

Oakland County Sheriff's Office
General Order # 1.23



SUBJECT: TASER Energy Weapon		NUMBER: 1.23
EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/3/2026 REVIEW DATE: Annually		MACP Standard Impact: N/A
REPLACES AND RESCINDS: General Order 59 Dated 11/21/2024	DISTRIBUTION: All Personnel	NUMBER OF PAGES: 5

This order replaces and rescinds all previously issued orders, procedures, rules and regulations, notices and/or practices in conflict with this General Order.

I. PURPOSE

To provide deputies with policy and procedures for the use of TASER Energy Weapons.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office that TASER Energy Weapons be used in accordance with the procedures set forth below and Sheriff's Office approved training.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. TASER Energy Weapon (TEW) – A handheld energy weapon that can cause electro-muscular disruption. When used by a trained deputy, TEW's may be a less lethal alternative to control an actively resistant subject.
- B. TASER Operator – Deputies who have successfully completed the TASER Operator Training for the respective issued TASER and successfully complete all mandatory annual training.
- C. TASER Application – A TASER application shall be considered a 5-second TASER cycle, regardless of the number of probes deployed.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Carrying a TASER
 - 1. All uniformed personnel wearing a duty belt who are authorized to carry or deploy a TASER and have successfully completed training, shall carry a TASER.
 - a. Personnel who are not issued a TASER shall sign one out at their work location, unless a TASER is not available.
 - 2. The carry and use of a personally owned TASER is prohibited.
 - 3. The TASER shall be carried in an approved holster (Blade-Tech or Blackhawk) in one of the following manners:
 - a. Affixed to the duty belt, worn on the support (non-firearm) side of the duty belt, in a cross-draw manner.

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- b. Affixed to the exterior ballistic vest, worn on the support (non-firearm) side of the vest, in a cross-draw manner, utilizing the respective approved holster MOLLE attachment.
 - c. Future TASER Energy Weapon Holsters may be authorized by the Sheriff.
 4. While storing or carrying TASERs, deputies shall have control of or ensure agency weapons are secured.
 5. The following personnel are not authorized to carry or deploy a TASER when working in the respective capacities:
 - a. Marine Unit PTNE Deputies
 - b. Mounted Unit PTNE Deputies
 - c. Plainclothes PTNE Deputies
 - d. Reserve Deputies
- B. Shared TASERs Daily Sign Out & Return
 1. Deputies who are not personally issued a TASER shall sign one out from their respective assigned work location at the beginning of their shift. At the end of their shift, deputies must return and sign the TASER back in to its original location.
- C. Daily Function Check
 1. Deputies shall perform a daily function check, ensuring weapon functionality, non-deployed cartridges, and battery in the **Function Test Mode**.
- D. Additional Labeling on a TASER
 1. Installation of labels, tags engraving, use of markers/paint markers or the like on a TASER (issued or shared) is strictly prohibited.
- E. Battery Charging
 1. Charging of the TASER battery shall be done utilizing the TASER Charging Sync Stations. TASER batteries must be recharged and synced:
 - a. After a TASER deployment
 - b. Once per month
 - c. When the battery level reaches 20% of power
 2. Utilizing the "Dock & Walk" concept, TASER batteries are not required to remain with their assigned TASER.
 - a. Deputies shall not carry spare batteries, as the swapped/spare batteries are to be left in the TASER Charging Sync Stations and available to all personnel throughout the agency.
- F. TASER Application Considerations
 1. Use of a TASER is prohibited and shall not be used:
 - a. In or near flammable or explosive environments.
 - b. In elevated positions where the subject's fall could reasonably result in great bodily harm or death.
 - c. In or around a body of water/swamp/mud/muck, where the fall into the environment could lead to possibility of drowning.
 - d. Situations when the subject displays only passive resistance, merely failing to comply with verbal commands.

