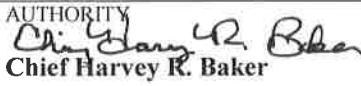


Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police

GENERAL ORDER

TITLE CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON			PROCEDURE NUMBER G.O. 1001.0
SECTION Uniforms and Equipment	DISTRIBUTION A	EFFECTIVE DATE 04/8/16	REVIEW DATE 04/8/18
REPLACES			
RELATED GENERAL ORDERS	REFERENCES CALEA 1,17,22,41	AUTHORITY  Chief Harvey R. Baker	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW).

II. POLICY

The WSSC Police Department has issued the Advanced TASER (X2) to trained sworn officers, to provide those officers with additional use-of-force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations. It is the policy of the WSSC Police Department that personnel may use the TASER when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth in this General Order and in the department's use-of-force policy.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Authorization

1. Only personnel who have been trained, demonstrated proficiency, and have been issued a departmental TASER and associated equipment, are authorized to carry and use it. Proficiency must be demonstrated at least annually, and be monitored by a certified TASER instructor.
2. The TASER is a Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) used propelled wire or direct contact to conduct energy to affect the sensory and motor functions of the nervous system.
3. Only the departmentally issued TASER X2, issued TASER holster (Blackhawk Serpa), and issued TASER cartridges are authorized for use. Taser holsters must be mounted on

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON G.O. 1001.0

the officer's weak/support side of the duty belt. Taser operators may attach the Taser holster to a TAC vest provided it is secured to the TAC vest via a MOLLE attachment such as the Blackhawk S.T.R.I.K.E. Trained personnel, who are carrying a departmental TASER while on duty, must have both (2) cartridges affixed to their TASER at all times. The only exception to this would be if the officer has deployed a single cartridge, and is awaiting a replacement cartridge.

4. The TASER X2 is a two-shot CEW designed to provide the operator with the capability to immediately follow-up a missed shot or clothing disconnects with an additional cartridge deployment without reloading.

B. Usage Criteria

1. The use of a TASER is considered a use of force and will be employed in a manner consistent with the department's use of force policy.
2. The TASER shall be used when verbal dialogue, *if possible*, has failed to bring about a person's compliance, and the officer perceives a person to be an immediate threat of harm or injury to others or himself, the person is fleeing or flight risk from Part I felony/crime against a person, or to prevent persons from harming themselves or others.
3. A fleeing person will not be the sole justification for the use of the TASER. Severity of the offense and other circumstances will be considered before officers' use a TASER on a fleeing person.
4. The TASER shall be used to display the CEW's "test arc" or "painting the subject with its laser" in an attempt to gain compliance of the person where resistance, assault, and/or violence is reasonably anticipated, with a verbal command for compliance with an officer's orders. The display of the CEW's "test arc" or "painting the subject with its laser" is not considered "use of force".
5. No more than one officer at a time should discharge a TASER against a person, unless circumstances require additional TASER deployment, against a non-compliant resisting suspect who is an immediate threat to himself, citizens or the officer.
6. Whenever practical and reasonable, personnel should issue a verbal warning prior to discharging the TASER on a person. This could give the suspect the opportunity to voluntarily comply with the officer's lawful orders. If other officers are present, the deploying officer, prior to deployment, shall announce, if reasonably safe and feasible, "TASER!" This will give the other officers warning to either not engage or disengage from the suspect before the TASER is deployed.
7. When discharging the TASER, the officer shall only use it for one standard cycle (five seconds), then stop and evaluate the situation. In an attempt to minimize the number of TASER discharges needed for a person's compliance, officers shall, while deploying the TASER, reasonably direct (order) the person as the incident mandates. Such verbal commands may include, "stop resisting," "drop the weapon," "put your hands behind your back," etc. When available, cover officers will move in and "cuff under power".

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON

G.O. 1001.0

Officers will only use the minimum number of activations necessary to place the person into custody. Multiple applications cannot be justified solely on the grounds that a person failed to comply with a command, absent other considerations such as a weapon in close proximity or attempting to flee from a serious crime.

8. The use of a TASER in “drive-stun” mode will not reliably or foreseeably incapacitate the person. Officers will not use the TASER in drive-stun mode if they reasonably believe that discomfort will not cause the person to be compliant with the officers; i.e., TASER use in drive-stun mode on a drug induced highly pain-resistant person.
9. The TASER is not a substitute for deadly force, and generally should not be used in those situations. If a TASER trained officer does deploy the TASER in those situations, he/she must have another officer present to provide deadly force cover.
10. Officers may use deadly force to protect themselves from the use or threatened use of a TASER by a suspect when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against them if they become incapacitated.
11. A TASER may be deployed on an animal when the animal is threatening or is attacking a person, including officers, another animal, or property.
12. When lawful and appropriate to do so, the deploying officer will take photographs of the probe impact sites and any related injuries, sustained during the deployment of the TASER.
13. When not in use, TASER’s will be kept in a secure place, inaccessible to all persons who are not trained TASER operators of the WSSC Police Department and the TASER will not be left unattended in their cruiser when the officer is off duty and the cruiser is left unattended.

