



4. Electronic Control Device (inserted 9-17-09)

a. Definition:

- (1) The Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW), commonly known as a taser, is authorized for use by this department.
 - (a) The CEW is a hand held, battery operated device that delivers low electrical amperage, which dominates the neuromuscular system, causing involuntary muscle contractions to temporarily incapacitate a person.
 - (b) The CEW is deployed by; (1) discharging a single use dart cartridge, (2) through a direct contact drive stun, or (3) through a combination of both techniques.
 - (c) The CEW is designed to temporarily immobilize a dangerous, violent or potentially violent person.

b. Carrying of the CEW

- (1) Only Officers who have successfully completed the departments CEW certification program are authorized to carry and use the CEW.
- (2) A Watch Commander may assign the CEW to officers nightly or for a designated time period. Officers assigned CEW nightly shall sign-out the CEW at the start of their shift and sign-in the CEW at the end of their shift into a designated CEW log.
- (3) Officers assigned an CEW for designated periods of time are responsible for care and security of the device. If the CEW is damaged or malfunctions, the officer's supervisor and the CEW Coordinator will be notified for repair or replacement. It will be the responsibility of the officer to routinely conduct arc tests to ensure the unit is properly functioning.
- (4) Officers will carry the CEW in a departmentally approved holster, on the reaction side of the body, and in the "safety on" position. The CEW will not be carried on the same side of the body as the officer's firearm.

c. Deployment Parameters

- (1) The CEW shall be used within the guidelines established by the Des Moines Police Department's Use of Force Policy.
- (2) The purpose of the CEW is to provide officers with a less-lethal force intervention option. Officers will not utilize the CEW to gain compliance from persons who are exhibiting passive resistance, unless there is an articulable reason why it would be unsafe for officers to approach within contact distance of the individual, and all other options are not practical or effective.
- (3) The CEW is not to be considered a like alternative to other conventional tactics, such as chemical deterrent and physical control. When appropriate, these options should be considered and utilized prior to deployment of the CEW.
- (4) The deployment of the CEW will be evaluated using the departmental Use of Force Policy. The CEW may be used, but is not limited to, the following circumstances.
 - (a) To overcome aggressive, assaultive, or violent behavior.
 - (b) To control persons in order to prevent them from harming themselves or others.
 - (c) When other attempts to control or subdue the person by conventional tactics have been, or will likely be ineffective in the given situation.



- (d) To control a vicious animal that appears to present a danger to the officer or the public.
- (5) Officers should refrain from the use of the CEW in the following circumstances, unless there are compelling reasons to do so which can be clearly articulated.
 - (a) Against a person operating a motor vehicle
 - (b) Against a person with known heart problems or is known to have an implanted cardiac defibrillator (pacemaker).
 - (c) Against a person with apparent debilitating illnesses.
 - (d) Against young children or the elderly
 - (e) Against a person with known neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy.
 - (f) Against a person known to be pregnant.
 - (g) Against a subject fleeing on foot.
 - (h) Against handcuffed subjects.
 - (i) In areas where deployment may cause the suspect to fall resulting in serious injury or death.
 - (j) In situation where deadly force is clearly justifiable unless another officer is present and capable of providing deadly force to protect the officer and / or civilians as necessary.
- (6) Officers shall give a verbal warning, when practical, to the subject and other officers before deploying the CEW. Officers shall notify other officers on the scene by loudly and clearly announcing "Taser" if the CEW is discharged.
- (7) The CEW is not to be intentionally aimed at the head, neck, or genital area.
- (8) Officers shall notify the supervisor immediately after a deployment is made and the subject is secure.

d. Medical Treatment Guidelines

- (1) All persons receiving a discharge from the CEW, either through the deployment of darts or a direct contact drive stun, will be treated or evaluated by certified EMS personnel. If necessary, the person will be transported to a medical facility for treatment, evaluation, and removal of the darts.
- (2) Prior to EMS treatment or transporting the person to a medical facility, an officer will cut the wires to the barbs.
- (3) Persons with barbs lodged in the head, neck, or genital area will be transported to a medical facility by fire rescue personnel.
- (4) If expended darts and cartridge are not placed on property, they should be considered a biohazard and should be disposed of safely and properly.

e. Reporting

- (1) Any deployment of the CEW which a cartridge is discharged or a drive stun technique is utilized will be reported by the CEW operator on an CEW Arrest Incident Report and a Case Investigation Report or Supplemental Report.
- (2) Photographs will be taken of the person and the contact sites on the person receiving the CEW, and the officer deploying the CEW in accordance with the Arrest Incident Report (AIR).



- (3) An CEW Instructor or Coordinator should be contacted to download the data for the CEW deployment from the device and provide a printed copy to the officer's direct supervisor to be included with the CEW AIR.
- (4) The deploying officer's supervisor will ensure that all applicable reports are forwarded through the chain of command in a timely manner. In addition, a copy of all applicable police reports relating to the deployment of the CEW shall be forwarded to the CEW Instructor/Coordinator.
- (5) Whenever an officer exhibits the CEW during an incident, or cautions a person that they may use the CEW, but does not discharge the CEW, it will be noted in the Case Investigation Report or a Supplemental Report and a copy of the report will be forwarded to the CEW Coordinator for documentation purposes.
- (6) Only with the X2 Model may a Warning Arc be utilized to caution or warn a person that the CEW may be used. The circumstances shall be consistent with the established deployment parameters, and a CEW AIR will be completed when the CEW Warning Arc is used. All other CEW models are not designed to deliver a Warning Arc.
- (7) Accidental discharges of the CEW during administrative handling will be reported on an Inter-Office Memorandum to the immediate supervisor and the CEW Coordinator.

f. Equipment Procedures and Training

- (1) Each CEW will be inspected and maintained by a certified CEW Instructor. All inspection records for each departmentally owned CEW will be maintained by CEW Coordinator.
- (2) A supply of replacement cartridges will be provided to each Watch Commander to replace damaged or expended cartridges as necessary.
- (3) Any CEW not carried in a departmentally approved holster shall be kept unloaded with the safety mechanism on "safe" and secured in the case provided until deployed.
- (4) CEW will be stored without a cartridge with the safety mechanism on "safe" in a secure area as defined by Command Staff.
- (5) CEW refresher training shall be conducted as determined by the CEW Instructor/Coordinator, the Personnel and Training Section, and departmental Command Staff.

5. Patrol Rifle Program (inserted 08-12-10)

A. Policy

- (1) The Des Moines Police Department recognizes that circumstances exist in which law enforcement officers are at a substantial disadvantage. In these situations, a Department approved patrol rifle deployed by a certified officer can be beneficial in protecting the public as well as officer(s).