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## Conducted Energy Device

### 303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of the TASER (TM).

### 303.2 POLICY

The TASER device is used to control a violent or potentially violent individual. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

### 303.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING TASER DEVICES

Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be issued and may carry the TASER device.

TASER devices are issued for use during a member's current assignment. Those leaving a particular assignment may be required to return the device to the department inventory.

Officers shall only use the TASER device and cartridges that have been issued by the Department. Uniformed officers who have been issued the TASER device shall wear the device in an approved holster. Non-uniformed officers may secure the TASER device in the driver's compartment of their vehicles.

Members carrying the TASER device should perform a spark test prior to every shift.

Officers who carry the TASER device while in uniform shall carry it in a weak-side holster on the side opposite the duty weapon.

- (a) All TASER devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
- (b) Whenever practicable, officers should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the TASER device.
- (c) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that the issued TASER device is properly maintained and in good working order.
- (d) Officers should not hold a firearm and the TASER device at the same time.

### 303.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

- (a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- (b) Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the TASER device may be deployed.

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If, after a verbal warning, an individual fails to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided that a cartridge has not been loaded into the device) or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER device. The aiming laser should not be intentionally directed into anyone's eyes.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the TASER device in the related report.

### **303.5 USE OF THE TASER DEVICE**

The TASER device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The TASER device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the TASER device is effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

#### **303.5.1 APPLICATION OF THE TASER DEVICE**

The TASER device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

- (a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
- (b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the TASER device to apprehend an individual.

The TASER device shall not be used to psychologically torment, to elicit statements or to punish any individual.

Once the subject complies with and remains compliant to the officers' request, orders or physical arrest, the use of the TASER device is no longer justified.

#### **303.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The use of the TASER device on certain individuals should be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options 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 using the device. This includes:

- (a) Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
- (b) Elderly, frail or obviously infirmed individuals or obvious juveniles.
- (c) Individuals with obviously low body mass or weighs less than 80 pounds.

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- (d) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
  - (e) Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray.
  - (f) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).
  - (g) Individuals known to the officer to be suffering a serious mental health issue, medical emergency, or unconsciousness.
8. Individuals are being escorted.
  9. Individuals that are operating a motor vehicle or holding a firearm.
  10. In situations where a back-up officer is not present or close by.

Because the application of the TASER device in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without probes) relies primarily on pain compliance, the use of the drive-stun mode should be limited to supplementing the probe-mode to complete the circuit, or as a distraction technique to gain separation between officers and the subject, thereby giving officers time and distance to consider other force options or actions.

#### 303.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

The preferred targeting areas include the individual's back or front lower-center mass. The head, neck, chest and groin should be avoided when reasonably practicable. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the TASER device probes to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

#### 303.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER DEVICE

Officers should apply the TASER device for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles. Officers should not intentionally apply more than one TASER device at a time against a single individual.

If the first application of the TASER device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should evaluate the situation and consider certain factors before additional applications of the TASER device, including:

- (a) Whether it is reasonable to believe that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.
- (b) Whether the probes are making proper contact.
- (c) Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.

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- (d) Whether verbal commands or other options or tactics may be more effective.

If after three cycles and the desired effects of the taser are not noticeable, officers need to explore other force options, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

#### **303.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS**

Officers should take appropriate actions to control and restrain the individual to minimize the need for longer or multiple exposures to the TASER device. As soon as practicable, officers shall notify a supervisor any time the TASER device has been discharged. Confetti tags should be collected and the expended cartridge, along with both probes and wire, should be submitted into evidence. The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

Photographs should be taken of the suspect and the locations on the body where the probes penetrated or had contact with the skin. These photographs will be submitted into evidence. If photographs are not taken, the officer will explain why in the use of force report.

#### **303.5.6 DANGEROUS ANIMALS**

The TASER device may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

#### **303.5.7 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS**

Officers are not authorized to carry department TASER devices while off-duty.

Officers shall ensure that TASER devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

### **303.6 TASER PROBE REMOVAL**

Once the individual have been properly handcuffed, care should be provided. While no medical attention should be necessary to eliminate the Taser's effects, the following steps will aid in the individual's recovery.

