

USE OF CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICES

The San Francisco Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the life, dignity and liberty of all persons. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to protect and serve. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force, whenever feasible. This Department General Order builds upon the Supreme Court's broad principles in *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386 and is more restrictive than the constitutional standard and state law. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics requires all sworn law enforcement officers to carry out their duties with courtesy, respect, professionalism, and to never employ unnecessary force. These are key factors in maintaining legitimacy with the community and safeguarding the public's trust.

No policy can anticipate every conceivable situation or exceptional circumstance which officers may face. In all circumstances, officers are expected to exercise sound judgment and critical decision making when using force options.

For purposes of this order, the term "officer" means all ranks of sworn personnel.

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for proper deployment and activation of Conducted Energy Devices (CED) and the supervisory response which shall be taken thereafter.

- A. **LESS-LETHAL ALTERNATIVES.** It is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to equip officers with less-lethal alternatives, such as a CED, to resolve encounters with subjects who are violently resisting, assaultive, or exhibiting any action that may result in serious bodily injury or death of another person, themselves or the member.
- B. **TRAINING.** Only officers who have successfully completed the Department's Use of Force policy update and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Field Tactics training and all other required Department-approved CED training are authorized to carry CEDs.
- C. **REPORTING AND REVIEW.** The SFPD will thoroughly investigate and accurately document all facts and information when a member of the SFPD activates a CED, intentionally or unintentionally. (See DGO 5.01, *Use of Force*)
- D. **USE OF FORCE POLICY.** The activation of a CED by a member in the performance of his/her duties is considered a use of force, and shall conform to the methods, tactics, policies and procedures adopted by the SFPD. (See DGO 5.01, *Use of Force*).

DGO 5.02

08/25/17

- E. **DE-ESCALATION.** The use of a CED is not intended to replace tactics or training that can be utilized to calm or control a person, or to de-escalate a situation and avoid the use of force. (See DGO 5.01, *Use of Force*)
- F. **RE-EVALUATION.** When activating the CED, the member shall use it for one standard five-second cycle, and re-evaluate the effectiveness to determine whether the subject can be restrained without additional CED activations. Each subsequent five-second cycle requires a separate, articulable justification.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **ACTIVATION.** Depressing the trigger of the CED causing the firing of probes or placing the CED on a subject in the drive stun mode. An effective activation occurs when the subject is exposed to both CED probes resulting in neuromuscular incapacitation or when the fixed electrodes in drive stun mode are in direct contact with the subject's skin or clothing.
- B. **ASSAULTIVE.** Aggressive or combative; attempting to assault the officer or another person, verbally or physically displays an intention to assault the officer or another person.
- C. **COMPLIANT.** Subject offers no resistance.
- D. **CONFETTI TAGS.** Minute coded tags specific to the activated CED cartridge.
- E. **CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE (CED).** A weapon designed primarily to discharge electrical impulses into a subject that will cause neuromuscular incapacitation and override the subject's voluntary motor responses.
- F. **DEPLOYMENT.** Removal of the CED from the holster and pointing it at a subject, displaying the arc, or displaying the laser sight.
- G. **DISPLAYING THE ARC.** A compliance function of the CED. Displaying the electrical current to a subject without making contact.
- H. **DRIVE STUN.** Activating the CED by placing the electrodes upon the skin/clothing of the subject.
- I. **LIFE THREATENING.** Any action likely to result in serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another person.
- J. **MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.** Examination of a subject by emergency medical personnel.
- K. **MEDICAL EVALUATION.** Examination of a subject by a physician at a medical facility.
- L. **PASSIVE NON-COMPLAINECE.** Does not respond to verbal commands but also offer no physical form of resistance (e.g. failing to respond to an officer's commands and remaining fixed or stationary when an officer attempts to physically control the subject's movement).
- M. **SPARK TEST.** This test assists an officer in determining the functionality and the battery life of the CED.

III. PROCEDURES

A. ISSUANCE AND CARRYING CEDS.

1. Officers shall only use Department-issued CEDs and cartridges.
2. Officers who have been issued the CED shall wear the device in a Department-approved holster and carry the CED in a weak-side holster on the side opposite their duty weapon.
3. An Officer shall not hold a firearm and a CED at the same time.
4. When multiple officers are present and a CED will be used, only one officer shall activate the device on a subject. If the CED malfunctions or if both probes do not make contact with the subject, an additional officer may activate a CED if compliance from the subject has not been achieved. Officers shall coordinate which officer will activate the CED and which officer(s) will act as the cover officer(s).
5. The Department will ensure that Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are readily available in Department marked sedans and police utility vehicles in all police districts.
6. Officers equipped with a CED shall wear their Department-issued body worn cameras (BWC) and activate the BWC consistent with Department General Order 10.11, Body Worn Cameras.

