

SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  POLICY AND PROCEDURE	Date Issued: 08/14/2002	Policy #: SFSD 02-11
	Last Revised: 01/16/2013	<i>Formerly D-15</i>
	Related Policies: SFSD 02-03 Use of Force SFSD 02-08 IAD / Chemical Agents SFSD 02-04 Projectile Impact Weapon SFSD 02-09 Protective Hoods SFSD 02-05 Authorized Handguns SFSD 02-10 Shields SFSD 02-06 Authorized Shotguns SFSD 02-23 Incident Reports SFSD 02-07 Impact Weapons	
Approved By:  Ross Mirkarimi, Sheriff		
Chapter: 02 Legal Enforcement and Operations	Title: Electronic Control Device (ECD) Taser	

POLICY: The San Francisco Sheriff's Department (SFSD) authorizes qualified sworn employees to use an ECD - Taser as a force option.

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines to sworn employees for the **deployment, use** and **discharge** of the ECD - Taser.

I. General:

- A. Deployment of the ECD - Taser requires the authorization of the Watch Commander or above or the on scene sworn **supervisor**.
- B. Discharge of an ECD - Taser in a jail requires authorization of the on-scene supervisor.
- C. Discharge of an ECD - Taser in the field is based on imminent danger and / or safety concerns for self or others.
 - 1. A discharge of an ECD- Taser in the field requires a SFSD supervisor to respond to the scene.
- D. Sworn employees are authorized to deploy, use and / or discharge a ECD - Taser under the following conditions:
 - 1. to overcome resistance from a subject who demonstrates or presents an imminent threat to the safety of anyone;
 - 2. to perform a cell extraction when the inmate has demonstrated resistance to orders and imminent danger and / or safety concerns for self or others are present; and / or
 - 3. any other situation that could necessitate the lawful force option in order to gain control of a physically resistive / combative subject.
- E. Sworn employees shall not intentionally direct the sighting laser at the face of any individual.
- F. When the ECD - Taser is deployed, the sworn employee shall carry the ECD - Taser in a SFSD issued holster on the duty belt non-gun side.
 - 1. The ECD - Taser shall be drawn from the holster with the off-hand.
 - 2. The Special Response Team (SRT) is authorized to use thigh holsters on their non-gun side when engaged in SRT activities.

- G. The ECD - Taser may only be used by sworn employees who have successfully completed department-approved ECD - Taser training within the previous two years.
- H. If feasible the sworn employee shall give a verbal warning prior to discharge of the ECD - Taser.
- I. The ECD - Taser shall be discharged the least amount of times necessary for compliance, but in no case shall the subject be shocked more than three times in any single incident.
 - 1. Once the trigger is pressed and a subject is shocked, the sworn employee shall take his / her finger off the trigger to assess for compliance or continued non-compliance before another shock is administered.
- J. The ECD - Taser shall not be used under the following circumstances:
 - 1. when used as punishment;
 - 2. when the subject is already under control;
 - 3. in the known presence of combustible or flammable substances;
 - 4. when the subject is visibly pregnant, or the sworn employee knows, through medical confirmation, the subject is pregnant;
 - 5. against a non-violent passive individual(s) and / or
 - 6. in the **drive-stun mode**.

II. Procedures:

- A. The facility / section / unit commander or designee shall ensure the ECD - Taser is tested and logged weekly to confirm the ECD - Taser is operational. This test will include:
 - 1. removing the cartridge;
 - 2. ensuring the battery is charged to the percentage recommended by the manufacture;
 - 3. conducting a spark check and
 - 4. accounting for all parts including holster(s).
- B. Upon initial deployment the sworn employee shall remove the cartridge and conduct a spark check to confirm the ECD - Taser is operational.
- C. If possible the sworn employee who discharged the ECD - Taser shall remove the probes; unless it is determined that removal will result in further injury or the probes are in a sensitive area.
- D. The sworn employee shall contact medically-trained individuals to evaluate the subject as soon as possible. This may be accomplished by:
 - 1. contacting Jail Medical Services;
 - 2. calling for an ambulance or
 - 3. utilizing SFSD Emergency Medical Technicians.
- E. The sworn employee shall place any discharged air cartridge(s) and probes into a paper bag.

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1. The sworn employee shall mark the paper bag with the date, location of the incident and the name and the star number of the sworn employee who discharged the ECD - Taser.
 2. A sworn supervisor shall store the paper bag in a secure area until a sworn employee from the Investigative Services Unit takes possession.
 3. The sworn employee shall document use ECD - Taser as outlined in the SFSD Incident Report Policy.
- F. The sworn employee will log the deployment, discharge and / or testing in the ECD - Taser Log.
- G. The ECD - Taser log shall be submitted to the Range Master or designee quarterly within a calendar year starting in January.
- H. When feasible, the discharge of the ECD – Taser shall be videotaped.

III. Forms:

ECD - Taser Log

IV. References:

Not Applicable