- (a) If probes are lodged in the skin, they should be removed by the officer if they are not in a sensitive tissue area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, or neck). (see Medical Treatment below).
- (b) Treat all Taser probes as biohazardous sharps, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handle appropriately. Universal precautions should apply.
- (c) Carefully place probes in the expended cartridge and maintain for evidence.
- (d) Treat puncture wounds with alcohol or an iodine swipe, photograph puncture areas, and bandage if necessary.
- (e) Once the person is in custody and they request medical treatment, the officer will immediately make arrangements for transport. (see Medical Treatment below and See Medical Aid and Response Policy)

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### **303.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove Taser probes from a person's sensitive area such as the groin, female breast, head, face or neck. Used Taser probes shall be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

All persons who have been struck by Taser probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device or who sustained direct exposure of the laser to the eyes shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

- (a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- (b) The person may be pregnant.
- (c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention (e.g., sweating profusely, breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, visible injury).
- (d) The Taser probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- (e) The person requests medical treatment.

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the Taser device. (See the Medical Aid and Response Policy).

### **303.8 DOCUMENTATION**

Officers shall document all TASER device discharges in the related arrest/crime reports and the Use of Force reporting forms. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy. Unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person, laser activation and arcing the device, other than for testing purposes, will also be documented on the report form.

[See attachment: Use of Force Report I.pdf](#)

#### **303.8.1 REPORTS**

The officer should include the following in the arrest/crime report:

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- (a) Identification of all personnel firing TASER devices
- (b) Identification of all witnesses
- (c) Medical care provided to the subject
- (d) Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions
- (e) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems
- (f) Evidence collected (audio/video recordings, photographs of injuries, and AFID's collected)

#### **303.9 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the TASER device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the TASER device was activated.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the TASER device. The device's onboard memory should be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor or Taser instructor and saved with the related arrest/crime report. Photographs of probe sites should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

Supervisors are responsible to make sure the data download is completed during the Use of Force review.

#### **303.10 TRAINING**

Personnel who are authorized to carry the TASER device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training. Any personnel who have not carried the as a part of their assignments for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a qualified instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been issued TASER devices should occur every year. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skills may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Lieutenant. All training and proficiency for TASER devices will be documented in the officer's training files.

Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive TASER device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry TASER devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.

The Lieutenant is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry TASER devices have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification.

Application of TASER devices during training could result in injuries and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Lieutenant should ensure that all training includes:

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- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Use of Force Policy.
- (c) Performing weak-hand draws or cross-draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing and firing a firearm.
- (d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin.
- (e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the TASER device and transitioning to other force options.
- (f) De-escalation techniques.
- (g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the TASER device.