C. Elevated TASER Application Risk Factors and Justification Factors

1. The following factors, where apparent to involved officers, require additional justification of TASER use. This is because the risks of foreseeable direct or secondary injuries are elevated:
 - a. Presence of flammable liquids/fumes or explosive environments
 - b. Elevated positions
 - c. Person operating moving vehicle or machinery
 - d. Person running (fleeing)
 - e. Person standing or running on hard surface such as concrete or asphalt
 - f. Pregnant female
 - g. Swimming pool or other body of water
 - h. Intentional TASER application to sensitive areas
 - i. Frail or infirm individual
 - j. Non-standard repeated TASER applications beyond 15 seconds or three 5 second probe exposures

**CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON
G.O. 1001.0**

2. The following factors involve groups of people from which the general public commonly assumes that these individuals are not capable of being an imminent threat of death and/or serious bodily harm, or that these people should be treated more sensitively and compassionately by officers. Officers understand that the realities are that individuals from each of these groups do commit violent crimes, can be an imminent threat of death and/or serious bodily harm to officers, others, and themselves, can be so resistive that the use of a TASER is eminently justified, etc. However, since society generally places individuals within these groups into protected classes, officers using a TASER on one of these individuals will foreseeably be placed under heightened scrutiny and will likely be required to provide additional justification(s) for the use of the TASER. These groups include:
 - a. Children
 - b. Seniors

D. Prohibited Taser Deployments

The use of a CEW constitutes a significant level of force, consistent with batons or pepper spray. When using a CEW, officers must consider the risk of bodily harm that their actions pose to a suspect in light of the suspect's threat to the public that the officer is trying to eliminate. Therefore, the use of a CEW is prohibited in the following situations:

- a. Nonviolent misdemeanants
- b. Handcuffed prisoners
- c. Fleeing persons where there is no probable cause for an arrest
- d. Passive, non-compliant persons

E. Post TASER Medical Attention

1. All individuals who have been exposed to the TASER by probe deployment or by drive stun will be transported to the hospital by EMS personnel (an exposure is defined as a probe entering the skin or when an individual experiences Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation by probe deployment or experiences the effects of a drive stun). The individual will be medically evaluated and if necessary will have the probes removed while at the hospital. (This does not apply to officer exposure during training or if an officer receives a secondary exposure while taking a subject into custody).
2. EMS personnel will be summoned to the scene by the deploying officer. If the probes have penetrated the skin, EMS personnel should be advised to not remove them prior to transport. The probes shall only be removed by a doctor or authorized medical staff at the Hospital. Officer shall take photos of the areas of the body where the probes penetrated the skin, for departmental records.

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON

G.O. 1001.0

3. Officers may remove probes which have penetrated clothing and are not intact with the skin. If this occurs, the subject is still required to be transported to the hospital by EMS personnel for a medical evaluation, if they experience Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation. If the subject does not experience Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation, due to an incomplete circuit (i.e., only one probe making contact to the clothing), then a medical evaluation is not necessary, Officer shall document the removal of the probes in the reports.
4. Should the probes impale a sensitive area, (head, neck, hands, feet or genitalia) officers will attempt to stabilize the probes in place until EMS personnel arrive on scene. Officers will instruct EMS personnel to continue probe stabilization until the probes can be removed by a doctor or authorized medical staff at the Hospital.
5. Scene security or volatility may necessitate selecting an alternative location for meeting medical personnel for transport. This may be accomplished by moving the subject to a neutral secure location, police facility and/or fire station.
6. Probes that have been deployed and strike the subject (penetrate the skin) will be treated as biohazard sharps. They shall be placed point down into the expended cartridge bores and secured (i.e., with latex gloves(s), tape, etc. They shall be transported to the station and placed in a sharps container, unless they are needed as evidence, or discarded in the proper receptacle at the Hospital.

F. AFID (Anti-Felon Identification) System

This system provides accountability for each use of the TASER via the dispersal of tiny coded tags. Every time the device is "probe deployed"- a cartridge is discharged. AFIDs shall only be collected and maintained as evidence if reasonably necessary, such as where identification of who discharged the TASER is a foreseeable problem or issue. If a supervisor determines that the AFIDs need to be collected and maintained as evidence, then ECU shall be contacted for evidence collection. The AFIDs will be placed into evidence with any expended cartridge.

G. Reporting Procedures

All field deployments of the TASER (drive stun and probe) will be recorded on the Use of Force Report and entered into Perspective. The Use of Force Report will contain the following information:

1. Reason for the use of the TASER
2. Describe the immediate risk of danger/safety

**CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON
G.O. 1001.0**

3. Subject's resistance
4. TASER serial number
5. Cartridge serial number if deployed
6. Number of cycles delivered
7. Effectiveness in taking down the subject
8. Additional cycles activated once taken into custody/restrained
9. Type of medical treatment/where treated
10. Accidental discharges
11. Malfunctions during field deployment

H. Patrol Commanders Responsibilities

A Patrol Commander or the senior on-duty officer is responsible for the following actions:

1. Respond immediately to all incidents of CEW deployment and probes enter a suspect, and document the facts leading to the TASER deployment on the Use of Force Report.
2. Ensure proper medical attention is requested.
3. Ensure expended cartridge and probes are treated and disposed of as biohazard sharps, unless required for evidence.
4. Determine whether AFIDs and expended cartridges will be needed as evidence based on unanticipated injury to the suspect.
5. Ensure all reporting requirements are met and completed.
6. The Patrol Commander or senior on-duty officer shall obtain a written statement from witnesses, the suspect if possible in reference to the TASER deployment, prior to the end of their tour of duty.
7. The Patrol Commander will inspect each TASER monthly to ensure they are properly maintained and in working order. Deficiencies shall be documented and corrective action implemented by the TASER coordinator or designee.

IV. CONCLUSION

End of Document