

General: Tasers

This policy provides officers with the requirements and guidelines for the use of the X-2 Taser electronic control device.

Consistent with this department's policy of using only the level of force reasonable and necessary to control or otherwise subdue violent or potentially violent individuals, the department authorizes the use of the Taser by designated officers with this department. The primary purpose for employing the Taser is to protect human lives and prevent injury to officers and citizens. All employees who are authorized to carry Tasers and use force when necessary shall become familiar with the following guidelines for the Taser.

Training

The Taser shall only be carried and/or used by officers that have successfully completed the department's training on the Taser. This training will be conducted by a Certified Taser instructor. All uses of the Taser shall be in compliance with the department training and applicable use of force policies. In order to maintain certification for the use of the Taser, officers must successfully complete an annual refresher course put on by the department or an otherwise authorized refresher course. The Department Training Coordinator and the Taser Instructors are responsible for the procurement, maintenance, and method of issuance of the Taser. The Training Coordinator is responsible for the training and re-certification of department members in the use of the Taser.

General Use

The Taser is programmed to deliver a five (5) second electrical pulse. The operator may cause additional five second pulses to be delivered should it be necessary to control the targeted individual. The probes or wires should not be touched during this period, as the person touching the probes or wires could receive a portion of the electrical pulse.

1. Officers will, if feasible, give the subject a **verbal warning** before using the Taser. The warning should be an explicit statement such as "Stop, get on the ground, or you will be Tased." Officers will also announce to cover officers that the Taser is being deployed whenever possible.
2. The Taser should be targeted as designated in training and considering the totality of the circumstances. The face, neck and groin should be avoided if at all possible.
3. **The Taser has the ability to ignite flammable liquids.** It will not be deployed at subjects who have come into contact with flammables or in environments where flammables are obviously present. Never deploy the Taser in highly flammable environments such as methamphetamine labs.
4. Careful consideration should be given in deploying the Taser on subjects who are in elevated positions or in other circumstances where a fall may cause substantial injury or death (i.e. subjects on roof tops, on stairs, or pregnant woman).
5. **The Taser shall never be used punitively or for the purpose of coercion.**
6. The Taser is a use of force and is to be used only when necessary to overcome resistance while affecting an arrest, preventing an escape, in self defense, or in defense of another person from physical harm, and in accordance with this department's use of force policy.

Officers discharging the Taser shall:

Advise Dispatch that a subject has been tased.

Request that a supervisor respond to the scene.

Request than an EMS unit respond to the scene.

As soon as practical, complete the X2 Taser Deployment Form.

Record the serial number of the Taser used on the X2 Taser Deployment Form.

The expended cartridge, probes, wires, and blast doors will be collected and booked into evidence in accordance with current Taser evidence collection practices. In an event where death or serious physical injury has occurred involving the use of the Taser, all Taser related items should remain in place when possible for investigative purposes.

Persons subjected to the Taser:

Persons subjected to the Taser shall be examined by EMS personnel once in custody. If the probes penetrate the skin of the subject, the EMS personnel will determine if they can safely remove the probes on scene, or if the individual should be transported to hospital for the removal.

If the subject is transported to a hospital, the officer shall obtain a medical release from the hospital before transporting the subject to a detention facility.

Probes that lodge in the skin shall be considered a biohazard. All fired probes shall be retained as evidence after being properly packaged as a biohazard if applicable.

Reporting

Any time the Taser is deployed and the probes strike a person, or when the Taser has been used in the drive stun mode on a person, the Taser use shall be documented using the electronic X2 Taser Deployment Form. The officer discharging the Taser and the on-duty supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the X2 Taser Deployment Form is completed.

Any time the Taser is deployed and the probes strike a person, or when the Taser has been used in the drive stun mode on a person, the officer deploying the Taser will be responsible for downloading the deployment data using the procedure established by the department's Taser Instructors. This procedure will serve as a record of the Taser use and may be used to diagnose any problems related to the Taser equipment or the actual deployment of the Taser.

