelled to utilize the TASER in the following circumstances, the conduct of the involved personnel shall be evaluated in accordance to the Use of Force policy with sound tactical principles.

- Handcuffed persons;
- Persons detained in a police vehicle;
- Persons detained in any booking or holding cell;
- Persons in control of a motor vehicle;
- Persons in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment which could result in death or serious bodily injury;
- Persons near flammable or combustible fumes;
- Persons near any body of water that may present a drowning risk; and
- Persons known to have a pacemaker or known to be pregnant.

The Custody Division Manual may define criteria for a unique application of the TASER within a custodial setting.

Verbal Warning

Unless it would compromise officer safety or is impractical due to circumstances, a verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER shall precede the activation of the device in order to:

- Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply; and
- Provide other sworn personnel and individuals with a warning that a TASER may be activated.

The fact that a verbal and/or other warning was given or reasons it was not given shall be documented in any related reports.

Authorized Department personnel discharging a TASER shall request the response of a supervisor if not already en route or on-scene.

Reporting the Use of the Electronic Immobilization Device (TASER)

The use of the TASER, either by utilizing the probes or the touch/drive stun mode, shall be reported as a "significant" use of force as defined in the Department Manual of Policy and Procedures, section 3-10/100.00, "Use of Force Reporting and Review Procedures."

Whenever a use of a TASER requires force reporting, a download of the TASER stored data and video shall be conducted and submitted with the force package.

Personally Owned Electronic Immobilization Devices (TASER)

Authorized Department personnel shall only carry Department authorized Electronic Immobilization Devices (TASER) whether on or off-duty.

Personally owned TASERs shall be available for computer download upon the request of a supervisor. The device shall meet the specification of the Weapons Training Center, and shall only be used in accordance with this section.

Department personnel shall record all personally owned Department-authorized TASERs (carried on-duty and off-duty) with Personnel Administration when the devices are purchased or obtained, sold or disposed of, stolen or lost.
