

# **610 Taser +**

**Version 060612**

## **610.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to describe when a Taser may be carried and used and to define special documentation requirements.

## **610.2 TASER, GENERALLY**

The TASER™ device (hereafter referred to as Taser) is considered a non-deadly control device intended primarily to completely but temporarily incapacitate a non-compliant and potentially violent person, allowing officers to gain control of the person from a distance and with a minimal risk of injury.

## **610.3 CONSIDERATIONS FOR USE OF THE TASER**

Because of its ability to physically incapacitate, the Taser has inherent limitations. Although not absolutely prohibited, officers should exercise additional prudence before using a Taser on persons whose location or activity may result in subsequent injury.

The Taser shall not be used upon:

- Pregnant females
- Elderly persons
- Young children
- Persons in close proximity to flammables (e.g., persons who are wet with alcohol-based OC spray)
- Persons whose location or activity is likely to result in subsequent serious physical injury, except where deadly force is otherwise reasonable

Persons exhibiting symptoms of “excited delirium” (e.g., nudity, profuse sweating, irrational behavior) may be susceptible to collateral problems and shall be closely monitored following the application of any use of force, including the Taser.

## **610.4 DRIVE STUN AND PASSIVE RESISTENCE**

The Taser may be applied in the “drive stun” mode (i.e. direct contact without darts), but its use in the drive stun mode must be justifiable as a reasonable use of force.

## **610.5 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER**

Multiple applications or “cycles” of the Taser must be justifiable as a reasonable use of force.

# Dallas Police Department

## Policies and Procedures Manual

---

### **610.4 MEDICAL TREATMENT**

If a subject is struck in the head, face, eye, genitals, or other sensitive area by a Taser probe or complains of injury as a result of the use of a Taser, the subject shall be medically cleared before release. If medics are unable to respond to the scene, the subject shall be transported to a medical facility and cleared. If a dart remains in an area described above, officers shall leave the dart to be removed by medical personnel.

See also Policy Manual § 602.9, Medical Attention for Injuries Sustained Using Force.

### **610.5 DOCUMENTATION**

Along with the requirements of Policy Manual § 602.8, Use of Physical Force Reporting, the following information shall be reported:

- Where the probes engaged the suspect or where a drive-stun was applied,
- The results of the application of the Taser,
- The number of cycles and the justification for repeated cycles, and
- The Taser serial number.

### **610.6 CARRYING THE TASER**

The Taser shall be carried in an approved holster on the duty belt, on the opposite side of the body from the duty weapon. When practical, officers should carry two or more Taser cartridges.

See also Policy Manual § 612.7, Carrying OC Spray, Collapsible Baton, and Taser.

### **605.5 SHOT PLACEMENT AND DEPLOYMENT DISTANCE**

Shot placement and deployment distance are important considerations for the use of the Taser and shall be thoroughly described in training.

### **610.7 TRAINING REQUIRED**

Officers shall be trained not to deploy both a pistol and a Taser at the same time unless lethal force is justified.

Only officers who have successfully completed appropriate, department-approved training are authorized to use the Taser.