

**Clackamas County Sheriff's Office**  
**GENERAL ORDER**

| <i>Chapter / Section</i> | <i>Effective Date</i> | <i>Affected Division(s)</i> | <i>Order Number</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>13.4.14</b>           | <b>01-18-06</b>       | <b>All Divisions</b>        | <b>06-001</b>       |

**SUBJECT**

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**TASER (NON-LETHAL) SYSTEM**

**Replaces: 13.4.14 TASER LESS LETHAL SYSTEM**  
(General Order 04-008)

**REFERENCE OR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

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The Manual of Rules and Regulations, Chapter 13. Use of Force, is amended as follows:

**13.4.14 TASER (NON-LETHAL) SYSTEM.** The goal of this subchapter is to define the effective and proper use of the Taser (non-lethal) system. Only trained personnel will be authorized to use this system when its use is reasonable and necessary to affect an arrest, overcome resistance, control a suspect, or protect Department personnel or members of the public.

**A. DEFINITIONS.**

**Taser.** A tool that delivers electrical energy, conducted through propelled wires or as a touch stun device. The Taser is designed for the purpose of subduing persons while reducing the potential for serious injury or death.

The Taser system is classified as a non-lethal device. It may only be deployed by members certified in its use.

A supervisor shall be notified as soon as possible after the deployment of the Taser system.

The use of the Taser system is considered a use of force. Its use shall follow the Department Use of Force guidelines as established in this chapter.

Below are examples of situations in which the use of the Taser system could be used:

1. When a suspect exhibits violent or potentially violent behavior that threatens the safety of others and any attempt to subdue the subject by conventional means of persuasion, escort control, self defense techniques, and/or pain compliance measures have not been nor appear to be effective.
2. When it is unsafe for a member to approach a suspect within contact range.
3. When a higher level of force may be justified, but an opportunity exists for the use of the Taser system before these other options are employed.
4. To defend oneself or another from an aggressive and/or attacking animal.
5. Any other circumstance in which a Deputy attempts to gain compliance and feels that other members of the Department, the public, or the Deputy are at risk from making contact with the subject.

#### **B. USE OF TASER.**

1. Members deploying the Taser should be supported by at least one Deputy capable of providing immediate cover whenever feasible.
2. Members will, if feasible, provide a verbal warning to the subject before using the Taser.
3. Members should announce (verbal notification) to other Deputies that the Taser is going to be deployed.
4. When the Taser is used on a person outside a corrections facility, EMS personnel will be summoned to the scene and will evaluate the person's need for medical treatment.
  - A. Outside a corrections facility, Taser probes lodged in a person's skin will only be removed by EMS personnel.
5. When the Taser is used on a person inside a corrections facility, trained medical staff or EMS personnel will evaluate the person's need for medical treatment.
  - A. In the corrections facility, only trained medical staff or EMS personnel are authorized to remove the probes.

4. Members who are not certified in the use and deployment of the Taser but may be present at a Taser deployment will be trained in the proper safety precautions involving the use of the Taser.

**E. REPORTING.** Any use of the Taser system in which the suspect has been struck or touch stunned must be reported on a Department Use of Force report as outlined in Chapter 13.4 of this manual. This report shall include:

1. Specifics on why the system was used.
2. Where the subject was struck or touch stunned.
3. All verbal warnings given to deputies and the subject(s). If no warnings were given, the member will document the circumstances that precluded any warnings.
4. The distance from which the Taser was used.
5. That EMS personnel (or medical staff if in a correctional facility) responded, and what medical treatment, if any, the person received.
6. Other personnel, if any, present when the Taser was deployed.
7. Whether photographs were taken before and/or after the Taser probes were removed.

**F. SAFETY.** Operators will be required to adhere to the following precautions during training with a Taser system.

1. Eye protection must be worn at all times when shooting or participating as a bystander during all shooting.
2. In all training scenarios, role-playing, or force on force training, a person not instructing or acting as a participant will be assigned as a Safety Officer. No member of the Department will be shot or touch stunned in any training scenarios. This does not apply if the member is taking a certified Instructor course and being shot with or touch stunned is a requirement of the Instructor certification training.
3. Any person shooting a Taser system in training will act in accordance with all safety rules and procedures assigned for that training.

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| <b>13.4.14</b>           | <b>2-26-07</b>        | <b>All Divisions</b>        | <b>07-001</b>       |

**SUBJECT**

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**13.4.14 TASER (NON-LETHAL) SYSTEM**

**Replaces:** Section F. **SAFETY**. Subsections 2 and 3.

**Adds:** Section F. **SAFETY**. Subsection 4.

**REFERENCE OR SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

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The Manual of Rules and Regulations, Chapter 13.4.14 TASER (NON-LETHAL) SYSTEM, is amended as follows:

**F. SAFETY.** Operators will be required to adhere to the following precautions during training with a Taser system.

1. Eye protection must be worn at all times when shooting or participating as a bystander during all shooting.
2. In all training scenarios, role-playing or force on force training, a person not instructing or acting as a participant will be assigned as a Safety Officer. No member of the department will be shot or touch stunned in any training scenarios, even if a department member volunteers. This does not apply if the member is taking a certified Instructor course and being shot with or touch stunned is a requirement of the Instructor certification training.
3. In all training scenarios, role-playing or force on force training wherein a department instructor is conducting the training exercise and the training is not a train-the-trainer required certification course, the department instructor will not shoot or touch stun any person, whether that person is a department member or not, even if a person volunteers.
4. Any person shooting a Taser system in training will act in accordance with all safety rules and procedures assigned for that training.