

011.109.000 TASERS

011.109.010 DESCRIPTION

The term "TASER" as used in this policy refers specifically to the X26 or M26 Taser, marketed by Taser International. It is a less lethal handheld device capable of discharging two barbed projectiles from a "probe cartridge" to a target. These projectiles are still connected to the device by two lengths of wire along which current flows. Additionally, the device may be used without a cartridge installed, or with a spent cartridge in place to deliver electricity via contact.

011.109.020. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Only officers who are currently trained and qualified in the use of the Taser may utilize one. Training is to be given by a certified Taser instructor.

011.109.030 USE OF THE TASER

The Taser is to be used to subdue a person who is resisting arrest or is otherwise combative. The Taser is to be used as a tool to minimize potential escalation of force and to prevent injury to the arresting officer, arrestee or others present. The Taser may also be used on vicious animals who pose a threat to officers or bystanders.

The Taser may also be utilized to immobilize persons who display the intent to engage in suicidal behavior, or are resistant to lawful police action pursuant to the Use of Force Continuum.

The Taser will not be used on a person already in restraints (i.e. handcuffs, or restraint chair). The Taser may be used on a person that is being physically restrained but is not yet under control.

The Taser will not be aimed at the face or head.

Before the Taser is deployed, the operator will, if feasible, give a verbal warning to the subject that if his activities do not cease he will be tasered. Additionally a verbal notification such as "taser, taser, taser" will be given to alert other officers that the Taser is being deployed.

If needed, the Taser may be deployed multiple times against the same suspect. However, the Taser will only be used the minimum number of cycles needed to control the subject. The Taser will under no circumstances be used in an excessive manner or as punishment.

011.109.040 ACTIONS FOLLOWING USE OF THE TASER

When the Taser is deployed on a person EMS personnel or medical personnel will evaluate the subject's need for medical treatment as soon as is practical. Trained police personnel may remove the probes if the situation warrants.

Following the operational discharge of the Taser, it is the responsibility of the operator to collect the Taser probes and dispose of them in a suitable manner such as a sharps container. Officers will use biohazard precautions when handling Taser probes that were removed from a subject.

Whenever possible, officers will photograph the areas of probes strikes, before and after probe removal. Consent should be obtained before photographing personally sensitive areas. These photographs will become part of the case file arising from the incident.

011.109.050 NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF USE OF THE TASER

As soon as practical any member discharging a Taser will notify the shift supervisor.

Members using a Taser on a person will submit a detailed account of the incident to the supervisor on a Use of Force Report.

This report, in addition to the other details, shall include;

1. The specific circumstances leading to the use of the Taser.
2. All verbal warnings given to the subject and other officers.
3. The distance from which the Taser was used.
4. The serial numbers of the probe cartridges expended.
5. The response of EMS.
6. Number of times cycled and circumstances requiring additional cycles.
7. Description of location on suspect's body where the probes struck or where touch stun was applied.

011.109.060 RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of personnel carrying the Taser to ensure that the battery is fully charged at the beginning of the shift.