

32.0 ~~TASER X-26~~ Electronic Control Device - ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE (ECD)

The ~~TASER X-26~~ is an electronic control device, that fires two probes up to a distance of 25 feet, transmitting pulsed energy into the central nervous system of the target, causing immediate incapacitation. It also acts as a touch stun system, when brought into immediate contact with the subject's body. ~~TASERS~~ are designed to incapacitate potentially dangerous person(s) from a distance that minimizes the danger to all parties involved.

32.01 Pre-Application Procedures

The Electronic Control Device (TASER ~~Taser~~ECD X-26) will only be carried in an approved holster, on the support side of the body, opposite to the side where the officers carries ~~carry~~ their firearm.

Prior to the beginning of the shift, personnel authorized and trained to carry the X-26 ~~TASER~~, will ensure officers will verify that it the ~~Taser~~ECD is fully charged and that the safety is on, in preparation for immediate use when authorized. Officers will perform ~~one~~ a spark test, to ensure the ~~TASER~~ ~~Taser~~ECD is functioning properly. Officers shall will remove the cartridge from the TASER ~~Taser~~ECD prior to the spark test and to when checking battery strength or when and changing batteries.

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Officers authorized to use this device will carry a minimum of ~~one spare~~ two cartridges, as a back-up in case of cartridge failure, the need for re-deployment, or in case the first cartridge's leads break during engagement.

Only approved department battery power sources shall ~~will~~ be used with the ~~TASER X-26~~ ~~Taser~~ECD.

32.02 Application Procedures

Verbal Warnings/Commands

Whenever possible, officers will attempt to gain compliance in advance of using the ~~Taser~~ECD by giving a verbal warning to the subject.

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When firing projectiles, officers will make every reasonable attempt to verbally warn those around them of the impending discharge ~~by announcing "TASER TASER"~~.

When practical, and without compromising officer safety, officers will continue to give verbal commands to the subject during and following ~~Taser~~ the ECD application in an attempt to gain compliance.

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Multiple/Extended Applications

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Multiple applications of five-second cycles may be required to bring a subject under control. The TaserECD will only be used for the number of applications and duration of time that is necessary to bring a subject under control. The justification for an extended application or for multiple applications of the TaserECD must be separately articulated in the report.

When determining justification for an extended application or for multiple applications of the TaserECD, officers should:

- Determine that the initial use of Taserthe ECD is justified, using the use of force factors set forth in this policy.
- If the circumstances that justified the initial TaserECD use change, re-evaluate the necessity for continued application. For example, if the initial use were justified because the officer was alone with a subject who posed an immediate threat to the safety of others and was ignoring commands to stop, arrival of another officer to provide backup for the arrest willmaywill require re-evaluation of the need for TaserECD to bring the subject under control.
- Be cognizant of whether a subject who is being Taseredhas had an ECD deployed on them is *unable*, rather than *unwilling* to comply with commands given by officers. Involuntary actions (such as a reflex action) will not be considered active resistance. The focus should be on whether a subject who is being Taseredhas had an ECD deployed on them is reacting to the shock of the TaserECD or is continuing to intentionally resist arrest.
- The subject must be given an opportunity to comply with commands or demonstrate compliance before additional applications or before application of a continuous cycle. For example, the time period between multiple TaserECD applications must be sufficient to give the subject the opportunity to comply with commands.

Prohibited Use

Use of the TaserECD is prohibited when:

- It is known that there are flammable liquids nearby, in known or suspected meth labs, or in other hazardous environments where flammable liquids or fumes are suspected;
- The incapacitation of the subject would result in the subject falling from an elevation sufficient to cause significant injury to the subject, or into any hazardous environment apparently capable of causing secondary injury to the subject;
- The risk of muscle contraction due to Taser application could result in injury to the subject or others, such as when the subject is aiming a firearm at himself/herself or at another person;
- The application is punitive; or
- The application is intended to induce or coerce a response from the subject where the subject's conduct does not otherwise justify the use of force [see Policy 15.3].

Use of the Taser ECDs generally prohibited when:

- The subject is an obviously pregnant female;
- The subject is obviously disabled, frail or infirm;
- The subject is a child under the age of 13;
- The subject is handcuffed or secured (unless the prisoner demonstrates overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be dealt with in another less intrusive manner);
- The subject is in physical control of a motor vehicle that is in motion or running; or
- The officer is in a moving vehicle

Certain circumstances may dictate the use of the Taser ECD in these "generally prohibited" situations after consideration of alternative measures has been made and the Taser ECD has been determined to be the force application most appropriate for the situation. In every case, the use of the Taser ECD must be in accordance with Department Use of Force Policies.

Discharge/Aim

When possible, officers should avoid aiming the Taser ECD at the eyes, face, neck or groin of the subject, as hitting these areas could increase the risk of injury to the subject. Officers should target the Taser ECD according to training and current application procedures, including, when possible, aiming for a lower center of mass for frontal discharges.

