

# **GRANTS PASS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

## **GENERAL ORDER**

### **ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES**

**G.O. 5.06 (b)**

**EFFECTIVE: 12/7/89**

**REVISED: 08/11/2011**

#### **POLICY:**

Police Personnel required to carry electronic control devices (ECD) will be skilled and knowledgeable in their use and will be knowledgeable in the limitations, sanctions, and responsibilities imposed on their use.

All personnel authorized to carry a ECD will receive copies of and instruction in all Department policies on the use of force.

#### **PURPOSE:**

Describes Department ECD procedures.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

##### **ADVANCED AIR TASER (X26 / Taser Cam):**

TASER electronic control devices (ECD) are designed to incapacitate a person or animal from a reasonable distance while reducing the likelihood of serious injuries or death. When used as directed, TASER ECD's have been found to be safer and more effective than other traditional use-of-force tools and techniques. Any use of force, physical exertion or resistance, capture, control, restraint, blunt impact, or incapacitation involves a risk that a person may get hurt or die.

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

Individual officers are issued the X26 Taser. Officers shall carry their Taser on their support side. To reduce potential damage to the Taser, patrol officers shall carry the Taser in a holster specifically designed for the Taser. Sworn personnel assigned to plain clothes assignment may carry the Taser in an equipment bag, paying close attention to storing the Taser separate from other items, so as not to damage the Taser.

It is the responsibility of each officer to ensure that their Taser has charged batteries installed and that the Taser camera is charged. Prior to shift, officers are required to do a daily function spark check of the device. There is no need to do a full five-second spark test.

The Taser cam battery should be recharged when the Central Information Display (CID) shows 50% or lower.

During this process, it is critical that the officer demonstrate safety in handling so as to avoid dropping the Taser or the Taser cartridge; or causing injury to another person.

If an Taser/ECD projectile or air cartridge is damaged or exposed to significant moisture, the unit should be turned over to a certified TASER instructor or Armorer. The projectile may not be safe to operate if damaged or has been exposed to excessive moisture. Expired, damaged and expended air cartridges are replaced by a supervisor.

#### **USE OF THE TASER:**

The Taser will discharge electrical current for five seconds before automatically stopping, unless the trigger is continuously depressed. The operator can shorten time of the electrical pulse by activating the device's safety switch.

Officers should plan to secure and control the individual as soon as possible. Immediately restraining will assist in minimizing the number of exposures required to secure the subject. Handcuffing while "under power" and having a custody plan will assist in this action.

Officers should be aware of the preferred target zones (lower center of mass down for the front, from the neck down for the back). This allows for the best chance of NeuroMuscular Incapacitation (NMI).

There is no "minimum safe distance" for deployment of the X26. The maximum distance for deployment is 25' using current standard issued XP cartridges. With or without the air cartridge attached, the Taser also acts as a "drive stun" system when brought into immediate contact with a person's body.

Officers should plan to redeploy or use a back up plan in case the ECD is inoperable or the application is ineffective. Also make reasonable efforts to minimize repeated, continuous, or simultaneous exposures. TASER X26 and XREP projectile users should only use the minimum number of ECD exposures that are objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objective(s). If the subject is exposed to repeated or continuous application, after 3 cycles, the subject shall be examined by hospital personnel.

Intentionally firing an X26 /XREP projectile at body parts other than preferred target areas can increase the risk of injury. The following specific practices are recommended to reduce the risk of injury to targeted individuals:

1. When practical, the preferred target areas are the subject's torso below the chest (Lower center of mass) or legs in the front and below the neck area from the back.
2. Officers should avoid sensitive areas such as the head, face, throat, spine, groin, or upper chest without legal justification for targeting these areas.
3. Avoid targeting known pre-existing injury areas.
4. XREP training projectiles should not be fired at humans or animals due to the risk of penetration. The XREP training projectile is intended for practice target

shooting in order to gain familiarity with the flight profile of the live XREP projectile.

