



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.

Electronic Control Device (ECD) - Taser

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