
	<b>Florida State University Police Department</b>	
<b>Tasers</b>		
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	Pages: 4	

**Policy**

It shall be the policy of the Department that sworn members be properly trained and demonstrate proficiency in the deployment and reasonable use of Tasers during the course of their official duties. Employees must master the use of Tasers and fully conform to the deployment, medical, and reporting requirements contained within this General Order.

It is the policy of this Department that no sworn officer shall be authorized to carry a Taser until he or she has received a copy of and been instructed in the Department’s General Order titled “Response to Resistance. [CFA 4.06C]

**Procedures**

A. Deployment of Taser [CFA 4.06A]

The Taser may be deployed as an additional, less lethal device not intended to replace firearms. Deployment is defined as anytime a Taser is displayed or drawn from the holster in a force situation. The Taser may be used to control dangerous or violent subjects when deadly physical force does not appear to be justified or necessary, or there is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the subject. The Taser **will not** be used in a punitive manner or for the purpose of coercion.

Officers must be able to articulate the reason(s) the Taser was utilized consistent with this policy. The Taser is an alternative to physical control techniques and the use of other intermediate weapons. The use of the Taser may prevent the use of more severe physical force.

1. Authorized Use of the Taser

The Taser may be used when a person who is the subject of arrest or custody escalates resistance to the officer from passive physical resistance to active physical resistance and the person:

- a. Has the apparent ability to physically threaten the officer or others; **or**

- b. Is preparing or attempting to flee or escape. Fleeing alone should not be the sole justification for use of the Taser. The severity of the offense and other factors should be considered before officers use the Taser on a fleeing subject.

2. Other Authorized Uses:

- a. The Taser may be used to defend against an attack by an animal.

3. Unauthorized Uses of the Taser

- a. Officers shall not use the Taser as a response to verbal dialogue alone. However, use is authorized when verbal dialogue is coupled with circumstances which may pose an immediate threat to the officer.
- b. Officers shall not display or use the Taser as an intimidation device, unless the officer is attempting to prevent further escalation of resistance by a subject or when there is an articulable reason to believe circumstances exist that may threaten the safety of the officer, subject or others.
- c. Officers shall not use the Taser as a response to -passive resistance||.
- d. Officers shall not use the Taser against a subject who is handcuffed or otherwise restrained, unless the subject is exhibiting aggressive resistance or higher.

**B. Review and Approval for Carrying and Use of the Taser**

- 1. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for reviewing and approving the carrying and use of any Taser adopted for use by this Department. [CFA 4.06D]
- 2. Officers must conduct a spark test before the beginning of their shift, i.e., check-on, to ensure that the Taser is functioning properly. The spark test is conducted in a controlled environment and does not require the completion of a Response to Resistance report.
- 3. Anytime an officer deploys his or her Taser and/or discharges the Taser—either as a drive stun or from-a-distance discharge—he or she will document all facts and circumstances in a required Response to Resistance Report. In the event of a questionable discharge or any deployment, the Taser data port information shall be downloaded as soon as practicable after the incident by the Training Section.
- 4. Officers are not authorized to carry the Taser off-duty. [CFA 4.06B]

**C. Taser Training and Qualifications**

Sworn officers successfully completing a Department-approved training program in the proper use of the Taser during the preceding year (365 days), and who have been issued the Taser by the Department, are authorized to carry and use the Taser within the guidelines established in this General Order and the General Order titled “Response to Resistance”.

**D. Responsibilities Following Taser Application**

1. Officers will ensure that the subject receives proper medical attention. All subjects must receive a medical evaluation from an emergency medical services provider prior to being transported to a detention facility. [CFA 4.08A]
2. Officers will wear biohazard protective gloves while removing probes from a subject's skin. Probes that have been removed from the skin will be treated as biohazard sharps. The probes should be placed point down into the expended cartridge bores and secured with tape. The expended Taser cartridge, probes, and wires shall be collected as evidence.
3. Photographs will be taken of the probe impact or direct stun area and other related injuries.
4. Trained medical providers will remove all deeply embedded probes or probes that penetrate sensitive tissue areas. (i.e. neck, face, groin, female breasts, etc.)
5. Transporting officers shall notify the detention facility supervisor when booking a prisoner who was apprehended with a Taser application. The notification information should be recorded in the arrest affidavit.
6. The Shift Supervisor shall ensure that the Taser cartridge, wires and probes are secured as evidence.

**E. Reporting Requirements Subsequent to Taser Deployment or Discharge.**

1. Any time a Taser is deployed or discharged, except for the spark test or an authorized discharge during approved Taser training, the officer involved will immediately inform his or her supervisor of the reason for the deployment and/or discharge and any resulting injuries. In addition, the officer will complete and submit both an incident report and Response to Resistance Report before the end of his or her shift. Reports shall conform to the requirements discussed within the General Order titled "Response to Resistance".
2. Any time, while on or off duty, the Taser is accidentally discharged the officer shall immediately notify his/her supervisor. The Supervisor shall document the events surrounding the discharge to the Operations Lieutenant and copy the Training Coordinator. This documentation shall be in memo form. If upon review by the Operations Lieutenant and Training Coordinator further investigation is required, the Lieutenants shall then consult with the Chief for appropriate assignment.

**Glossary**

**Aggressive Resistance** – a subject’s attacking movements toward an officer that may cause injury but are not likely to cause death or great bodily harm to the officer or others.

**Deployment** – A Taser deployment is anytime a Taser is displayed or drawn from the holster in a force situation.

**Passive Resistance** – a subject’s verbal and/or physical refusal to comply with an officer’s lawful direction, causing the officer to use physical techniques to establish control.

**Probe** – A metal dart that is propelled from the Taser and attaches to a target.

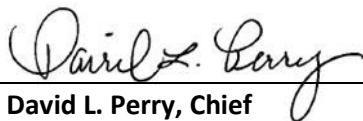
**Spark Test** – A spark test is an equipment function check conducted during check-on, i.e., prior to the beginning of an officer’s shift.

**Indexing**

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Use of Force Weapons,  
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**Attachments**

None

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