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- e. Individuals who are operating machinery, vehicles or similar (car, motorcycle, bicycle, skateboard, etc.).
 - f. Any situation where an uncontrolled fall or response could result in great bodily harm, unless the response to resistance can be legally justified (i.e. deadly force).
2. Use of the TASER on the following types of individuals (sensitive populations) shall be avoided unless other forms of subject control have failed or cannot be attempted:
 - a. Females who are known, or reasonably believed to be pregnant
 - b. Young children
 - c. Elderly
 - d. Persons with extremely low body mass or who are frail or infirm
 3. When practical, deputies shall intentionally target the "Preferred Target Zones" of a subject when deploying the TASER, which include:
 - a. The entire back side of the subject (most preferred), avoiding the head and neck
 - b. The front side of the subject, avoiding the head, neck, chest, and groin
 4. Deputies shall not intentionally target a subject's head, eyes, throat, chest, or genitals unless legally justified (i.e. deadly force).
- G. De-Escalation/Verbal Warning & TASER Warning Alert
1. Whenever practical and reasonable, deputies should issue a **verbal warning** prior to deploying a TASER on a person, giving the suspect the opportunity to voluntarily comply with the deputy's lawful orders.
 2. Whenever practical and reasonable, deputies should **deploy a TASER Warning Alert** prior to deploying a TASER on a person, giving the suspect the opportunity to voluntarily comply with the deputy's lawful orders.
- H. Use of TASER
1. TASERs shall only be used in an objectively reasonable manner consistent with Sheriff's Office policies and procedures when responding to resistance.
 2. When deploying the TASER, deputies shall deliver the least number of TASER cartridges and/or applications necessary to gain compliance.
 3. Deputies shall assess the effectiveness after the initial set of probes, prior to administering additional cycles/probes and providing a reasonable amount of time for compliance, taking all factors of the incident into consideration.
 - a. When assessing the effectiveness of the application, Deputies shall determine if an alternative tactic should be employed based on the changing response to resistance of the subject.
 4. When other deputies or other agency officers are present, the deputy should, if reasonably safe and feasible, consider announcing "TASER!" three times to give other deputies/officers warning that a TASER is being deployed.
- I. Removal of TASER Probes/Medical Attention
1. When tactically safe to do so, deputies shall remove TASER probes from subjects, as instructed in training.
 - a. Probes that are in a subject's head, neck, groin area, breast(s) of a woman, or imbedded in bone shall be removed by a medical professional.

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2. Deputies shall use universal precautions, using protective gloves (at minimum) when removing probes as they are a biological sharp hazard.
 3. Deputies shall ensure first aid is given to the probe sites after probe removal by medical personnel or a deputy.
 - a. At a minimum, the probe area on the subject's body shall be wiped with an alcohol wipe and an adhesive bandage applied.
- J. Medical Clearance
1. Upon arrival at the jail, deputies must notify Booking of subjects who have received any TASER application.
 2. Subjects who received three or less TASER applications (three or less 5-second TASER cycles) must be seen by the Main Jail Medical Staff.
 3. Subjects who received four or more TASER applications (four or more 5-second TASER cycles) must be cleared by the hospital prior to booking.
- K. Post-Incident TASER Procedures
1. All recoverable probes, wire, and cartridges used shall be placed in OCSO Property Room, in accordance with OCSO Property Room Procedures, noting on the Property tab of the incident report.
 2. The TASER battery shall be exchanged with a charged battery, placing the battery in the charging/sync station, which conducts an automatic upload of weapon data.
 3. An incident report shall be completed noting pre-incident details, the subject's resistance, and the deputy's response to resistance, prior to the end of the deputy's shift.
 - a. The incident report shall include the TASER serial number and all deployed TASER cartridge serial numbers.
 - b. The incident report shall document (in the narrative and by attached photograph) all injuries on the subject, apparent or claimed, along with all probe entries.
 4. An OCSO Response to Resistance Form shall be completed and submitted via the online system, prior to the end of the deputy's shift. The Force Analysis unit shall complete the online TASER Use Form.
- L. Supervisory Responsibilities
1. Supervisors shall ensure complete accountability of all shared TASERs, cartridges, probes and charging sync stations assigned to their respective work locations.
 - a. Damaged TASERs or TASER equipment shall be documented and reported to the Homeland Security, Wellness & Professional Development Division Command and Range.
 - b. Missing TASERs or TASER equipment shall be documented and reported to the Homeland Security, Wellness & Professional Development Division Command.
 2. Supervisors shall:
 - a. Ensure the incident report and the Response to Resistance Report is completed by the respective deputy and entered into the agency's electronic systems.

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- b. Review the incident report and the Response to Resistance Report in the agency's electronic systems, reporting any issues (administrative or tactical) to their supervisor for additional action to be taken.

M. Homeland Security, Wellness & Professional Development Division Responsibilities

1. The Force Analysis Unit shall review all Response to Resistance incidents, including TASER tactics/deployments.
 - a. During the Force Analysis review, the AXON Evidence.com TASER Deployment
2. The Training Unit shall ensure compliance with TASER training requirements.



ISSUED BY: Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard