Annual Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) User Update

Version 20
Effective: March 1, 2017
ANNUAL CEW USER UPDATE CONTENTS

- Annual User Recertification Requirements
- CEW Warnings
- CEW Targeting/Tactical Considerations
- CEW Use Guidelines
- CEW Medical Overview
ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Review this PowerPoint
• Receive and review current version of:
  - TASER Law Enforcement Product Warnings
  - CEW Study Aid: Selected Use Guidelines
• Pass Functional Test
• Deploy 2 live CEW cartridges into preferred target zones
TASER CEWS HAVE RISKS

WARNING

Conducted Electrical Weapon
- Can temporarily incapacitate target.
- Can cause death or serious injury.
- Obey warnings, instructions and all laws.
- Comply with current training materials and requirements.
- See www.TASER.com.

At this time distribute, review and understand the current TASER product warnings
CEW ADVANTAGES

- Most studied and most effective minimal force option
- Reduces risk of injury to officers and suspects alike
- Saves lives and de-escalates use of deadly force
- Allows incapacitation from a distance
- In probe mode, doesn’t rely on pain compliance
- Displaying red LASER dot or arcing the current often achieves compliance without deployment
TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Probe Placement Considerations
- Limited CEW Effectiveness
- Other Tactical Considerations
Avoid intentionally targeting the CEW on sensitive areas of the body such as the head, throat, breast/chest or area of the heart, genitals, or known pre-existing injury areas without legal justification.
PREFERRED TARGET ZONE REAR

(when practical)

The back is always the preferred target area when reasonably practical under the totality of circumstances.

Below neck (blue zone)

- Larger muscles
- Clothing fits tighter
- Surprise factor
- Decreases risk of probe strike to eyes, throat, chest/breasts or genitals
PREFERRED TARGET ZONE FRONT

(when practical)

Lower torso (blue zone below chest)

- More effective
- Larger muscles
- Reduces the risk of hitting sensitive body areas
- Increases dart-to-heart safety margin distance
- Do not intentionally target genitals
NEURO-MUSCULAR INCAPACITATION (NMI)

- CEWs may not achieve total NMI
- NMI levels range from limited area effects to significant body lockup
- The greater probe spread, the higher likelihood of NMI
- Subject may maintain muscle control, particularly in arms and legs
- Be prepared with other force options, including a drive (or touch) stun follow up away from the probes to expand NMI area
- Drive (or touch) stuns alone cause localized pain, not NMI
PROBE SPREAD

- Greater probe spreads generally increase effectiveness
- 12”+ spread optimal
  - Deployment distance 7-15 feet (2-4.5 meters)
- Probe spreads under 4” typically create pain effect only
  - Exception is close probe spreads where one probe is above the waist and one is below the waist causing loss of balance and ability to stand
- Consider using a 3-point drive stun if spread is insufficient to cause NMI
SPLIT THE BELTLINE

For close-range deployments from 0-7 feet (0-2 meters):

Target the waist area to “split the belt line”
- Affects core muscles needed for balance
- Increases officer and cardiac safety

Avoid the genitals when practical
SOME CAUSES OF LIMITED CEW EFFECTIVENESS

- Miss or single dart hit
- Incomplete, broken, or intermittent circuit
- Loose or thick clothing
- Low nerve or muscle mass hit
- Obese subject
- Limited probe spread
- Wires break
- Operator error
LOOK FOR CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR

• Look AND listen when evaluating the effectiveness of a CEW deployment
• Watch the subject’s reaction and look for a change in behavior
• Loud arcing sound typically indicates no or intermittent connection
• Intermittent arcing typically indicates a poor connection such as a clothing disconnect
If you *hear* a loud arcing noise and see no change in subject behavior, *think* bad connection.

Reload (X26/X26P) and target different area or 3-point drive stun follow-up with cartridge still attached.

For X2 deploy second cartridge.
TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Avoid TASER CEW over-dependence
- Have reasonable and appropriate force options available
- Consider cover and distance tactics
- When practical:
  - Have at least one back-up officer present to control/cuff under power
  - Optimize choice of landing zone
  - Deploy to back (rather than front)
TACTICAL CONTINGENCIES

• CEW may have limited or no effect
• No weapon system will operate or be effective all the time
• A CEW or cartridge may not fire
• Do not attempt to reuse a “dud” cartridge and carry a spare cartridge if possible per department SOP
• Be prepared to transition to other force options
BE CAREFUL OF DISTRACTIONS

• Officers have been accused of using excessive CEW exposures due to stress or distractions, including nearby family members, bystanders, and incident witnesses.

