



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN

CUSTODY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS TRAINING UNIT

Date: 04-01-2011

TASER DEPLOYMENT

Authorized Personnel

To insure continuity within Custody Division, only sworn personnel (deputy or higher) may carry and/or use the X-26 and M-26 TASERS. Personnel authorized to use the X-26 and M-26 TASERS must have successfully completed an approved TASER Users Course. For further regarding the carry/use of the X-26 and M-26 TASERS, refer to the **Custody Division Directive 10-005, Personnel Authorized to Use The M26 and X26 TASER Electronic Control Devices.**

Beginning of Shift Inspection

The TASER should be inspected at the beginning of each shift. The inspection should include a "PHYSICAL INSPECTION" and a "SPARK TEST". The integrity of the TASER should not be compromised; the outer casing should be clean, dry and free of cracks. The safety lever should move with minimal pressure, be intact, and operate from either side of the TASER. There should be no carbon build up on the metal electrodes. The Air Cartridge should be undamaged and both blast doors should be in place. The date printed on the Air Cartridge should be within the five year shelf life. (NOTE: It is common for the blast doors to become damaged from normal carry. If this happens, the cartridge should be replaced and the damaged Air Cartridge should be sent to the respective unit's training office.)

The spark test should be conducted as follows:

1. Point the TASER in a safe direction.
2. Insure the safety lever is in the safe position (DOWN).
3. Remove the Air Cartridge.
4. While pointing the TASER in a safe direction, put the safety lever in the armed position (UP).
5. Activate the TASER by pulling the trigger. For the X-26 one arc is sufficient; for the M-26, 1 second of arcing is sufficient to insure proper function.
6. Put the safety lever in the safe position (DOWN).
7. Reload the TASER with a 25 ft. Air Cartridge (green blast doors).
8. Holster the TASER.

Carrying the TASER

The TASER shall be carried in a holster on the Sam/Sally Brown gun belt on the opposite side of the duty firearm. The TASER holster may be carried on the belt or in a drop holster on the leg. Absent the gun belt, the TASER is to be carried in the same manner on the uniform belt. Either a belt or leg holster is acceptable opposite the duty firearm. The TASER shall always be carried in the holster with the safety lever in the safe position (DOWN).

Departmentally approved TASERS may be purchased by individual personnel. Personally owned TASERS may be carried only after the approval of their unit commander, inspection by the Custody Training Unit, and successfully completion of the Department's TASER Training Program. Personally owned TASERS shall be available for computer download upon the request of a supervisor.

Approved TASER Equipment and Batteries

The X-26 and M-26 TASERS are currently the only two models of TASERS approved for use. The XP-25 ft. Air Cartridge is currently the only Air Cartridge approved for use in Custody Division. This Air Cartridge is easily recognizable by its green blast doors. Printed on the bottom of each cartridge is a model number, expiration date, and serial number.

There are three battery options for the X-26 TASER. The first option is the Digital Power Magazine (DPM). The DPM is a non-rechargeable battery designed to deliver 195 cycles @ 5 seconds per cycle. The Extended Digital Power Magazine (XDPM) is also non-rechargeable and is designed to deliver 195 cycles @ 5 seconds per cycle. The XDPM is designed to carry a spare Air Cartridge which attaches to and extends from the bottom of the XDPM. The third option is integrated into the TASER Cam. The TASER Cam is designed to deliver 100 cycles @ 5 seconds per cycle while also recording audio and video. The internal battery of the TASER Cam is rechargeable. There are two battery options for the M-26 TASER. The first is the Energizer Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) AA battery which is rechargeable and lasts for 100 cycles @ 5 seconds per cycle on fresh batteries. The second is the Duracell Ultra Alkaline AA which is not rechargeable and lasts 15-20 cycles @ 5 seconds per cycle.

Targeting

If possible, avoid targeting the head, neck, and genitalia. The primary targeting areas are large muscle mass areas. Primary targeting areas from the front are from the lower torso down with optimum placement being one probe above and one below the waist. By impacting the large muscle groups above and below the waist the potential for Neuro Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) is greatly increased. Primary targeting areas from the rear are from below the bottom of the neck and downwards. Typically, a minimum probe spread of four inches is required to achieve NMI. Probe spreads less than four inches usually result in only a pain compliance effect. Targeting the chest is not considered a primary targeting area since it has little muscle mass, is primarily bone, and allows the subject to easily pull the probes out or break the wires.

The lower probe of the Air Cartridge travels at a downward angle relative to the position of the TASER. Orient the TASER with the subject's body in order to get both probes on target. When a subject is lying horizontally, rotate the TASER so the top probe hits the point of aim and the lower probe travels towards the feet of the subject. When possible give the verbal prompt of "TASER, TASER, TASER" before activating the TASER. Target areas where clothing fits tighter and is less bulky. Use cover when possible. Keep in mind that for every 7 feet of travel the probes spread apart approximately 12 inches.

Request a supervisor to your location prior to the use of a TASER whenever possible. Handcuffing should be done during the TASER cycle (under power). During the TASER cycle the subject being tased can still hear so give verbal commands, however, do not have unrealistic expectations. For example, if NMI is achieved and you order the subject to roll over and cross their legs, it is possible they physically may not be able to comply until the cycle is over. Use caution since once the cycle is over the person will quickly recover.

Drive Stun

Probe deployments are usually more desirable and effective than drive stuns for several reasons. Probe deployments are typically more effective due to the increased probability of NMI. Probe deployments can be applied from a safe distance. A drive stun can only be applied with direct contact to the subject.

If only one probe impacts the subject, the 3-point drive stun is an effective follow up technique. This is when the electrodes on the end of the TASER cartridge are put into contact with the subject, completing the circuit with the single probe. When both probes impact less than four inches apart the Drive Stun follow up is an option. Even though both probes have impacted the subject NMI may not be successfully achieved. By using the Drive Stun technique as a follow up, the electrodes from the TASER cartridge will act as secondary points of contact, creating a longer distance for current to travel and increasing the probability of NMI. Whenever using the Drive Stun techniques, it is important to target the larger muscle groups to obtain the desired response.

Probe Removal

Any subject exposed to a TASER shall be taken to a medical facility for removal of the probes. Medical personnel shall be informed of the nature of the TASER injury and the manufacturer's recommendations for removal.

Policy References

MPP 5-06/040.95 Electronic Immobilization Device (TASER) Procedures , CDM 3-03/020.00 TASER, and Custody Division Directive 10-005 Personnel Authorized to Use the M26 and X26 TASER Electronic Control Devices.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin, please contact the Custody Division Headquarters Training Unit at [REDACTED]