

Desert Hot Springs Police Department-1033 POST Course #23090

ELECTRONIC WEAPONS COURSE OUTLINE

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize Police Officers with the use and functionality of Taser CEW's. Officers will learn how the Taser CEW falls within the Desert Hot Springs Police Department use of force policy guidelines. 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 initial training and certification for users of the TASER 7 weapons.

I. INTRODUCTION AND REGISTRATION

A. Welcoming Remarks

1. Students will sign roster / Taser user documents
2. Housekeeping issues such as restrooms, phones etc.
3. Summary of course content to be covered

II. HISTORY AND DEFINITIONS

A. Evolution of the Weapon

1. TASER 7 weapon

B. Commonly Used Terms

1. Conducted energy weapon
2. Stun vs. NMI (Neuro Muscular Incapacitation)
3. Effects sensory and motor nervous system

III. EXPOSURES AND SAFETY

A. Electrical

1. Volts vs. Amps
2. Touching probes, wires, or arc will expose user to electrical discharge

B. What to Expect

1. Subject falls to the ground
2. Subject freezes in place
3. Subject will yell or scream

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IV. ELECTRONIC WEAPONS AND NOMENCLATURE

A. Nomenclature

1. Safety and trigger demonstration
2. Battery indicator/CID
3. Laser sight/fixed sights

B. Cartridges

1. Compressed nitrogen
2. Blast door colors and respective probe distances
3. Effective with or without penetration within 2.25 inches
4. Proper loading of cartridges into the TASER

C. Probe-Mode Activation

1. Trigger pull activates electrical discharge for 5 seconds
2. Holding trigger prolongs activation until released
3. Safety switch/deactivation of cycle
4. Preferred target zones
5. Probe spread

D. Drive-Stun Mode Activation

1. Cartridge in place
2. No cartridge in place
3. Drive stun target areas
4. Pain compliance only/not recommended

V. LEGAL/ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Relevant Case Law

1. Bryan v. McPherson (immediate threat)
2. Young v. County of Los Angeles (force options)
3. Armstrong v. Village of Pinehurst, NC (resistance not equal to threat)

B. Use of Force Considerations

1. Severity of the crime
2. Immediate threat
3. Active resistance/attempt to flee
4. Capable of compliance
5. Warnings prior to each deployment
6. Reasonable time to recover and comply
7. Penal Code 835(a)

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- C. Department Policy**
 - 1. Use/carrying
 - 2. Medical aid
 - 3. Reporting procedure

VI. MEDICAL ASPECTS

- A. Physical Effects**
 - 1. Can increase risk of sudden death
 - 2. Changes in blood chemistry
 - 3. Minor skin irritation
 - 4. Affects respiration/heart rate and rhythm
 - 5. Adrenaline & stress hormones
 - 6. Longer exposure equals greater risk
 - 7. Must take steps to minimize exposures
 - 8. Higher risk populations: pregnant women, elderly, children, sickly

VII. DEPLOYMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

- A. Aiming**
 - 1. Sight or laser sight
 - 2. Optimal deployment range
 - 3. Center mass

- B. Tactical Considerations**
 - 1. Avoid Taser over-dependence
 - 2. Lethal cover
 - 3. Distance
 - 4. Back up for control / cuff
 - 5. Attempt verbal compliance/de-escalation
 - 6. Display of Taser, laser or arc
 - 7. K-9
 - 8. Environment
 - 9. Announcements
 - 10. Window of opportunity – restrain quickly & avoid prolonged exposures

- C. Contingencies**
 - 1. Clothing
 - 2. Single probe hits / misses
 - 3. Close probe spread
 - 4. Operator error
 - 5. Low nerve / low muscle mass
 - 6. Wires break
 - 7. Aiming Angle / suspect's position

- D. Report Writing**

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1. Articulate why force was reasonable
2. Describe immediate threat to self/others
3. Cover "How" and "Why"
4. End result

VIII. PRACTICAL APPLICATION AND ARREST TECHNIQUES

A. Safety Rules

1. No live firearms in training area
2. Designate instructor or student as safety officer
3. Protective eyewear for weapon handling
4. Exposure risks

B. Manipulation of the Weapon

1. Function testing
2. Bring weapon up on target/aiming
3. Safety switch (off/on)
4. Trigger press (dry fire)
5. Safety on
6. Reload

C. Static Target Discharge

1. Loading (cartridge)
2. Bring weapon up on target
3. Safety switch (off/on)
4. Give warning/deployment announcement
5. Discharge (live fire)
6. Unload
7. Reload

D. Practical Scenario

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

E. Voluntary Exposure

1. Experience the effects of a deployment
2. Discuss experience/effects

IX. COURSE CONCLUSION

A. Review

1. Written test
2. Questions & answers
3. Oral review (open class discussion of material)