B. INSPECTION. Officers carrying the CED shall perform an inspection of the CED at the beginning of every shift and:

1. Perform a daily spark test on the CED at the officer's station or unit before leaving the facility;
2. Ensure the CED is clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate it from the duty weapon and any other device;
3. Whenever practical, officers should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the CED;
4. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued CED is properly maintained and in good working order. If an officer discovers that the CED is damaged or inoperable, the officer shall cease its use and promptly notify his/her supervisor and document the specific damage or inoperability issue in a memorandum. The supervisor shall facilitate a replacement CED as soon as practical;
5. Officers shall not alter the CED from the original factory specifications and markings; and

6. Due to the flammable contents in some chemical agent containers, officers shall only carry Department-issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) which is non-flammable (water based and will not ignite).

C. WARNINGS

1. When reasonable, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of the officer or others, prior to each activation of the CED, the officer shall loudly announce that the CED is going to be activated.
2. The purpose of the warning is to:
 - a. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply, and
 - b. Provide other officers and other bystanders with a warning that the CED may be activated.

D. STANDARD CYCLE AND ASSESSMENT. The initial use of the CED is a standard five-second cycle, after which the officer shall evaluate the need to apply a subsequent five-second cycles while offering the subject a reasonable opportunity to comply. Officers should consider that exposure to multiple cycles of the CED for longer than a total of 15 seconds (3 five-second cycles) may increase the risk of serious bodily injury or death. Unless exigent circumstances apply, officers shall use another force option or tactics once the subject has been exposed to three standard cycles. Officers must be able to articulate in the incident report the facts and circumstances that justified each cycle of the CED.

In an attempt to minimize the number of CED activations needed for a person's compliance, officers should verbally direct the subject to comply with the officer's commands. Such verbal commands may include, "drop the weapon," "put your hands behind your back," etc. Multiple applications of the CED cannot be justified solely on the grounds that a person failed to comply with a command, absent the circumstances listed in Section III. H. 1 - 4.

E. CONSIDERATIONS FOR RE-EVALUATION. If a CED appears to be ineffective in gaining control of a subject, the officer shall evaluate the situation and consider certain factors before additional applications of the CED:

1. Whether the probes are making proper contact;
2. Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply;
3. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective; or
4. Whether it is reasonable to believe that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.

F. CED MODES. The following are the three operational modes of the CED:

1. Probe Mode. Probe mode occurs when the CED is activated and both probes are expelled from the cartridge and penetrate the skin/clothing of the subject.

2. Drive Stun Mode. Officers may use the CED in drive stun mode to supplement the probe mode to complete the incapacitation circuit, or as a countermeasure to gain separation between officers and the subject so that officers can consider other force options. Drive Stun mode alone is not designed to cause incapacitation. Officers shall not use the CED in drive stun mode solely as a pain compliance technique. When using the CED in drive stun mode, officers shall wait a reasonable amount of time between applications to assess effectiveness.
3. Display Mode. Achieved either by pointing a CED, employing the arc display, or pointing the laser at the subject. Displaying the CED may be all that is necessary to de-escalate a volatile situation. A subject may become compliant once faced with the realization that a CED may be used on him or her. However, display mode shall not be used in circumstances where activation would not be justified (e.g., where the subject is exhibiting compliance or passive non-compliance, and other circumstances described in this policy).

G. TARGET AREAS. Officers should make reasonable efforts to target lower center mass or if available, the back, which is the preferred target area. Officers shall not intentionally target sensitive areas, including the head, face, neck, chest or groin. The use of a CED to these areas has a likelihood of causing serious bodily injury or death, and the intentional use of a CED to these areas shall only be used in exigent circumstances.

It is recognized that the dynamics of each situation and officer safety may not permit the officer to limit the application of the CED probes to a precise target area. As in all cases of CED exposure, officers shall monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, face, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by emergency medical personnel.

H. AUTHORIZED USE OF THE CED. Officers shall determine the reasonableness of CED use based upon the totality of the circumstances, including but not limited to, the subject's level of resistance; the subject's apparent age and size; and the feasibility of lesser force options. Officers shall use the minimum CED cycles necessary to accomplish a lawful objective.