## Attachments



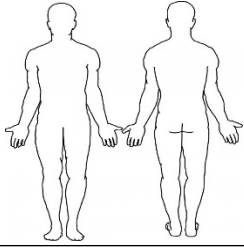
## Use of Force Report I.pdf



## North Liberty Police Department Use of Force Report

Date / /	Time:	Location:	Case Number:
Subjects Name		DOB / /	Height
		Weight	Phone Number
<b>Reason The Use of Force Was Necessary (check all that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> To Effect An Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> To Defend Self <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent Escape <input type="checkbox"/> To Defend Another Officer/Person <input type="checkbox"/> Protective Custody <input type="checkbox"/> To Dispatch Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
List Most Serious Offense(s) At Time Force Was Used			
Was the Subject Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Was Reporting Officer Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Describe Injuries:	Medical Treatment Provided To/By	Photos Taken By
Subjects That Resisted	Officers Present	Supervisor Notified/Time/By Whom	
<b>At the Time of the Arrest, the Subject Was:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Suspected to be Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Mentally Impaired/Emotionally Disturbed <input type="checkbox"/> Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
<b>Officer's Perception of Individual's Actions (Use Narrative to Describe Perceived Threat(s) Posted By Individual):</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Passive Resistance-Dead weight or non-compliance to Officer's lawful verbal direction, but offering no actively resistive movement <input type="checkbox"/> Active or Escape Resistance-Actions such as pushing, pulling, evasive arm movement, flailing, flight, muscle tension, etc. to avoid control. (Does not include attempts to harm the officer) <input type="checkbox"/> Assaultive-Agitated, combative state, physically assaultive actions and/or behavior that poses threat of injury to another (e.g., punching, kicking, clenching of fists, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Threatening/Serious Bodily Injury-Actions that may result in death or serious bodily injury			
<input type="checkbox"/> Presence <input type="checkbox"/> Full Uniform <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Uniform <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes Note: Officers not in full uniform, describe means of visual police identification (e.g., raid vest or jacket, displayed badge/ID, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Commands (Describe Details in Narrative Report) <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Techniques (Describe Details in Narrative Report) (Force used to gain control-restraint, come-alongs, takedowns-use of hands, arms, feet, legs) <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Spray/Chemical Agent (Describe Details in Narrative Report) Number of Bursts: _____ Duration of Bursts: _____ Distance From Subject: _____ Impact Location: _____ Time Between Application/decontamination: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Impact Weapon/Temporary Incapacitation (Describe Details in Narrative Report) <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Control Device (Describe Details in Narrative Report) <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Only <input type="checkbox"/> Spark Check <input type="checkbox"/> Drive Stun <input type="checkbox"/> Probe Deployment    Impact Location _____ Number of Cycles _____ Taser Unit # _____ Serial # _____ Cartridge Serial # _____ Distance From Subject _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Point A Firearm (Describe the Details in the Narrative) <input type="checkbox"/> Deadly Force-Firearm or other (Describe the Details in the Narrative) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Foot Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Stop Sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Shield <input type="checkbox"/> MRAP Used <input type="checkbox"/> TAC			
Restraint Method Used <input type="checkbox"/> Hand or Flex Cuffs <input type="checkbox"/> Leg Restraints <input type="checkbox"/> Body Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Spit Shield <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Officer Reporting:		Shift Supervisor(s):	
Other Witness(es)/Person(s) Present At Scene:		Shift Officers:	
Audio-Visual Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If no explain)		Supervisor(s) Who Responded to Scene:	

Death Occured <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, was subject(s) injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Complete Diagram below)	Officer(s) Taking Photos	Total Photos	Recordings <input type="checkbox"/> In Car <input type="checkbox"/> BWC
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Describe the Extent of Subject's Injuries and Place on the diagram: **Subject #1 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

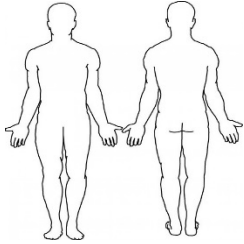
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Was Officer(s) Injured?  Yes  No (complete diagram below)



Describe the Extent of Officer's Injuries and Place on the Diagram: **Officer #1 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness(es) or Person(s) With Knowledge	Address	Phone
1		
2		
3		
4		

Officer's Narrative: Did officer prepare a detailed incident report describing the facts and circumstances leading to use of force?  Yes  No  
 If no, explain:

**Supervisory/Command Review**

Reporting Supervisor (Name and Badge #)	Date and Time of Supervisor Response	Location
Officer Who Used Force (Name and Badge #)	Was Subject(s) Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Was Officer(s) Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Supervisor's Narrative (Document steps taken to review and evaluate officer's use of force)

A/V Evidence Available <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reviewed By Supervisor/Date _____	A/V Evidence Available <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reviewed By Officer/Date _____	A/V Evidence Available <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reviewed By LT/Date _____
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Lieutenant Review Narrative (Confirm proper and complete investigation was conducted)

Officer Review (Print/Sign) Date _____	Supervisory Review (Print/Sign) Date _____	Lieutenants Review (Print/Sign) Date _____
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**Supervisory/Command: Review and Critique Use of Force with Involved Officer(s)**  
**Note Findings Above and Forward Completed Packet to Chief of Police**

Use of force requires an ON-SCENE review, including a narrative report from the responding supervisor. This is REQUIRED for incidents involving Chemical Spray, ECD probe deployment or drive stun; any incident resulting in injury or complaint of injury; or any other time deemed appropriate by a supervisor.