

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

		Effective Date November 23, 2010	Number GO10-5.3
Subject Electronic Control Devices			
Reference		Revised April 25, 2017 <u>May 28, 2019</u>	
Distribution All Personnel	Re-evaluation Date April 25, 2019 <u>April 2021</u>		No. Pages 7

I. Policy

It is the policy of this Department to use only that level of force reasonably necessary to control or otherwise subdue individuals and only carry electronic control devices authorized by the agency.

II. Definition

TASER - A device which is designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject by delivering electronic pulses to the person.

ECD – Electronic Control Device

III. Types of Authorized Electronic Control Devices and their use

A. The ~~M26 and~~ X26 Advanced TASERs ~~are~~ is a hand held battery operated units designed to immobilize a suspect by means of an electrical current. The TASER may be used when a subject is displaying active, aggressive or aggravated aggressive resistance to an Officer attempting to conduct legal law enforcement activities. Deployment of the TASER will be evaluated using the criteria in this directive. Officers must assess the effectiveness of each application and determine whether further applications are warranted or a different tactic should be employed. The decision to use the TASER will be dependent upon the actions of the subject, the threat facing the Officer, and the totality of circumstances surrounding the incident.

1. A Department issued TASER device may only be utilized by Officers that have successfully completed the Department approved training in its use, taught by a certified instructor (See Appendix A). During the training, Officers shall be required to show proficiency with the Taser prior to being approved to carry it.
2. Uniformed Officers carrying the TASER shall carry it in a Department approved holster. The holster will be carried on the duty belt, on the side opposite the duty firearm, in a cross draw position. Non-Uniformed Officers carrying the TASER shall carry it in a Department approved

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holster. The holster will be carried in a cross draw position, on the side opposite the duty firearm.

3. The TASER shall be carried fully armed with the safety on in preparation for immediate use.
4. ~~Officers approved to use the TASER shall be issued a minimum of one spare cartridge as a back up in case of cartridge failure, the need for reapplication, or in case the first cartridge's leads break during engagement. The spare cartridges shall be stored and carried in a manner consistent with training and the cartridges replaced consistent with the manufacturer's expiration requirements.~~
4. Officers approved to use the TASER shall be issued two cartridges. The TASER X2 is designed to load two cartridges at once. If the first cartridge's leads break during engagement, the probes miss their target, or there are multiple subjects, the second cartridge may be deployed.
5. Only agency approved battery power sources shall be used in the TASER.
6. The TASER should be inspected and checked prior to each tour of duty.
7. The TASER shall be pointed at the ground in a safe direction with the safety on during loading, unloading, or when handled, ~~in~~ other than ~~in~~ an operational deployment.
8. A Supervisory Use of Force Review shall be completed anytime a TASER is deployed at a subject, except in training. The review shall contain at a minimum:
 - a. The Officer's approximation of the range at which the unit was employed
 - b. The point(s) of impact on the subject
 - c. The number of five-second cycles used
 - d. The type of clothing the probes encountered
 - e. The serial number of the TASER used
 - f. The serial number of the cartridge used
 - g. The type of discharge (probe, drive stun, or both)
 - h. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the device
 - i. After-discharge actions taken by the Officer(s)

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- j. Any injuries that the Officer is aware suffered by himself / herself and / or the subject as a result of the use of the device

A Supervisory Use of Force Review shall also be completed anytime a TASER is pointed at a subject. The review shall include the same information as above, when applicable.

- 9. An unintentional discharge of the TASER will be reported to a Supervisor immediately, and a report of the incident shall be made within twenty-four (24) hours.
 - a. After the unintentional discharge, the Officer will turn-in the weapon to his/her supervisor and is not authorized to carry the weapon until demonstrating proficiency during documented remedial training conducted by a certified TASER instructor.
 - b. After completing the documented remedial training, the documentation shall be forwarded to the Training Officer to be filed in the Officer's training file.
- 10. The TASER may only be used under the following circumstances:
 - a. To overcome violent or assaultive behavior or its threat;
 - b. To control persons in order to prevent them from harming themselves or others.
- 11. Use of the TASER under the following circumstances is prohibited, unless exigent circumstances are present:
 - a. Against handcuffed subjects
 - b. Against subjects fleeing on foot
 - c. At or from a moving vehicle
 - d. Against subjects known to be pregnant
 - e. Against children under fourteen (14) years of age and / or weighing less than ninety (90) pounds
 - f. Against subjects who are visibly elderly or physically disabled and / or suffering from a debilitating illness
 - g. Against subjects with known neuromuscular disorders such as muscular sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy
 - h. In a situation where deadly force is clearly justifiable, unless another Officer is present and capable of providing deadly force to protect the Officers and / or civilians as necessary

