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TASER

P R O T E C T L I F E

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

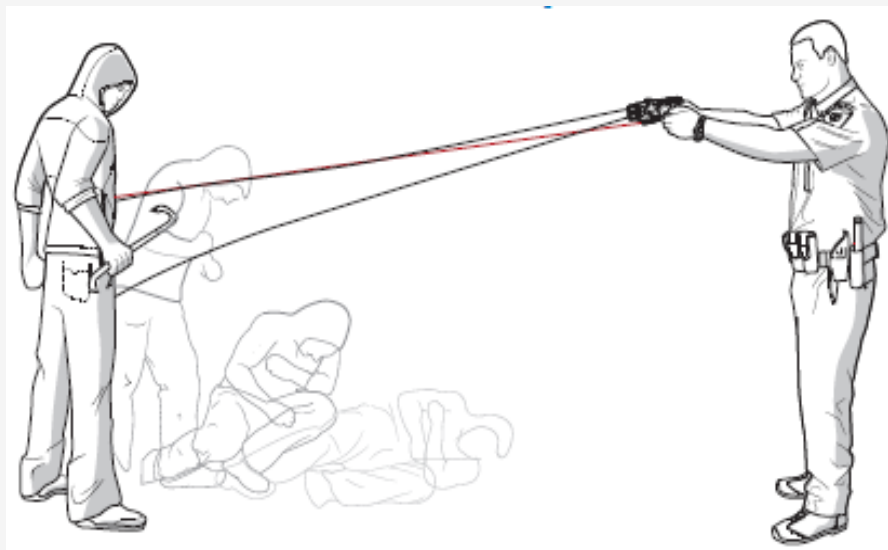
CEW ADVANTAGES

- 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

TARGETING



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):

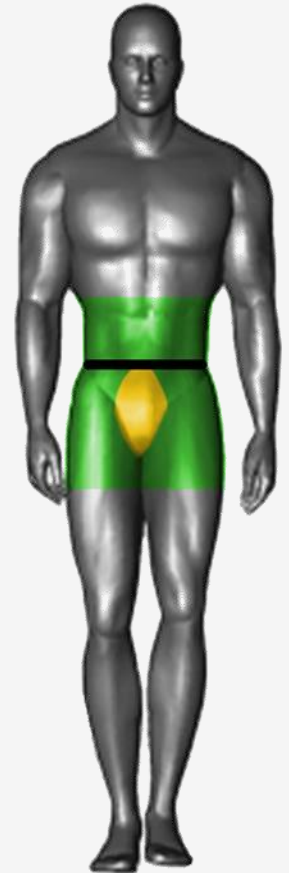


Target the waist area to “split the belt line”

- 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

ARCING SOUNDS

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

	<p align="center">TASER CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (CEW) STUDY AID SELECTED USE GUIDELINES</p> <p>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 full warnings (available online at www.taser.com/training).</p> <p>CEWs have risks and CEW use and physical incapacitation, alone or in combination with physical exertion, stress, unforeseen circumstances, or individual susceptibilities, may ↑ risk or cause serious injury or death.</p>		<p align="center">⚠ WARNING</p> <p>Conducted Electrical Weapon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p align="center">TASER CEW USE GUIDELINES (THESE GUIDELINES MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND DO NOT CREATE OR ELEVATE A STANDARD OF CARE)</p>			
<p align="center">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 and at annual recertification training.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If no exigency or immediate safety risk exists, slow down and consider alternative force options/solutions including negotiation, commands, or physical skills. • Physical resistance alone does not equal immediate danger. • Emotionally disturbed person (EDP) or mentally ill alone does not indicate immediate threat. • Choose a force option reasonably likely to cure the immediate safety risk. • Non-deadly danger to self does not justify higher force risk. • CEWs do not replace deadly-force options. 			
<p>Incident Basics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		<p>Subjects with Increased Risks (requiring ↑ justification):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher risk populations (children, pregnant, elderly, thin) • Known medical conditions (pregnancy, heart disease, pacemaker, seizure history) <p>Secondary Risks (requiring ↑ justification):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncontrolled falls, subjects in elevated positions or running on hard surfaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider if tackling or intentional grounding is objectively reasonable • Operating machinery or transportation (car, motorcycle, bicycle, skateboard) • Presence of explosive, flammable substance, or vapor 	
<p>Probe Targeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back shots ↑ safety and effectiveness • Avoid intentionally targeting sensitive areas (eyes, head, throat, chest/heart, genitals, known pre-existing injury areas) • Use preferred target areas (blue areas on target figures) • Avoid chest (↓ cardiac risks, particularly in thin subjects) • Close-range deployment - split belt line, maximize probe spread 		<p>Minimize Number and Duration of CEW Exposures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 beyond 15 seconds absent reasonably perceived immediate threat and ↑ justification 	
<p>Probe Spread: Wider probe spread ↑ effectiveness. 12" (30.5 cm) probe spread is necessary for ↑ effectiveness, 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.</p>			
<p>CEW Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		<p>If person is NOT immediate threat or flight risk, Avoid CEW Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without first attempting verbal de-escalation, commands, or physical skills • On person known or perceived to be emotionally disturbed or mentally ill • On elevated risk populations • For pain compliance if pain foreseeably ineffective due to ↑ tolerance from drugs, alcohol, or psychosis 	
<p>Limit CEW Touch-Stun Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid using CEW touch-stun except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 or 4-point contact to complete circuit or ↑ probe spread - "break-contact" or distraction tactic when assaulted or tied up with subject - brief application to attempt pain-compliance, must give reasonable time and opportunity to comply • Avoid repeated touch-stuns if compliance is not achieved, particularly with EDPs 		<p>Documentation (always document force/CEW justification):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document immediate safety risks, danger, resistance, force used from officer POV • Fully document (identify, collect, maintain evidence) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject's threats, behaviors, and actions - Each application of force, and each injury or alleged injury - Each CEW trigger pull or 5-second discharge 	

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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

USE GUIDELINES/ CONSIDERATIONS

When objectively
reasonable and as
practicable



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



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THANK YOU!