

## TASER

Electrical Stun Device defined: For the purposes of this general order, Electrical Stun Device will be synonymous with Taser (for the X26 Taser utilized by our agency). Taser is a handheld weapon, considered less lethal, capable of delivering 50,000 volts (26 watts, 1.76 Joules) by touch or through projectiles.

The Springfield Police Department provides Taser weapons for use by authorized department personnel. Only personnel who have received department training in the use of the Taser shall be authorized to carry and deploy it. Authorized personnel assigned to Patrol are expected to carry a Taser when one is available.

The Taser shall be worn in a department approved holster on the support side, or opposite side of the primary handgun.

Tasers, when deployed as a projectile weapon, shall be fired at the center of mass of the suspect's back, either side, or, when neither of those target areas are available, to the center of mass of the suspect's front. Tasers, when deployed as a touch weapon, shall be directed towards muscle or nerve points (radial nerve, brachial plexus tie-in, etc.) in the front, back, side, legs, or arms. Unless life threatening circumstances exist, the Taser shall not be intentionally discharged, either by touch or projectile, towards the head, neck, or groin.

The Taser may be used by police officers to subdue a person if the person is threatening an officer or another person with physical harm or has signaled an intention to resist the officer's efforts to make an arrest. If possible, a warning of its use shall be given to the suspect.

Tasers should generally not be used by officers in situations where the suspect is armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon. However, if officers at the scene determine a Taser is capable of being safely deployed to rectify the problem, it shall be done in the presence of an armed cover officer.

Tasers shall not be used against females known to be pregnant, suspects near flammable liquids or gases, in conjunction with alcohol based OC spray, or in situations where the suspect may fall from a significant height. Additionally, the Taser shall not be used punitively against a restrained suspect or against an individual who is unconscious or non-combative.

Taser use in the Municipal Jail shall not be used as punishment and shall comply with all other constraints identified in this policy, the Use of Force policy and all other directives.

Upon deployment, probes not penetrating the skin of the suspect may be removed by police personnel. Probes penetrating the skin of the suspect shall be removed by medical personnel. When Taser probes penetrate the suspect's eyes, face, throat, or groin, fire personnel shall be summoned and the suspect transported to a medical facility for treatment. If possible, photographs should be taken of the wound area prior to probe removal. A supervisor should be notified as soon as possible.

The recovered probes shall be placed barb downwards into the expended cartridge and covered with a bio-hazard sticker. The spent Taser cartridge and several recovered anti-felon identification devise markers (AFIDS) shall be impounded as evidence. [Note: Each Taser cartridge is equipped with 20 – 40 AFIDS, which are dispersed when a cartridge is expended. Each AFID has the serial number of the cartridge written on it.]

Use of the Taser resulting in the electrical stun of a suspect, whether by touch or projectile, shall be documented in accordance with department policy. In addition to justification of use, the report shall also reflect the serial number of the Taser and cartridge used (serial numbers will be different), target and impact area, distance from suspect, and effectiveness of use. At the conclusion of the arrest, after the suspect is released or incarcerated, the Taser shall be given to the shift supervisor for data download. A copy of the data download shall be marked with the appropriate case number and attached to the police report.

---

Jerry D. Smith  
Chief of Police