

POLICY:

L 2614 USE OF TASER AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Revised 9/28/10

Only officers who have completed approved training by the Department can carry the TASER.

A TASER can be used by either activating it while pressing the device against a person's clothes or skin, which is referred to below as a Drive Stun Deployment, or by firing the device's two Probes at a person, which is referred to below as a Probe Deployment. Some of the policies and considerations relevant to use of a TASER, described below, apply to both methods of deployment, while others apply to only one method or the other.

1. Policies and considerations relevant to all TASER deployments.

In general, the TASER is to be used for the shortest period of time reasonably necessary to take a subject safely into custody. Ordinarily, officers should activate the TASER by pressing and releasing the trigger, producing a five-second cycle. In circumstances where a shorter cycle is desired, officers may use the safety to shorten the cycle or, in the case of a Drive Stun Deployment, may discontinue Drive Stun with the subject. With each cycle, an officer should evaluate whether it is reasonable to activate the TASER again, considering the level of threat that still exists and considering the pain and other potential risks to the subject, if any, associated with its use.

Unless objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances known to the officers at the time, officers should avoid activating more than one TASER against a single subject at the same time.

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Line/Operations Procedures

If circumstances permit, officers should avoid aiming the TASER at a subject's head, neck, genitalia or chest.

The TASER shall not be used against a subject in physical control of a vehicle in motion unless the circumstances are such that a reasonable officer would conclude that the risk of serious bodily injury or death resulting from subsequent movement of the vehicle is outweighed by the need to capture the subject. Generally, use of the TASER should be avoided when feasible against women who are known to be pregnant, very old or very young persons, physically frail persons and persons with known heart conditions. An example of a circumstance in which it would be reasonable to use the TASER would be a situation in which an obviously pregnant woman was in the process of harming herself or another

person, and more intrusive force would be necessary if not for the use of a TASER.

The immediate supervisor of an officer that has deployed a TASER will personally respond to evaluate and actively participate in the investigation of the TASER discharge.

The TASER has been shown to be an effective tool against aggressive animals. The TASER may be used against animals, if the animal poses a threat to officers or other persons or other animals.

2. Policies and considerations relevant to a Probe Deployment

TASERS play an important role in effective law enforcement. As a tool that can defuse dangerous situations from a distance, the use of a TASER can obviate the need for more severe force and can help protect officers, suspects and bystanders. However, a Probe Deployment of a TASER also has the ability to immobilize or override a person's central nervous system, inflicts considerable pain and, in rare instances, may cause or contribute to death or serious injury. As a result, Probe Deployment of a TASER should be limited to situations where:

- The subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others, and
- After assessing as much of the facts relevant to the situation as circumstances permit, a reasonable officer would conclude that the threat presented by the subject outweighs the pain and risks associated with use of the TASER.

Officers should attempt to secure the subject as soon as practical while affected by TASER power or immediately thereafter.

In general, the TASER should not be used on subjects exhibiting only passive noncompliance.

An officer shall not use a TASER against a handcuffed or secured person, absent overtly assaultive, self-destructive or violently resistive behavior that cannot reasonably be controlled by other readily available means.

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Line/Operations Procedures

An officer shall not use a TASER in circumstances where a suspect's fall is likely to cause serious bodily injury or death, unless the circumstances are such that a reasonable officer would conclude that force likely to cause substantial injury or death is warranted.

An officer shall not use a TASER where an officer reasonably believes that a flammable, volatile or explosive material is on the subject or may be affected by the use of the device.

Officers sometimes encounter highly agitated individuals whose condition may put those individuals at heightened risk of serious injury or death. (See Training Bulletin, March 19, 2007, Management of Subjects in Excited Delirium) Scientific

research and law enforcement experience suggest that vigorous physical exertion may increase the risk of injury or death in these individuals. Such exertion may result from an individual's active resistance and the effort of officers to restrain or subdue the individual, which efforts may include the use of a TASER. There are times, however, when despite such risks, a person's actions make it necessary to take the individual into custody. Use of the TASER may, in some instances, be the preferred method of quickly subduing an agitated and aggressive individual and minimize the subject's physical exertion. However, a TASER should only be used with such individuals when the person poses an immediate threat of harm that warrants use of the TASER despite the increased risk to the individual.

