

Gladstone Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Subject:	Use of TASER	Approved:	
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510 PURPOSE

This policy provides officers with guidelines and operating procedures for the use of the deployment of the X26 TASER electro muscular disruption device (EMD).

511 POLICY

This policy provides personnel of the Gladstone Police Department, trained in using TASERs, with direction as to use, deployment, storage, and suspect care. The TASER may be used at the same level of force on the Use of Force Continuum where physical control can be used.

512 DEFINITION

The TASER = A less lethal weapon, which delivers electrical energy by using compressed air to fire two probes from a detachable cartridge.

1. The probes are attached to the cartridge by insulated light gauge wire used to conduct the energy.
2. The TASER is designed for the purpose of subduing persons while reducing the potential of serious injury or death to officer and suspect.
3. The TASER may also be used in a "drive stun" mode using a spent cartridge or no cartridge on the front of the TASER, to make physical contact with a subject and deliver the stun.

513 CIRCUMSTANCES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE TASER

The TASERs are Department issued items and are to be used only by trained Department personnel as follows:

1. The TASER may be used in circumstances where a person displays resistance in effecting an arrest, preventing escape, restricting movement of a prisoner, or when a person displays the

intent to engage in violent, aggressive actions; displays the intent to engage in suicidal behavior; or displays the intent to engage in physical resistance to a lawful police action.

2. The TASER is not intended for use in deadly force situations.
3. Officers deploying the TASER, when feasible, should be supported by at least one cover officer capable of providing immediate lethal cover.
4. Should the TASER prove ineffective in de-escalating the situation and the incident develops into deadly force, G.O. #5.01 "Use of Force" will supersede this TASER policy.
5. It will be the decision of each officer to decide what type of less lethal equipment will be deployed, based on situational information at the time of deployment.

514 DEPLOYMENT OF THE TASER

1. Officers will, when feasible, provide a warning to the subject before using the TASER. The warning should be an explicit statement such as, "Stop, get on the ground, or you will be Tasered."
2. Officers should announce to cover officers that the TASER is being deployed. A verbal notification such as, "TASER-TASER-TASER" should be used.
3. The TASER may be deployed multiple times on the same subject if the subject fails to comply with officer commands or if the officer reasonably believes the use necessary to take the suspect into custody.

515 MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. When the TASER is used on a person, EMS personnel will be summoned to the scene and/or police station and will evaluate the subject's need for medical treatment.
2. Only medical personnel will remove TASER probes that lodge in a person's skin, unless the subject refuses medical treatment or if the officer is medically trained to remove the probes.
3. The officer may remove probes if it is tactically unsafe to move the suspect to EMS personnel.

516 ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE USE OF THE TASER

1. Following the operational discharge of the TASER, it is the responsibility of the deploying officer to observe the removal of the probes. If anything looks abnormal or the suspect is hit in a vital region, then collect the probes as evidence and lodge it according to policy. If things look normal and no vital regions are affected, put the probes in the sharps container or let EMS dispose of the probes.

2. If the subject falls as a result of the TASER use, the officer will instruct EMS to look for secondary injuries as a result of falling from the standing position.
3. If the TASER probes strike a vital area, the used probes will be re-inserted, point down, into the discharged air cartridge and taped into place before being placed into an evidence bag.
4. Officers will photograph the areas of the probe strikes, if possible, before and after probe removal. Consent should be obtained before photographing personally sensitive areas. All photographs will be placed into evidence. If possible, have an officer (fire or medical also) of the same sex photograph the probe strike area.
5. Officers will document in their report the serial number off of the back of the used cartridge and will need to give that number to the Equipment Sergeant to have the used cartridge replaced with a new one.

517 NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING

1. An officer who uses a TASER on a subject must complete the appropriate police report documenting the circumstances of the TASER deployment prior to the end of shift.

518 RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CONTROL

1. Officers carrying the TASER shall ensure the batteries are fully charged at the beginning of each shift by checking the digital display on the back of the TASER. The TASER should be tested at the beginning of each shift to ensure proper function and the officer will document that either in their notebook or their unit history on MDC's. The officer will remove the cartridge and pull the trigger letting the TASER cycle through one 5-second sequence.
2. TASERS will be carried in holsters on a duty belt and with backup cartridges. TASERS will not be carried in pockets or be left lying on the seat or in the trunk of the patrol vehicles.
3. Supervisors shall ensure all pertinent information is documented in appropriate reports, and all appropriate evidence is collected, following the use of a TASER.
4. The Equipment Sergeant will be responsible for the procurement, maintenance, and issuance of the TASERS and associated equipment to the patrol division. The Equipment Sergeant is responsible for evaluating the TASER program, review of the TASER database reports and the TASER data collection.
5. The Training Sergeant will be responsible for setting up training and recertification of officer use of TASERS.