

ELECTRONIC WEAPONS UPDATE

Desert Hot Springs Police Department – 1033
POST Course #23093 – 2 Hours

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to provide Police Officers with perishable skills training related to the use and deployment of Taser CEW's. Officers will review current department policies related to Taser CEW. In addition, Officers will gain an understanding of current case law and how it relates to the application of the Taser CEW.

Course Goal:

The course will cover updates and re-certification for users of the Taser 7 weapon.

I. Introduction and Registration

A. Welcoming remarks

1. Students will sign roster and recertification form
2. Housekeeping issues
3. Summary of course

II. Overview of the Taser 7

A. Targeting

1. Preferred target zones
2. Areas to avoid
3. Probe spread/NMI
4. Causes of limited effectiveness

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III. Tactics

A. Tactical considerations

1. Avoid over-dependence
2. Cover and distance
3. Other available force options/back-up officer
4. Landing zone
5. Preferred deployment
6. Cuffing under power

B. Contingencies

1. Limited or no effect
2. Weapon malfunction
3. Transitioning to other force options

IV. Smart Use Considerations

A. Using the Taser as a force option

1. Consider alternative options if no exigency exists
2. Give warnings prior to using force, if practicable
3. Give reasonable opportunity to comply
4. Cease using force once compliance is achieved
5. Justify each discharge
6. Avoid continuous/repeated discharges
7. Avoid use on higher-risk populations
8. Avoid drive-stuns

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9. Monitor subjects after CEW discharge
10. Use within law/policy

V. Standards

A. Fourth Amendment

1. Officers must comply with 4th Amendment as related to CEW use
2. Agencies set policies which may be more restrictive than the 4th Amendment

B. Fourteenth Amendment

1. Use of Force on pretrial detainees - Kingsley v. Hendrickson

C. Eighth Amendment

1. Use of Force on convicted prisoners – Whitley v. Albers

VI. Medical Risks

A. Higher risk populations

1. Pregnant women, children, elderly, etc.

B. Injuries from falls

1. CEWs frequently cause uncontrolled falls
2. Consider the environment around the subject

C. Increased injury risk

1. Elevated position
2. Flammability
3. Cardiac risks (heart-to-dart distance/duration of electrical discharge)

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- D. Physiologic/Metabolic risks
 - 1. Blood pressure/blood chemistry
 - 2. Respiration
 - 3. Heart rate and rhythm
 - 4. Adrenaline and stress hormones

VII. Use of Force/Taser Policy

- A. Department policy
 - 1. Use of the Taser
 - 2. Medical aid
 - 3. Reporting procedure
- B. Relevant case law
 - 1. Bryan v. McPherson (immediate threat)
 - 2. Young v. County of Los Angeles (force options)
 - 3. Armstrong v. Village of Pinehurst (resistance not equal to threat)
- C. Penal Code 835a

VIII. Skills Demonstrated

- A. Manipulation of the weapon
 - 1. Bring weapon up on target
 - 2. Safety switch (on/off)
 - 3. Trigger pull (fire with no cartridge)
 - 4. Reload

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B. Static target discharge

1. Loading cartridge
2. Bring weapon up on target
3. Safety switch (off/on)
4. Discharge live cartridge
5. Remove expended cartridge
6. Reload

C. Practical scenario

1. Students will confront a suspect and appropriately discharge the Taser
2. Evaluation of student's actions

IX. Course Conclusion

A. Review

1. Oral review and class discussion of covered material
2. Questions and answers