Officers shall refrain from using the TASER for more than a total of three (3) five-second cycles, unless the circumstances are such that a reasonable officer would conclude that each subsequent application of the device, analyzed separately, is warranted by the continuing and substantial threat of harm despite the pain and risks associated with its use. In this assessment, an officer may also consider whether backup officers are present to assist in controlling a dangerous suspect.

If the subject does not respond to the TASER deployment in the anticipated manner based on training and experience, officers should consider transitioning to alternative force options.

Whenever a person has been subjected to a TASER discharge, an official hospital clearance is obtained prior to the suspect's booking. If the suspect exhibits the need for medical attention at the scene of the arrest, emergency medical assistance is summoned immediately. See DM Section L 2616 (Providing First Aid).

3. Policies and considerations relevant to a Drive Stun Deployment

When a Drive Stun Deployment occurs, the TASER delivers a charge that causes localized pain rather than a disruption of a subject's central nervous system. Prolonged Drive Stun may cause burns and/or permanent scarring and should be avoided. Officers using the TASER in this mode should regard this application of force as a pain-compliance technique and apply the TASER for the minimum number of cycles and amount of time reasonably necessary to achieve compliance.

4. TASER usage reporting requirements:

The use of the TASER shall be described as follows and will require documentation in a General Offense Report (Form 200-2-AFR) and/or on a Narrative/Supplemental Report (Form 200-3A-AFR):

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Line/Operations Procedures

- The TASER probes are discharged at a subject,

- The TASER is used in a "drive stun" manner and makes contact with the subject's body or clothing.

Officers using a TASER as described above will complete a "Force Response Detail Page" and will submit a copy of the TASER CED download information for the event with the case number noted in the upper-right hand corner. These additional reports shall be submitted with all other required reports. Only authorized supervisors will download information from the TASER.

Officers that display the TASER in an attempt to gain compliance from a subject will ensure there is a note in the CAD event indicating the "TASER was displayed." If the incident would require the officer to write a General Offense Report (Form 200-2-AFR) and/or a Narrative/Supplemental Report (Form 200-3A-AFR), the display of the TASER shall be documented in the report. The display of the TASER shall be described as follows:

- The TASER is withdrawn from the holster and displayed to the subject,
- The TASER is withdrawn from the holster, cartridge removed from the TASER and the electrical arcing is demonstrated to the subject.

Officers that only display the TASER are not required to complete a "Force Response Report" (Form FRS-001).

TASERS and holsters authorized for use by the Chief of Police are listed in DM Section S 1147 (Tasers).

L 2616 PROVIDING FIRST AID:

Revised 06-30-06

Officers will obtain a medical clearance from Valley Medical Center (VMC) for an arrestee who has been subjected to the discharge of an Electro-Muscular Disruption device. Another hospital emergency room may be used if, based on the available information, it appears to be necessary to provide immediate emergency medical treatment for the arrestee or if VMC is closed for admissions. In cases where another hospital emergency room is used or if the suspect is already at another hospital facility with an emergency room, the officer will obtain the necessary medical clearance paperwork for booking from that hospital. There is no need to transport the suspect to VMC in this case. The prisoner will only be transferred to VMC upon approval of medical personnel at both facilities.

A Taser Use - Physicians Reference Guide (Form 202-44), supplied by the Department, is provided by the transporting officer to EMS or hospital staff to assist them in treating the subject. Jail personnel are advised that the arrestee was immobilized by the use of the Taser.

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Line/Operations Procedures

Taser probes, if lodged in the body, are removed by EMS or hospital staff.

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