

"Keep Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods."

ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1153.0, USE OF TASER ENERGY WEAPON (TEW)

EFFECTIVE DATE:	9/15/2025
RESCINDS:	N/A
DISTRIBUTION GROUP:	ALL EMPLOYEES
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY:	PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION COMMANDER
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:	4
RELATED LAWS:	Florida Statute 943.1717 , and ATF Rul. 76-6
RELATED POLICIES:	P&P 1128
CHIEF OF POLICE:	ERIC D. SMITH

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members with guidance and direction on the use of the Taser Energy Weapon.

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the Orlando Police Department that members performing official duties shall comply with applicable law, specifically Fourth Amendment standards, by using a level of force that is objectively reasonable in light of surrounding facts and circumstances.

Members shall only use the level and amount of force that is objectively reasonable to effectively attain lawful law enforcement objectives and only when no effective alternative appears to exist or is impractical under the same or similar circumstances.

The decision to use force "requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the member or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." In addition, the reasonableness of a

particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight...the question is whether the officers' actions are 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989).

3. DEFINITIONS

Central Information Display (CID) - The CID is a display on the back of the energy weapon that provides information about the energy weapon. When the selector switch is moved to the up (ARMED) position, the CID will display icons that indicate the weapon's functional status.

Critical Incident – When a TEW is deployed on a subject that results in serious/critical injury or experiences a serious/critical health condition resulting from a TEW deployment and the subject is transported to the hospital, or when the subject dies.

Evidence.com – Axon Enterprise, Inc (Axon) solution for secure digital media storage and management.

Function Test Mode – A mode where the device will conduct a fully automated diagnostic self-test.

Injury – Probe contact with a sensitive area (head, face, neck, female breast or male nipple area and the pelvic triangle), the penetration of skin and/or injury claimed by the subject.

Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI) – When a Taser is deployed using the probes against a subject, and the probe spread on the subject is sufficiently large enough, the subject's sensory and motor nervous systems will be affected, incapacitating both systems and limiting their ability to resist. The effect is known as NMI.

Person in Crisis: Used to refer to an individual exhibiting signs of medical distress or bizarre behavior, such as severe agitation, profuse sweating, hyperactivity, confusion, intense paranoia, hallucinations or disrobing, that appear suddenly but with short duration.

Securing Under Power – A technique used to secure a subject during the activation cycle, as instructed through training.

Taser 7 Cartridge – A cartridge unique to the Taser 7 platform, which has two probes in it.

Taser 10 Cartridge – A cartridge tube that has one singular probe in it, which expels a projectile (probe) upon explosion.

Taser 10 Magazine – A magazine that is inserted into the front of the TASER 10 device, which holds 10 cartridges. Duty magazines (black in color) are the only magazines authorized for field use. All other magazines (training/purple, HALT/blue, and inert/red) are for training use only.

Taser Coordinator – A TEW Master Instructor designated to manage the agency's Taser program. The coordinator shall develop training, ensure recertification criteria is met, distribute updates and information.

Taser Energy Weapon (TEW) – The Taser 10, known as the TEW, is an electronic device that transmits electrical impulses to override the central nervous system that controls the skeletal muscles. It is designed to incapacitate a target from distance.

Warning Alert - Prior to cartridge deployment, a feature that emits a bright light from the front of the TASER as well as a loud noise.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 AUTHORIZED USERS

Only those who have satisfactorily completed the agency's approved training course shall be authorized to carry a TEW. Basic certification for the use of a TEW shall consist of no less than the manufacturer's minimum recommendations or requirements of Florida Statutes, whichever is greater. Members issued a TEW shall be trained and recertified annually by the Training Section on the TEW.

All sworn personnel will be issued a TEW; however, carrying the device is optional for those at the rank of Captain and above. All officers issued a TEW shall carry the TEW when engaged in any uniform assignment, including enforcement related to extra-duty. The TEW and TEW Magazine are serialized and assigned to the member.

On or off duty, members are responsible for the security of the TEW. The TEW will be kept safely secured in locations not accessible to juveniles or unauthorized persons. When a vehicle is left at a repair facility for maintenance unattended, the member will remove all weapons, including the TEW.

No changes, alterations, modifications, or substitutions shall be made to the TEW. An authorized vendor shall make all repairs to the TEW.

4.2 DEVICE READINESS

Uniformed members shall carry the TEW on the duty belt, in an approved holster on the non-dominant side of the body. No portion of the TEW shall cross the mid-line of the body when holstered. Members will draw the TEW with their non-dominant hand and shall not cross draw. Members may carry their assigned TEW while off duty. While off duty, the TEW must be concealed and carried in an approved holster. Non-sworn employees are not authorized to carry the TEW.

