

Barre City Use of Force for Tasers Policy

PURPOSE

This policy is intended to provide general guidelines for the use of the Tasers by the Barre City Police Department (BCPD). Tasers will be used as an additional police tool and are not intended to replace firearms or other self-defense techniques. Tasers may reduce the need for other types of physical force by officers of the BCPD.

POLICY

1. Tasers are designed to be used as a police department tool to respond to threat levels which place the officer or other individuals in threat of physical harm due to the actions and behaviors of a suspect. The suspect must be actively aggressive and/or resisting and presenting a risk of injury to the officer(s), him/herself or others. Electronic Control Devices (ECD's) are not to be used in a punitive or coercive manner, and shall not be used to gain compliance from passively resistant subjects.
2. Special consideration must be given to populations that may be more susceptible to injury from ECD's, including the elderly, persons of small stature, children, and those who the officer has reason to believe are in ill health or are pregnant.
3. Only members who have attended a BCPD approved training program may carry a Taser while on duty.
4. Only brand name products approved and purchased by the BCPD may be carried. Currently the only model inspected for proper functioning and authorized by the BCPD is the X26 Taser. Recertification by members assigned the X26 Taser will occur based upon the manufacturers recommendation.

PROCEDURES

1. Use and Deployment Procedures
 - (A) Only properly functioning and charged Tasers shall be carried for use. The Taser shall be worn on the duty belt in a cross draw fashion on the opposite side of the duty belt from where the BCPD service weapon is carried;
 - (B) All discharges, including accidental discharges, shall be documented on the Barre City Police Department Use of Force reporting form. Additionally, documentation shall be made each time the Taser is unholstered for potential use.
 - (C) Prior to the use of the Taser, if practical, officers should verbally notify those on the scene by stating "*Taser I Taser I Taser*", indicating the use of the Taser is imminent in order to prevent unintentional shootings.
2. Tactical Considerations and Limitations
 - (A) The Taser is not a substitute for lethal force. When confronting an armed subject, the deployment of the Taser should always be used in conjunction with the ability to apply lethal force if necessary.

3. The Taser SHALL NOT be used in the following situations:
 - (A) To awaken, escort, or gain compliance from passively resistant subjects. A Taser shall not be used in a punitive or coercive manner;
 - (B) In any instance when a subject is saturated with or in the presence of highly flammable or combustible materials and liquids;
 - (C) With any person that is shackled and handcuffed, unless there is an immediate threat to the member, suspect or bystander;
 - (D) In an environment where the subjects fall could reasonably result in death or serious bodily injury;
 - (E) When the subject has physical control of a motor vehicle;
 - (F) Every effort should be made to avoid the facial area as well as the head, neck, groin and female breast.
4. Post Use Procedures
 - (A) Removing a Taser Probe. After securing a subject in handcuffs, the officer deploying the Taser will remove the probes using the prescribed methods. If this is not practical or if one of the following conditions apply, the officer should not attempt to remove the probe and only emergency medical staff shall attempt to remove the ECD probes:
 - (1) The subject does not appear to recover properly after deployment;
 - (2) The officer encounters problems when attempting to remove the probe;
 - (3) The probes are imbedded in soft tissue areas such as the neck, face, eyes, or groin.
 - (B) Medical Evaluation. A subject who has received a charge from an ECD device shall immediately be medically evaluated if one or more of the following occurs:
 - (1) The subject is a member of the special consideration population as defined in the Policy Section of this policy;
 - (2) The subject has been energized more than three times;
 - (3) The subject has been subjected to more than one ECD device;
 - (4) The subject has been energized for a continuous cycle of 15 seconds or more;
 - (5) The subject has exhibited signs of extreme uncontrolled agitation or hyperactivity prior to the ECD exposure or does not appear to recover properly after being energized;
 - (6) The subject requests medical attention or is identified as having a known medical condition while being administered the ECD Administrative Warning to identify such information;
 - (7) The suspect has an obvious injury which in the opinion of the deploying officer requires treatment.
 - (C) Further Medical Issues. Officers should be alert for any injury that may or may not have been brought about by police use of force which, if left untreated, could become a possible serious problem.
 - (D) Retrieval of Evidence of Use. The ECD officer shall make reasonable attempts to collect the probes, evidentiary tags (AFIDS) and cartridge used in the deployment for evidence in its use in the incident. When practical, reasonable attempts shall be made to also

photograph the impact area of the probes.

REPORTING

1. The deploying ECD officer shall notify the Officer In Charge (OIC) as soon as practical regarding all deployments. The deploying officer shall complete a Use of Force report, and ensure that the ECD Administrative Warning is given to the exposed subject.
2. Officers who utilize the Taser during an arrest must submit a Use of Force Report to the Chief of Police or his/her designees via their chain of command within 24 hours, giving the details of the incident and commenting on the effectiveness of the Taser.
3. Downloadable information regarding the Taser shall be downloaded every month and copies of these documents will be kept at the Barre City Police Department and a copy will remain with the Officer responsible for downloading same.
4. To aid in reporting, photographs of the Taser probe entry sites shall be taken whenever possible prior to releasing the subject from custody.