5. As with other TASER devices and Less Lethal rounds, avoid ammunition confusion by visually checking each round prior to loading them into the shotgun.
6. Proper consideration and care should be taken when deploying the Taser on subjects who are in an elevated position and also when muscle contractions may be harmful, such as a woman the officer knows to be pregnant, or in other circumstances where a fall may cause substantial injury or death. Officers must be prepared to justify such a deployment.
7. Officers should consider possible secondary injuries as a result of NMI. This includes a subject who is running from the officer, or is on a hard surface and is unable to break their fall. Officers shall provide appropriate medical attention per policy.

The use of the ECD constitutes a use of physical force and the reporting procedures as established in G.O. 5.06, Use of Force shall be followed.

Officers discharging an ECD should:

1. Announce that the ECD is being deployed, alerting other officers around you, unless doing so would unnecessarily negate their tactical advantage.
2. When using the TaserCam, make every attempt to notify the subjects the conversation is being recorded as soon as possible. (In high stress situations, this may not be done immediately, but should be done as soon as the situation is stabilized).
3. Be prepared with lethal or other appropriate use of force as a back-up procedure.
4. Advise the supervisor, and when possible, request the supervisor respond.
5. Request the response of a Fire/Rescue unit.
6. If possible, obtain photographs of the probe and drive stun contact points on the person, documenting any possible injuries or lack of penetration and injury.

#### **POST DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES – RENDERING MEDICAL AID:**

Persons who have been subjected to an ECD, shall be treated on the scene by Fire/Rescue. Officers shall be trained in the proper procedure for removal of the probes. Fire/Rescue will swab the site of the probes with an alcohol swab and check the person's vital signs.

A person who has been subjected to the Taser probes in an area that could cause significant injury or create difficulty in removing the Taser probes, such as the eye, mouth, breast (women), or groin, should be transported to the hospital for removal of the probes by trained medical personnel.

The cartridge, including the probes, shall be properly packaged and placed into evidence. Proper packing includes placing the probes upside down inside the cartridge (inside the probe wells) with the shipping clamp over the probes and loosely gather the wires and place into an evidence envelope. Officers must use protective gloves when handling the exposed probes.

Each “discharge” of an ECD shall be documented in a police report (except during daily equipment inspections *ie. “spark tests”*) and a “Taser Use / Damage Report” completed (see attached).

A “discharge” is defined as any time the ECD is activated, with or without an air cartridge attached on an X26, and the device discharges an electrical current (except during a daily equipment inspection, *ie. “spark tests”*). Once a “discharge” has occurred, the officer shall leave a copy of the Taser Use / Damage Report for an officer trained in the downloading process. The documentation illustrating the deployment, from the X26 and the TaserCam video, will be attached to the incident report. The data received during the Taser X26 download will be saved for three years.

If a Taser is damaged, a “Taser Use / Damage Report” will be completed and the officer will request a replacement Taser from their supervisor or certified Taser instructor.

#### **INAPPROPRIATE USES OF THE TASER:**

The Taser will not be used:

1. Near flammable gasses or liquids.
2. To threaten or attempt to gain information from a suspect.
3. Against a subject already in custody unless physical resistance has to be overcome.
4. To wake up a suspected intoxicated individual.
5. As a “prod”.
6. In cases of passive resistance unless lesser means of force:
  - a. Have been attempted and failed.
  - b. Is not an option due to the circumstances.
  - c. If attempted, will result in a possibility of injury to suspect or officer.
7. To record interviews with suspects or victims.

#### **TRAINING:**

Authorized Taser’s shall be issued to and used only by officers who have completed the Department’s Advanced Air Taser training program. The training program will be conducted by certified instructors who have attended and completed the X26 Advanced Air Taser Instructor class. Officers will be required to demonstrate proficiency with any authorized ECD on an annual basis.

If any deficiencies are determined during the training, officers will be immediately remediated to correct them. Should training issues be discovered throughout the year, officers will be assigned to work with a department certified instructor for remedial training.

