



MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

POLICY 1235

POLICY 1235 – TASER®

POLICY

This policy applies to all deputies who are authorized to carry a TASER.

1. Deputies must complete training prior to being issued a TASER and complete biennial training according to TASER International Standards.
2. Deputies may use the TASER in the following circumstances:
 - violent, aggressive actions
 - suicidal behavior
 - physical resistance to lawful police action
 - pose a threat to another person
3. Deputies must evaluate the use of the TASER as it applies to the “objective reasonableness standard” that governs the use of force in non-deadly encounters (Click here to view [Use of Force policy](#)).
4. Deputies must complete a Use of Force Report on all intentional TASER deployments (click here to [view report](#)).
5. Deputies must complete an Unintentional Discharge Report (click here to [view report](#)) and forward it to their chain of command.
6. The Professional Standards Unit will review all TASER Use of Force Reports annually.
7. Division Commanders will designate an employee who maintains records on TASER inventory and assignments. The designated employee will track TASER and cartridge purchases, deployments and unintentional discharges (Click here to view [TASER assignment form](#). Click here to view [TASER cartridge inventory form](#)).
8. The TASER will not be used in any of the following situations:
 - Coercion of any type
 - Intimidation by reckless display
 - Prodding individuals to instigate movement
 - Waking unconscious individuals

- On a threat who is operating a motor vehicle that is in motion
- Solely to counter passive resistance
- Punishment of any type
- Where a person other than a Sheriff's Office deputy has deployed pepper spray/cap-stun, unless the deputy is able to definitely determine that the chemical agent used was not alcohol-based
- For purposes of recreation, amusement, or entertainment

DEFINITIONS

TASER: A **TASER** is an electronic control device that uses electrical current to disrupt voluntary control of muscles or may be used to cause pain without incapacitating the target, with the intention of gaining compliance. The manufacturer of this weapon is TASER International.

Deployment: Deployment occurs when a deputy points the Taser at another with the intent to control and change the behavior of the subject. Shooting the Taser dart probes, or using the Taser in the drive stun mode is also considered a deployment.

Removing the Taser from the holster and holding it in an "at ready" position does not constitute deployment. Deployment occurs when the Taser is specifically focused on the individual.

Drive stun contact: A pain compliance tactic of activating the TASER without the use of probes. Drive stun is activated by pressing the TASER device into the subject using the act of physical contact to deliver the charge from the device as opposed to deploying the probes into the subject from a distance. Typically, the TASER cartridge is removed or already deployed prior to a drive stun application. However, if the live cartridge is not removed, there is a possibility the probes will deploy into the subject upon pulling the trigger.

PROCEDURE

DEPUTIES: Deputies must consider factors that could affect the response to the TASER or increase indirect risks such as:

- Threats that are very old or very young
- pregnant or physically disabled
- appear to be suffering from a debilitating illness or obvious medical condition

Deputies must consider environmental conditions and physical settings such as:

- a threat's exposure to flammables (gasoline, gunpowder, explosives or alcohol-based pepper spray) or;
- a threat's position near a fire, stairwell, swimming pool, bunks, cells, fixed objects, etc.,

Deputies must evaluate the use of the TASER as it applies to the "objective reasonableness standard" which governs the use of force in non-deadly encounters ([Click here to see Graham vs. Connor](#)).

When possible, Deputies will communicate with other personnel during an incident that they will be deploying the TASER.

Deputies will consider the following when deploying the TASER:

- Maximum range is 21 feet with the gray blast doors or 25 feet with the green blast doors
- The preferred range is 7 to 15 feet
- If deployed less than 3 feet away a drive stun may be utilized to affect a threat's motor and sensory functions
- The TASER is programmed to deliver a focused pulse of electrical current for five (5) seconds
- Additional 5 second pulses may also be used if appropriate
- Preferred target zone for the front of the body is the lower torso
- Preferred target zone for the back of the body is below the neck in the large muscle groups

Deputies will attempt to avoid targeting the face, head, neck, upper chest or groin areas unless absolutely necessary and the circumstances of the incident require them to do so.

Deputies will request an on-scene medical evaluation when:

- The threat is very young or very old
- The threat has a pre-existing medical condition or debilitating illness
- Repeated or extended applications of the TASER (3 or more)
- The deputy has reason to believe the threat is showing signs of excited delirium ([click here for definition of excited delirium](#))

Deputies can remove probes or request paramedics remove them if needed. If a probe is lodged in the skin the probe must be treated as a biohazard and disposed of properly. Probes do not need to be saved for evidence.

Deputies must obtain a medical release if the threat is taken to the hospital.

Deputies must notify a supervisor as soon as possible after deploying the TASER and advise them of the circumstances and the threats condition.

Jail deputies must notify medical staff immediately.

Deputies must photograph the impact area (or explain why they were unable to do so) and document all injuries or lack of injuries in a use of force report prior to going off duty.

Deputies must obtain the serial number from the expended cartridge or the Anti-Felon Identification (AFID) tag and record it in the use of force report.

Deputies will give the TASER to the on shift supervisor.

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisors must download the data from the TASER and attach it to the use of force report.

Supervisors will forward the use of force report, all related reports, photographs and information relating to the incident to the Division Commanders through the normal chain of command.

Supervisors must record cartridge deployment for inventory control.

signed
SHERIFF JASON MYERS

10/22/2009
EFFECTIVE DATE

Replaces: April 1, 2008

[Click here to acknowledge you have read and understand this policy.](#)