• Distraction or situational stress may result in electrical discharge of unintended duration if the officer inadvertently holds the trigger down.

• Be alert to and avoid potential distractions that may result in extended exposures or unintentional additional applications.
CONTROLLING/CUFFING UNDER POWER

• Use each 5-second CEW cycle as a “window of opportunity” to establish control/cuff while subject is affected

• You can go hands on with the subject during the 5-second cycle without getting shocked
  - Do not place hands on or between probes
  - Do not touch wires
TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Be aware of the maximum range of your cartridges
- Keep sufficient slack in the wires
- Move with the subject if they start to roll
- Failure to do so may result in wire breakage or probe disconnect causing loss of CEW contact with the subject
# CEW USE GUIDELINES

Hand out CEW Study Aid Selected Use Guidelines

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## TASER Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) Study Aid

### SELECTED USE GUIDELINES

This is a rapid study guide only and is a supplement to, but not a substitute for, TASER warnings and training. Be trained and read all warnings (available online at www.taser.com/training).

CEWs have risks and CEW use and physical incapacitation, alone or in combination with physical exertion, stress, unforeseen circumstances, or individual susceptibilities, may 1 risk or cause serious injury or death.

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### WARNING

Conducted Electrical Weapon
- Can temporarily incapacitate suspect
- Can cause death or serious injury
- Does not always guarantee compliance
- User must wear proper training and use

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### Taser CEW USE GUIDELINES

(THESE GUIDELINES MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND DO NOT CREATE OR ELEVATE A STANDARD OF CARE)

This Study Aid is intended to reduce CEW safety risks and excessive force claims.

Distribute this Study Aid to all CEW users and review regularly at annual recertification training.

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### Incident Basics:

- Complete training first; recertify annually
- Review latest Taser CEW warnings
- Follow all laws, regulations, policies
- If CEW is not achieving intended goal, transition to different force option
- Monitor subject post-CEW; if unresponsive, initiate EMS/CPR protocols

### Probe Targeting:

- Back shots = safety and effectiveness
- Avoid intentionally targeting sensitive areas (eyes, head, throat, chest/heart, genitalia, known pre-existing injury areas)
- Use preferred target areas (blue areas on target figures)
- Avoid chest (1 cardio risks, particularly beyond 15 seconds absent reasonably perceived immediate threat and/or justification)
- Close-range deployment - split belt line, maximize probe spread

### Probe Spread:

- Wider probe spread = effectiveness. 12" (30.5 cm) probe spread is necessary for effect, stopping forward motion.
- Optimal probe spread for incapacitation requires minimum 7-foot (2.13 m) distance between front of CEW cartridge and subject.
- If too close to achieve good probe spread, attempt to distance. If unable to distance, targeting leg may allow tactical advantage.

### CEW Use:

- Use objectively reasonable force under totality of circumstances
- Use force only on those actively/aggressively resisting or higher
- Give a verbal warning before using force, if practical
- Give subject reasonable opportunity to comply before force is used or repeated
- Cease force once subject surrenders or is captured, controlled, and restrained

### Limit CEW Touch-Stun Use:

- Avoid using CEW touch-stun except:
  1. 3 or 4-point contact to complete circuit or probe spread
  2. Break-contact or distraction tactic when assaulted or tied up with subject
- Attempt to gain pain-compliance. Must give reasonable time and opportunity to comply
- Avoid repeated touch-stuns if compliance is not achieved, particularly with EDPs

### Subjects with Increased Risks (requiring ↑ justification):

- Higher risk populations (children, pregnant, elderly, thin)
- Known medical conditions (heart disease, pacemaker, seizure history)
- Secondary Risks (requiring ↑ justification):
  1. Uncontrolled falls, subjects in elevated positions or running on hard surfaces
  2. Consider if tackling or intentional grounding is objectively reasonable
  3. Operating machinery or transportation (car, motorcycle, bicycle, skateboard)
  4. Presence of explosive, flammable substance, or vapor

### Minimize Number and Duration of CEW Exposures:

- Each CEW trigger pull or 5 seconds of discharge must be objectively reasonable
- Control and restrain subject immediately, if safe and practical
- Use 5-second "window of opportunity" to restrain and "cuff under power"
- Avoid simultaneous CEW exposures with multiple CEWs or multiple circuits
- Avoid repeated, extended, or continuous exposures

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USE GUIDELINES/ CONSIDERATIONS

When objectively reasonable and as practicable

- If no exigency or immediate safety risk exists, slow down and consider alternative force options/solutions including negotiation, commands, or physical skills
- Do not immediately resort to CEW
- Physical resistance or mental illness alone does not indicate immediate threat

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USE GUIDELINES/CONSIDERATIONS

Choose a force option reasonably likely to cure the immediate safety risk

Use CEW only on those “actively resisting” or higher. Not to be used on Passive resistance.