#### **XREP (LESS-LETHAL):**

The TASER XREP projectile is a wireless ECD that is deployed from a shotgun platform. It is considered a Less-Lethal impact round in addition to the ECD properties.

The XREP projectile is designed to achieve Neuro Muscular Incapacitation (NMI). In most cases involving the XREP, the electrical discharge through only the frontal electrodes in the nose will not result in NMI. The XREP projectile is designed to achieve NMI through the reflex engagement electrodes. The pain from impact and the electrical discharge through the front facing dart points of the XREP projectile head will normally cause a physiological response in a human target to remove the source of the pain by grabbing either the nose with its rear facing probes, the Cholla probes of the chassis, the non-insulated electrical wire connecting the nose and chassis or the exposed tips of the fins, thereby completing an electrical circuit beyond the ability to let go with sufficient spread resulting in NMI. Alternatively, the Cholla probes may penetrate skin due to the recoil from the projectile impact with the target or from the movement of the target after impact with sufficient spread to produce NMI.

The XREP should only be used in approved department shotguns, to include the Remington 870 and the TASER X12. Safety procedures shall be followed with less lethal rounds as if they were lethal rounds. All firearms safety procedures should be adhered to. Officers should avoid dropping the XREP rounds and avoid direct impact to the primer. This can cause the projectile to inadvertently fire.

The minimum safe distance for deployment of the XREP is 15'. The maximum suggested distance for deployment is 90'. As with any tool or weapon, unusual or exigent circumstances may cause an officer to utilize the device outside of these distances.

The XREP round should be packaged utilizing the same procedure for the standard XP air cartridge and placed in evidence.

The XREP is a projectile and a subject who has been impacted by the projectile shall be treated appropriately. Concerns for internal injuries should be considered and the subject shall be transported to a medical facility for evaluation.

This order supersedes all previous written and unwritten policies of the City of Grants Pass Department of Public Safety on the above subject.

**TASER USE / DAMAGE REPORT**  
**(Used/Broken)**

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DPSST#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Taser #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cartridge #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Deployed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Issued** \_\_\_\_\_ **New Cartridge #** \_\_\_\_\_

***If Taser Cartridge is Broken (Follow these steps):***

- 1) Take broken cartridge and give it to the Shift Supervisor.
- 2) Complete this form, attach it to broken cartridge, and leave for Sgt. Hamilton.
- 3) Create CAD report for damaged property, listing broken cartridge # and details.
- 4) Contact Supervisor for new cartridge. (Supervisor will assign a new cartridge and also note new cartridge Serial # on this form)
- 5) Leave email, voicemail, or note for Sgt. Hamilton regarding the incident.

***If Taser is deployed (using probes or not):***

- 1) Complete this form and turn in to Sgt. Hamilton. (Make sure to include the above info)
- 2) If going on days off, leave Taser in Sgt's locker for download.
- 3) Put deployed cartridge into evidence (list Serial #'s)
- 4) Leave email, voicemail, or note for Sgt. Hamilton regarding the incident.
- 5) DO NOT trade Taser or cartridges with other officers unless approved by Sgt. Hamilton.
- 6) The Taser data (from download) will be forwarded to you later.
- 7) Make sure photographs are taken at scene, *prior to and after*, removal of probes!
- 8) Document any locations of signature marks, either from probes or "Drive-Stun".
- 9) Be sure suspect receives appropriate medical attention if necessary. (See G.O. 5.06)

***\*\*If not going on days off, continue to utilize your Taser and make sure it is downloaded by a supervisor or certified Taser Instructor.***

***If Taser is damaged or not working properly:***

- 1) Contact Shift supervisor and make aware of problem.
- 2) Leave broken Taser, with written explanation of problem, for Sgt. Hamilton.
- 3) Have Supervisor provide spare Taser if still on shift. If going on days off, contact Sgt. Hamilton for spare.