~~Avoid aiming the TASER at the eyes, face, neck or groin of the subject. Such areas could result in a higher level of injury risk.~~

~~Do not fire the TASER X-26 near flammable liquids or fumes. The TASER can ignite gasoline or other flammables.~~

~~Do not deploy the TASER X-26 in meth labs or other hazardous environments.~~

~~Do not deploy the TASER if the subject is in danger of falling from an elevation, or into a body of water or other hazardous environment.~~

~~Avoid deploying the TASER on an obviously pregnant female.~~

~~Avoid deploying the TASER on children under the age of 13, elderly individuals, individuals known to have pacemakers or similar cardiac devices or obviously disabled individuals. Certain circumstances may dictate otherwise, however, consideration of alternate methods should be made.~~

~~To prevent reactionary fire from other officers, TASER users will make an effort to announce, prior to deployment, "TASER deployment".~~

~~TASERS are not intended to replace firearms.~~

~~TASERS will not be deployed in a punitive or coercive manner.~~

~~TASERS generally will not be deployed on a handcuffed or secured prisoner unless the prisoner demonstrates overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be dealt with in another less intrusive manner.~~

Unintentional Discharge

Any unintentional discharge of a Taser will be immediately reported to the appropriate supervisor, documented in a written memo, and forwarded to the training division.

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32.03 Post Application Procedures

Everett Fire Department personnel will be called to the scene for a medical evaluation of the subject following every field deployment. After examining the subject, Everett medics will make the determination if the person is to be transported to the hospital. If they determine this is necessary, medics will transport or will cause the subject to be transported to the hospital. Officers will not transport to the hospital. Officers will note for medical staff: whether or not the subject may have suffered any secondary injury as a result of the application, with particular consideration given to the potential for fall from a standing position, taking into consideration head and other secondary or other injuries from the a fall.

~~Generally, Officers-officers may will remove probes from the subject. Everett Fire Personnel will not remove probes. In the event of the following exposures by individuals to the TASER TaserECD, Everett Fire Personnel will transport, or will cause to be transported, those individuals to a medical facility for treatment:~~

- ~~Subjects who are struck in a sensitive area i.e.: face, head, female breast, genitals. (Officers will not remove these probes. Only medical personnel may remove from these areas).~~
- ~~Subjects who do not appear to be fully recovered within 10 minutes of a deployment.~~
- ~~Subjects displaying unusual bleeding with apparently disabling injury following the application.~~
- ~~Any subject requesting medical attention.~~

~~Supervisors will respond to the scene of every TASER TaserECD deployment. Supervisors will ensure, whenever possible, that photographs are taken of the probe impact sites and other related injuries and that reports are completed detailing the use of force and the facts supporting this particular force option.~~

~~Officers transporting subjects to the jail, after treatment, will promptly notify the jail staff of the TASER TaserECD application.~~

~~Probes removed will be inspected by officers to ensure that the barb has not broken off and remained embedded is intact. In the event that this occurs the barb is not intact, the subject will be provided afforded appropriate medical aid to facilitate removal of the object if needed. If transport to a medical facility is not needed, or the subject has been otherwise medically cleared if the probes are no longer impaled in the skin, the subject may be cited and released after medical clearance by Everett Fire personnel and / or hospital personnel.~~

~~Officers will treat deployed probes as biohazards and use proper precautions procedures in handling and evidence collection. Probes, AFID tags and Cartridges will be impounded and maintained as evidence and will be impounded accordingly when feasible.~~

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~~Officers will collect and impound the AFID tags. The tags are tiny confetti like ID tags that are expelled when the TASER cartridge is deployed. The AFID tags carry a serial number of the cartridge deployed, allowing investigators to identify which officer deployed the cartridge.~~

~~Officers will collect and impound the spent cartridges as evidence.~~

32.04 Use of Force Reporting

~~TASER applications are considered a use of force. As such, officers deploying the TASER X-26 will note the deployment in their reports, and will complete a TASER Use of Force report, documenting the TASER serial number, cartridge and AFID tag numbers.~~

~~Supervisors will ensure that a data port download from the TASER is obtained digital evidence is collected and protected according to current training and procedure.~~

~~Supervisors will ensure that involved officers complete all appropriate reports following a field deployment and will review the use of force per department policy. The Office of Professional Standards will conduct an annual review of Taser applications.~~

~~Any unintentional discharge of an TASER Taser ECD will be immediately reported to the appropriate supervisor, documented in a written memo, and forwarded to the training division.~~

~~Officers will also note in their reports if they draw their TASER and point it at an individual, who then voluntarily complies, with no actual TASER application. No use of force report is required in these situations.~~

~~TASERS may be carried by trained personnel, while working off duty in a law enforcement capacity. No other off duty use is authorized.~~