An officer may activate the CED when a subject is:

1. Armed with a weapon other than a firearm, such as an edged weapon or blunt object, and the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the public, him/herself or officers; or
2. Assaulting the officer or another person; attempting to assault the officer or another person; or verbally or physically displays an intention to assault the officer or another person; or
3. Violently resisting an officer's attempt to lawfully detain or arrest a subject; or
4. Exhibiting actions likely to result in serious bodily injury or death to the public, him/herself or the officer.

In rare circumstances, officers may decide to activate a CED on a subject armed with a firearm. Officers should consider cover, concealment, terrain, lethal cover, and tactical positioning when determining whether to activate the CED in these circumstances.

I. RESTRICTIONS ON CED USE.

1. Except where deadly force would be permitted, an officer shall not use a CED:
 - a. if the subject is obviously pregnant;
 - b. if the subject appears elderly;
 - c. if the subject is visibly frail or has a low body mass;
 - d. if the subject appears to be a child;
 - e. if the subject is in physical control of a vehicle in motion including motorcycles, bicycles, scooters and skateboards;
 - f. if the subject is in danger of falling from a significant height;
 - g. when the officer has credible information that the subject suffers from a medical condition (e.g., heart condition, Alzheimer's disease, dementia)
 - h. if the subject has recently been exposed to a flammable chemical agent or is otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based OC spray. Department-issued OC spray is not flammable.
2. Officers shall not use CEDs on handcuffed or restrained persons unless the subject is displaying an overtly assaultive or violently resistive behavior and lesser means have been tried and failed or would be ineffective.

J. PROHIBITED USE. Officers are prohibited from using the CED:

1. to prevent a subject from destroying evidence, such as placing evidence in his/her mouth;
2. to intimidate by reckless display;
3. if the suspect is fleeing and does not pose an immediate threat of physical harm to the public or officers. Flight will never be the sole reason for applying a CED on a subject;
4. on a subject who is compliant or who displays only passive non-compliance;
5. as a prod or escort device;
6. to rouse unconscious, impaired or intoxicated subjects; or
7. if the CED is or has been submerged in water or other liquid

K. OFFICER REQUIREMENTS AFTER ACTIVATIONS. As soon as feasible following a CED activation, officers shall:

1. contact the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and request emergency medical personnel respond to the scene of the CED activation;
2. place the subject in a face up (supine) or seated position to assist breathing and avoid placing the subject in a face down position for extended periods of time;
3. notify a supervisor of all CED activations, including all unintentional activations;;
4. collect confetti tags and book into evidence; and
5. collect expended cartridge(s), probes, and wires, and book into an evidence envelope, using a sharps container for the probes. The cartridge serial number shall be listed on the evidence

envelope. Officers shall mark the evidence envelope "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

Officers shall document the reasons for any deviation from this evidence collection protocol in the incident report.

- L. **DUTY TO RENDER FIRST AID.** Officers shall render first aid when a subject is injured or claims to be injured by an officer's use of force unless first aid is declined, the scene is unsafe, or emergency medical personnel are available to render first aid. Officers shall continue to render first aid and monitor the subject until relieved by emergency medical personnel.

Absent exigent circumstances, only emergency medical personnel should remove CED probes from a person's body. If exigent circumstances require an officer to remove the CED probes, removal shall be done consistent with Department training. Officers shall treat used CED probes as biohazard sharp objects, such as a used hypodermic needle, and shall use universal precautions when handling used CED probes.

M. **DUTY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT.**

1. Officers shall request emergency medical personnel respond to the scene for a medical assessment and removal of CED probes from a person's body.
2. At least one officer shall be assigned to continually monitor the subject's physical condition until emergency medical personnel arrive.
3. Officers shall immediately notify DEM of any breathing difficulties or any other physical or mental state changes.
4. Officers shall advise emergency medical personnel that a CED was used on the subject and advise emergency medical personnel if the subject loses consciousness, appears to exhibit signs of a serious medical condition, sustains a secondary injury (e.g., as the result of a fall), and/or is shocked in sensitive areas (e.g., head, face, neck, chest, and groin).
5. Officers should give the approximate time of the CED activation, the total number of CED activations, and the approximate combined duration of time the CED was activated on the subject to emergency medical personnel.