Reporting Procedure

After deploying the probes into a person or after utilizing a drive stun on a person, the officer should report the use by doing the following;

- 1) If the probes are deployed you will book in the cartridge, probes, blast doors, and the wires. Care should be used so that the wires are not broken or pulled from the expended cartridge. This evidence will be labeled as a biohazard and you must include the Taser cartridge serial number on the Lotus property form in the "Serial #" box.

2) When writing your Lotus report you will need to open the "Status" tab and then open the "Occurrence Flags" drop down menu where you will need to check the box indicating that there is a "Taser Report" available.

3) Fill out the electronic X2 Taser Deployment Form which can be found by going to the Roseburg Police Sharepoint website. Click on the X2 Taser Deployment Form located on the upper left side of the website. Then select the folder labeled with the current year and click on "add document" at the bottom of the visible reports and this will open the form. You will be required to select the serial number of the Taser you used which is also on a drop down menu.

4) Download the Taser firing record to "evidence.com" using the SYNC program. It will not be necessary to print out any firing records for inclusion in the report.

*Refer to the revised **TASER DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS** (below) if you have any problems downloading the Taser.

If the Taser is used without deploying the probes *or*, drive stunning a person it will be tracked electronically. This electronic form ("Taser Use Tracking") will track all Taser uses when:

- 1) A person is verbally warned they will be tased and compliance is gained or additional force is used to gain compliance.
- 2) A Taser laser display is used and compliance is gained or additional force is used to gain compliance.
- 3) A spark demonstration with the Taser is used and compliance is gained or additional force is used to gain compliance.

The form can be found by going to the Roseburg Police Sharepoint website. On the column to the left click on "Taser Use Tracking" and this will open a new screen. Then select "Add New Item" at the bottom of the previous reports and this will open the form.

*This form *will not* need to be completed if the Taser use escalates into a probe deployment or drive stun.

Taser Download Instructions

- 1) Click on the **SYNC** icon on the desktop.
- 2) Log in using your evidence.com username and password.
- 3) Remove the Taser's PPM/TPPM and insert the X2 download device. Insert the opposite end of the download device into the USB port on your computer. The download device's LED light at the bottom should turn green when inserted properly. You should also see a "universal serial bus symbol" appear on the Taser's central information display.
- 4) The program will take several seconds as it downloads the information from the Taser. Once the download is complete you will see the **Device Information** screen. This indicates the device has been successfully downloaded.
- 5) To view the firing records for the Taser, click on **PDF report** and the record will be displayed.
- 6) When you have completed this process, click on **Disconnect** and when the next box appears, click on **Disconnect** again.
- 7) Disconnect the X2 download device and reinstall the PPM/TPPM and exit the **SYNC** program.

Taser Check Out Procedure

Officers qualified to use the Taser will check a Taser out from the armory storage area. The officer's supervisor will record the serial number of the Taser that has been checked out on the Patrol log. Officers are responsible for checking out and returning the Taser before and after each shift. The on duty supervisor will also ensure that the units are checked out and checked in properly and in compliance with this policy.

Upon checking out a Taser, the officer checking out the unit shall conduct a spark test based upon the manufacturer's recommendation. The spark test shall be conducted by turning the Taser on, pointing it in a safe direction, and depressing the arc switch long enough to confirm that the Taser is functioning properly. Any malfunctions shall be reported to the on duty supervisor and the unit will be placed out of commission until it has been repaired.

Taser Cartridge Issuance

Every officer that is qualified to carry a Taser will be issued two 25' Taser smart cartridges for use in the field. The serial numbers of all issued cartridges will be recorded and maintained by the designated department Taser instructor. This record will also reflect the final disposition of each cartridge (i.e. fired, returned under warranty, destroyed, etc.) and can be found on the Roseburg Police Sharepoint website under **Taser Cartridge Tracking**.

Officers will only replenish their supply of issued cartridges from the on-duty Watch Commander or the designated Taser Instructor. Spare cartridges will be made available to the Watch Commanders in the event that a cartridge needs to be replaced during a shift. Watch Commanders will be responsible for recording the issuance of the cartridges and advising the designated department Taser instructor that a spare cartridge was issued along with the issued cartridges' serial number.