Subject’s non-deadly danger to self does not justify higher risk of force

CEWs do not replace deadly-force options
USE GUIDELINES/CONSIDERATIONS

• Use CEW within:
  - Law
  - Department policy and training

• Do not use CEW for:
  - Verbal defiance
  - Belligerence
  - Punishment
  - Horse play
USE GUIDELINES/CONSIDERATIONS

When objectively reasonable and as practicable:

- Give verbal warning before CEW use
- Give subjects a reasonable opportunity to comply before CEW is used or repeated
- Consider if medical/mental condition is limiting compliance
- Immediately cease CEW exposure once a subject has surrendered or is captured, controlled, and restrained
USE GUIDELINES/CONSIDERATIONS

If person is NOT an immediate threat or flight risk:

- Avoid using CEW on person who is actually or perceived to be mentally ill or emotionally disturbed
- Avoid using CEW on elevated risk populations, unless necessary and justifiable
USE GUIDELINES/CONSIDERATIONS

• Do not use CEW drive-stuns for pain compliance if it is reasonably foreseeable that pain will be ineffective in gaining compliance (i.e. increased pain tolerance from drugs/alcohol, or mental illness mind-body disconnect)

• Per CDP policy drive-stun mode for pain compliance is Prohibited

• Do not use repeated CEW drive-stuns if compliance is not achieved
CEW MEDICAL/RISKS OVERVIEW

- Higher risk populations
- Injuries from falls
- Increased injury risk examples
- Flammability Risks
- Cardiac Risks
- Physiologic/Metabolic Effects
HIGHER RISK POPULATIONS

CEWs, like other force options, have not been laboratory tested on:

- Pregnant women
- Mentally ill
- Elderly
- Small children
- Low body-mass (very thin) persons

CEW use on these individuals could increase the risk of death or serious injury
INJURIES FROM FALLS

- CEWs frequently cause subject to fall
- Falls are often uncontrolled
- Falls, even from ground level, can cause serious injuries or death (especially on hard surfaces)
- Always consider environment subject is standing on
- Consider if you would be justified in tackling or intentionally grounding
INCREASED INJURY RISK EXAMPLES

- Elevated position
- In water, mud/muck (drowning risk)
- Operating machinery/vehicle
- Running or in motion (bike/skateboard)
- Sensitive target areas (head/eyes/groin)
- Probes in heart or chest area
- Extended, repeated, or continuous CEW discharges
FLAMMABILITY

• TASER CEWs can ignite explosive materials, liquids, fumes, gases, vapors, and gels

• Some personal defense sprays use flammable carriers such as alcohol and can be dangerous if used in immediate conjunction with CEWs
CARDIAC RISKS

Experts have identified the following key factors related to CEW cardiac risks:

- Dart-to-heart distance
- Duration of delivered electrical charge

The further the CEW dart is away from the heart and the fewer CEW cycles applied, the lower the risk of the CEW affecting the heart.
CARDIAC RISKS

CEW cardiac risks are low, but not zero

To reduce cardiac risks (when possible):

- Target the back
- Avoid targeting the chest
- Avoid prolonged or continuous exposures
PHYSIOLOGIC/METABOLIC RISKS

CEWs may produce effects that could increase the risk of sudden death, including changes in:

- Blood chemistry
- Blood pressure
- Respiration
- Heart rate and rhythm
- Adrenaline and stress hormones

The longer the CEW exposure, the greater the potential effects.
AVOID REPEATED/EXTENDED CEW DURATIONS

- Minimize the number and duration of CEW exposures
- CEW exposure is a physically and psychologically stressful event
- Use the shortest duration of CEW exposure objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives
- Avoid repeated, extended, or continuous exposures beyond 15 seconds absent reasonably perceived immediate threat and increased justification
- Reassess the subject’s behavior before repeating or continuing the exposure, and provide time for compliance
THANK YOU!

TASER

PROTECT LIFE