

GARDEN GROVE POLICE TRAINING

TODD ELGIN, CHIEF OF POLICE

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Professional Standards Division

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Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW)

Conducted Electrical Weapons (TASER) are designed to temporarily incapacitate a person from a safer distance than that of other force options that are available to the officer, which reduces the likelihood of death or serious injury to either the officer or the subject of the CEW. Any use of force, however, including the use of the conducted electrical weapon (CEW), involves risk that a person may be injured or die due to the effects of the use of force.

Proper handling and use of the CEW may be effective in restraining a violent and/or combative individual. CEWs are designed to affect both the central and motor nervous systems achieving neuro-muscular incapacitation. The use of a CEW in drive-stun mode is for pain compliance only and generally does not cause incapacitation.

Currently, the Garden Grove Police Department Police Officers are issued the X26 and X26P model of the CEW made by TASER products. The effective range of the probes from the Department issued cartridge is twenty-five feet. Always assume the CEW is loaded and capable of discharging.

Due to the potential for injury, the use of the CEW is subject to the following:

- (a) The officer shall have successfully completed department-approved training in the use and application of the CEW.
- (b) Use of the CEW may occur when circumstances perceived by the officer, at the present time, indicate that such application reasonably appears necessary to control a person in any of the following circumstances:
 - 1. The subject is violent or physically combative.
 - 2. The subject, by words or actions, has demonstrated an intention to be violent and reasonably appears to have the potential to harm officers, him/herself, or others.
- (c) The application of a CEW on the following individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available

options would reasonably appear ineffective, or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others; and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of deploying the CEW:

1. Females who are known to be pregnant
2. Elderly individuals
3. Small child
4. Individuals with Down Syndrome
5. Individuals exposed to chemical agents
6. Person with low body-mass index

(d) Any individual who has had exposure to the CEW shall be promptly examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel at scene. If the probes have penetrated the skin of the subject, then such probes should only be removed by medically trained personnel. The subject shall receive medical treatment at a medical facility and **the subject shall be transported to the medical facility in an ambulance**. The subject shall only be transported by police vehicle after the subject has been medically cleared at a medical facility.

(e) **No person should be exposed to more than three 5-second cycles of a CEW.** Officers are responsible to justify each cycle that is utilized on a person. Duration of CEW exposure shall be objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and allow for reassessment of the subject's behavior.

(f) Preferred target areas are below the neck area for the back, and lower center mass for front shots. When practical, avoid intentionally targeting the following areas of the body: the face, eyes, head, throat, chest (heart area), breast, groin, genitals or known pre-existing areas with injury.

(g) When possible, avoid utilizing the CEW when secondary injuries are likely due to exposure to the CEW. When practical, avoid using the CEW on a person on elevated or unstable surface, running or in motion, operating or riding any mode of transportation, or where a fall is likely, which could cause impact injury to the head or other area.

(h) Officers are to document the use of their CEW thoroughly in their reports. A supervisor shall be notified and a Use-Of Force memorandum shall be completed when deployment of a CEW has occurred.

(i) **Expended probes and cartridges shall be booked as evidence unless circumstances dictate that booking of such probes is not feasible.**