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12. The TASER will not be used under the following circumstances:
 - a. For coercion or intimidation
 - b. To escort or prod subjects
 - c. To awaken unconscious or intoxicated subjects
 - d. Against subjects who are offering only passive resistance
 - e. When the Officer knows the subject has come in contact with flammable liquids or is in a flammable atmosphere
 - f. When the subject is in a position where a fall may cause substantial injury or death
13. Additional Safety Considerations:
 - a. Officers are prohibited from the loaning of a Department TASER to another person.
 - b. Officers to whom a Department TASER is issued are responsible for the safety and security of the TASER while in Officers' possession.
 - c. Officers should secure his / her Department issued TASER out of the reach of children and others not familiar with the use and danger of a TASER to prevent possible injury to family members and others.
 - d. Officers should be aware that a great burden of responsibility and liability ~~that~~ accompany~~ies~~ the issuance of a Department~~al~~ TASER.
14. In preparation of firing, when reasonable, the TASER shall be pointed in a safe direction, taken off safe and then aimed. Center mass of the subject's back is the primary aiming point. Low center mass of the subject's torso, below the chest, or his / her legs are the secondary targets.
15. Prior to use, when practical, a warning to the subject and other Officers should be given.
16. Fixed sights should be used as the primary aiming device and the laser dot~~(s)~~ as the secondary aiming device.
17. TASER probes may not be intentionally fired at the face, head, neck, or groin, unless the use of deadly force would be justified.
18. Use of the "Drive Stun" is discouraged, except in situations where the "probe" deployment is not possible. If initial application is ineffective, ~~the~~ Officer will reassess ~~the~~ situation and consider other available options.

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19. Officers should not intentionally activate more than one TASER at a time against a subject.
20. All subjects who have been exposed to a TASER application should receive a medical evaluation by emergency medical responders in the field or at a medical facility. Subjects who have been exposed to prolonged application, more than fifteen (15) seconds, should be transported to the emergency room for evaluation. Personnel conducting the evaluation should be made aware that the suspect has experienced prolonged TASER application.
21. If the TASER probes have penetrated the skin in a sensitive area (head, neck, groin, or breast of a female) or the Officers have difficulty removing the probes (i.e. probe/barb separation), the subject will be transported to ~~an~~ the emergency room or other medical facility to have the probes removed. If the probes are embedded in non-sensitive areas, a trained Officer may remove them.
22. All subjects who have received a TASER application should be monitored regularly while in custody, even if they received medical care.
23. After the TASER is used, probes should be removed from the suspect as soon as possible, after the ~~suspect~~ subject is handcuffed.
 - a. If there is an indication that there is serious injury or any complications, EMS should be called to the scene before the probes are removed.
 - b. Photographs of the affected area should be taken after the TASER is used, with the subject's consent.
24. Jail / Detention personnel shall be notified at the time of booking that the subject has been ~~exposed to a stunned-with~~ TASER application, ~~whether through probes deployment or received a direct drive~~ stun.
25. A TASER may also be effective against aggressive animals. The same reporting protocols shall be followed when a TASER is deployed on an animal.
26. When the TASER has been used operationally, the Officer will collect the air cartridge, wire leads, darts, and AFID tags as evidence and process ~~it~~ them as such.
27. Supervisors should respond to all incident scenes where a TASER was deployed and conduct a Supervisory Use of Force Review.
28. Supervisors shall also:

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- a. Download the data record of the TASER prior to the end of the shift in which a reported use of TASER incident occurs, and save the data to the appropriate file.
- b. Download the data record of each TASER under their command annually, regardless of reported use.
- c. The downloaded data shall be tabulated and a summary prepared for inclusion in the Department annual use of force report.

B. Unsafe TASERS

If a TASER is determined to be unsafe or unserviceable, the Officer will notify his / her Supervisor of the deficiency. If another TASER is available, the Officer will be issued a replacement weapon after it has been reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified weapons instructor. If there is not a replacement available, the Supervisor will make a determination if the Officer can continue to work in a sworn capacity without the TASER. The Supervisor has the authority to allow the Officer to borrow an operable TASER from another Officer / Supervisor until one becomes available. The Officer will be issued a replacement TASER as soon as one becomes available.

IV. Training

Prior to an Officer carrying an ECD, it shall be reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified weapons instructor. The Officer shall also be issued a copy of, and instructed on, the policies that pertain to the ECD. This shall be documented and forwarded to the Training ~~Coordinator~~-Officer.

All Officers that carry an ECD shall receive refresher and / or in-service training at least annually. This training will be provided by a certified ECD instructor and will be documented in the Officers' training file. The training will require the Officer to demonstrate proficiency with the ECD.

If an Officer fails to demonstrate proficiency with the ECD, the Officer shall not be authorized to carry the ECD until remedial training is completed and proficiency achieved. The Training ~~Coordinator~~-Officer shall contact the officer to arrange for remedial training, as outlined in GO88-2.11, Training.

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

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Appendix A

Dalton Police Department Specifications for Issued Electronic Control Devices and Cartridges

Item: ~~M26~~ and X26 Advanced Taser

Description: A hand-held, battery operated, electronic control device designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject by delivering electronic pulses to the person.

Item: ~~M26~~ and X26 Advanced Taser Cartridges

Description: A 21 ft or 25 ft cartridge manufactured by TASER International and designed for use with the ~~M26~~ and X26 Advanced Tasers.

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