- N. **DUTY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL EVALUATION.** All subjects who have been struck by CED probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be transported by emergency medical personnel for evaluation at a local medical facility as soon as practical and prior to any additional law enforcement actions being taken with the subject. If emergency medical personnel do not transport the subject or if the subject refuses medical evaluation, officers shall transport the subject to a local medical facility.

If a subject refuses medical evaluation, the refusal shall be directed to the on-scene emergency medical personnel and not to the officer. Officers shall document a subject's refusal in the incident report by listing the name and identification number of the emergency medical personnel who

DGO 5.02

08/25/17

obtained the refusal from the subject. The officer shall inform any person providing medical care and the personnel receiving custody of the subject that he or she has been subjected to the CED.

O. **BOOKING OF SUSPECT.** When a subject has been exposed to CED probes or has been subjected to the electric discharge of the device, officers shall:

1. Ensure the subject is medically evaluated prior to booking him or her into the county jail. Subjects shall not be booked at a district station, and
2. Note the use of the CED on the field arrest card.

Nothing in this section prohibits an officer from taking a subject who has been exposed to CED probes or has been subjected to the electric discharge of the device to a police facility for investigatory purposes. However, the subject shall be medically evaluated prior to bringing him or her to the police facility.

P. **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.** Officers shall document all CED deployments and activations, including all unintentional activations, in an incident report, supplemental incident report or a written statement. Officers shall include the following information in the incident report or written statement:

1. Date, time and location of the incident;
2. The subject's actions necessitating the use of the CED, including any weapon displayed by the subject;
3. Subject's known or suspected drug use, intoxication and other medical problems at the time of deployment or activation;
4. De-escalation techniques used by the officer(s);
5. Whether a verbal or other warning was given or the reason it was not given.
6. Whether the officer used other force options;
7. The type and brand of CED and cartridge serial number;
8. Whether any deployment deterred a subject and gained compliance;
9. The number of CED activations;
10. The facts and circumstances justifying each activation cycle;
11. The approximate distance at which the CED was used;
12. Location of any probe impact;
13. Description of where missed probes went;
14. Information about the medical care provided to the subject;
15. Whether the subject sustained any injuries;
16. Whether any officers sustained any injuries;
17. Identification of all officers deploying or activating CEDs;
18. Identification of all witnesses; and
19. All supervisory notifications required by DGO 5.01, Use of Force.

Officers assigned to the Police Academy Physical Training and Defensive Tactics staff shall review all incident reports involving CED use to identify trends, tactics and the need for training updates.

- Q. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES. When a CED has been activated, a supervisor shall follow the protocol outlined in DGO 5.01, Section VII, Section B. 2. In addition, supervisors shall:
1. Confirm that any probes that have pierced the subject's skin are removed by medical personnel;
 2. Ensure that photographs of probe sites are taken unless the probe sites are on the breast, genitalia, or buttocks;
 3. Ensure that the subject is medically evaluated prior to being booked into any facility;
 4. Ensure that the CED's memory record has been uploaded; and
 5. Provide replacement CED cartridges to the officer, as necessary.
- R. OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS. Officers are not authorized to carry or use Department-issued CEDs while off-duty. Officers shall ensure that CEDs are secured in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.
- S. TRAINING. Proficiency training for officers who have been issued CEDs shall occur annually. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Department-approved CED instructors. All training and proficiency for CEDs will be documented in the officer's training file.

Any officer who has not carried the CED as a part of his or her assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a Department-approved CED instructor before carrying or using the device.

Commissioned Officers have the option to carry a CED. Officers who supervise or conduct Use of Force evaluations involving CEDs shall receive the Department-approved CED training regardless of whether they carry a CED.

The Commanding Officer of the Training Division is responsible for ensuring that all officers who carry CEDs receive initial and annual proficiency training. CED activation on an officer during training shall not be mandatory for certification.

The Commanding Officer of the Training Division shall ensure that all training includes:

1. A review of this Department General Order;
2. A review of DGO 5.01, *Use of Force*;
3. A review of DGO 5.21, *Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Response to Person in Crisis Calls for Service*;
4. Performing weak-hand draws or cross-draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing, pointing and firing a firearm;

DGO 5.02

08/25/17

5. Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin;
6. Handcuffing a subject during the application of the CED and transitioning to other force options;
7. Scenario-based training;
8. CIT updates;
9. De-escalation techniques; and
10. Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the CED.

References

DGO 5.01, Use of Force

DGO 5.21, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Response to Person in Crisis Calls for Service

DGO 10.11, Body Worn Cameras

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