

TASER DEFENSE SYSTEM

Patrol Procedure

Subject: Use of the Taser

I. Purpose

To establish Public Safety philosophy and policy regarding the use of Taser and for dealing with resistive and combative subjects while minimizing risks of physical injury to officers, staff members and others.

II. Policy

Members of Public Safety shall use the Taser only within the guidelines of the Force Matrix and Use of Force Guidelines. Officers who have successfully completed the prescribed training course and received proper certification which assures safe and proper handling of the Taser shall be eligible to use the product in the performance of their duties. No officer shall carry The Taser without proper training, certification and approval of the Department Director.

III. Procedure

1. Use of the Taser

- 1.1. An officer shall use the Taser only within the guidelines of the Force Matrix and Use of Force Guidelines. In addition the Taser will be used in the following circumstances:
 - 1.1.1. To defend him/herself or a third party from what is reasonably believed an immediate threat of physical injury or death.
 - 1.1.2. To prevent the commission of suicide or self-inflicted serious physical injury.
 - 1.1.3. To deter vicious or aggressive animal that threatens the safety of the officer or others.
- 1.2. When an officer uses the Taser, he/she shall use the Taser only until the threat is neutralized. When the behavior that justified the use of the Taser ends, the officer must stop the use of the Taser.
- 1.3. When the Taser is operationally discharged on a person, EMS personnel will be summoned to the scene. EMS personnel will evaluate the person's need for medical treatment. Only medical personnel will remove taser probes, which lodge in a person's skin.
- 1.4. An officer shall not draw or display his/her Taser in a public place except when it is to be officially and properly used as noted in subsection 1, or for inspection by a supervisor.

2. Actions Following the Use of the Taser

- 2.1. Following the operational discharge of Taser probes, the Taser probes will be collected and placed into evidence. Officers will use biohazard precautions when handling Taser probes that were removed from a person. The used Taser Probes will be re-inserted, point down, into the discharged air cartridge and covered with biohazard tape before being placed into evidence bags.
- 2.2. Officers will photograph the areas of the probe strikes, if possible, before and after probe removal. Consent should be obtained before photographing personally sensitive areas. All photographs of probe will be placed into evidence.

3. Notification and Reporting Use of the Taser - An officer involved in the use or display of a Taser must report the incident as follows:

- 3.1. Whenever an officer uses or displays the Taser in the performance of Public Safety duties (excluding training conditions), the officer must verbally notify his/her on-duty supervisor as soon as time and circumstance permit. The event must be reported no later than the conclusion of the officer's current shift. If a supervisor is not on duty at the time of the reported incident, the officer

must contact an off-duty supervisor. A supervisor who uses or displays must contact the Director to advise of the occurrence.

- 3.2. An officer who has used or displayed the Taser, to gain compliance of a threat, must file a Physical Control report with the officer's supervisor immediately following the event or prior to the conclusion of the officer's current shift. Details will include specific circumstances leading to the use of the Taser, all officers involved in the incident, distance from which the Taser was used, serial numbers of all air cartridges expended, that EMS responded, and the results of any medical evaluation. A supervisor who uses or displays the Taser must file a Physical Control report prior to the conclusion of his/her current shift.
- 3.3. If an officer who used or displayed the Taser. Is physically affected by the use or display or injured and incapable of filing the aforementioned required report, the officer's supervisor must file a complete report as soon as possible pending further departmental investigation.
- 3.4. If a Taser is removed from its holster during an incident and no report (for whatever reason) is initiated, a Physical Control report shall be written even if the situation was resolved without the actual use of the Taser.
- 3.5. Supervisors should follow the procedures listed below when investigation the use of the Taser.
- 3.6. Each use of a Taser shall be investigated personally by a supervisor. If the display or use occurs when there is no supervisor on duty, an off-duty supervisor shall be contacted and he/she will determine who will conduct the investigation and when it will occur.
- 3.7. After conducting a thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding the use of the Taser, the supervisor will submit a detailed written report outlining the results of the investigation to the Director of CPSO. The Director will immediately submit a report to the Vice President for Finance and Administration. In addition to the results of the investigation, the reports shall contain the observations assessments of the supervisor and the Director regarding the justifiability of the use.
- 3.8. Approval to carry and/or use of the Taser on duty may be revoked at any point that an officer has demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to strictly adhere to established Departmental policy regarding the use of the Taser.

4. Inspections, Maintenance, and Storage of the Taser

- 4.1. Each officer who is certified and authorized to carry a Taser is solely responsible for any use or misuse of the Taser. The Taser will not be removed from University property except in an official capacity that is authorized by a supervisor.
- 4.2. Any damage to or malfunction of a Taser will be reported immediately to a supervisor.
- 4.3. Only Departmental issued or Director approved Tasers are to be carried or used on duty.

5. Training

- 5.1. All officers who carry a Taser, must first successfully complete certifying training and be accredited by the instructor as being satisfactorily proficient in its use.
- 5.2. No officer shall carry a Taser without proper training and subsequent periodic retraining and certification as required by the department.
- 5.3. Each officer must pass a written test as part of the initial training and any periodic training process. Such documentation will permanently maintained by the department.

6. Violation of Policies Contained Herein:

Violations of this policy and philosophy require an investigation reportable to the Director of PS and will result in appropriate progressive disciplinary action.

- 6.1. Accidental, unauthorized, or unnecessary use or display of the Taser resulting from negligence or misuse shall result in appropriate disciplinary action which may include dismissal.