All TEW models with the software capability shall be preprogrammed to automatically shut down electrical discharge after 5 seconds, regardless of if the trigger is being held down. The TEW utilizes Axon Signal Technology and will activate all body worn cameras (BWC's) within range when the device is armed.

All TEW users shall be issued 10 duty cartridges and 1 duty magazine. All 10 cartridges shall be kept loaded in the magazine. Only agency-approved battery power sources will be used in the TEW. Members are prohibited from swapping or borrowing a magazine or battery from one another. All battery replacements should be retrieved from the battery docking stations. TEW users shall replace their TEW battery every thirty days, or sooner if the battery level drops to 20% or lower or as soon as practical following any intentional or unintentional discharge. Members are prohibited from taking a spare battery from the battery docking stations. Members shall only conduct a one-for-one battery swap.

When placed into the Axon Dock ecosystem, the rechargeable battery pack will upload the weapon data and firmware automatically as well as recharge and condition the battery. Members shall not take a rechargeable battery pack out of the docking station until the status light is green.

When a new battery pack is inserted into the handle it will automatically synchronize the weapon's logs to the battery pack and may update the energy weapon firmware. **Do not remove the battery pack or perform any other action with the TEW until the icon disappears from the CID (this may take several minutes).**

Members issued a TEW shall be responsible for confirming the device is charged and in proper working order. When carrying a TEW, members shall conduct a function test of the TEW prior to the start of each shift. If a member believes the TEW is not operating properly, becomes inoperable while on duty, or if a TEW magazine is lost or damaged, the member shall immediately notify their supervisor and Watch Commander. Watch Commanders can access an emergency replacement stored within the Quartermaster Unit and shall email the Department Taser Coordinator to reassign the new equipment to the officer in the appropriate database.

Members who do not carry the TEW while performing the normal duties of his or her job, are also required to perform a function test when the TEW is carried during an operational assignment.

Section Commanders will ensure the TEW data downloads and battery replacements are conducted by members monthly.

4.3 DEPLOYMENT

The TEW is a less-lethal weapon and is not intended to replace the firearm as the primary tool used when there is a potential for the use of deadly force (e.g. building searches, felony stops, armed encounters). Members should keep in mind the limitations as well as the capabilities of their issued TEW.

Officers should apply restraint techniques consistent with Use of Force Policy and handcuff the subject under power as soon as practical. Each activation of the TEW is considered an additional response to resistance.

The use of the TEW must involve an arrest or a custodial situation during which the person who is the subject of the arrest or custody escalates resistance to the officer from passive physical resistance to active physical resistance and the person: (a) has the apparent ability to physically threaten the officer or others (including themselves); or (b) is preparing or attempting to flee or escape. However, no policy/guideline can describe every situation a member might face.

When practical, members should use verbal commands to alert assisting personnel of the intended TEW deployment by stating, "Taser, Taser, Taser." Unless doing so would compromise the safety of others.

The method of deployment of the TEW is the probe mode. Through the deployment of the probes, electricity passes along the connected wires and completes a circuit, ideally resulting in NMI. The TEW is capable of deploying up to 10 probes, individually, at a range of 45ft. Like with previous models, the TEW requires a minimum of two successfully deployed probes in order to have the desired effect. However, each probe is fired individually with a point of aim/impact as determined by the officer. If the first two deployments do not produce a change in behavior, the officer should deploy additional probes as required until compliant behavior is achieved. Each subsequent discharge after the initial two deployments to obtain NMI, must be justified as a separate use of force.

The TEW probes shall not be intentionally aimed at a person's head, neck, chest (above the nipples), or groin unless intensified techniques or deadly force are warranted. The recommended point of aim for the frontal discharges is just above the belt line (lower abdomen) to the feet, including the arms.

Absent exigent circumstances involving imminent great bodily harm the TEW shall not be deployed on elementary school age children, the elderly, females reasonably believed to be pregnant, and individuals with apparent physical disabilities impairing mobility, and handcuffed or otherwise secured subjects. If a member deploys a TEW in any of the circumstances listed above, the member must clearly document the exigent circumstances which made the deployment objectively reasonable in the Use of Force Report.

Officers should take into consideration environmental factors, which could expose a subject to associated injury as a result of the Taser deployment. Examples include:

1. Falls
 - a. Subjects standing on a roof, on a bridge, on top of a vehicle, near windows/stairs, or subjects on busy streets.
2. Drowning
 - a. Subjects in boats or near bodies of water.
3. Flammable Liquid
 - a. Members should not discharge the TEW in environments where potentially flammable, volatile or

explosive materials are present.

4. Chemical Spray

- a. The TEW should not be discharged if a flammable chemical spray has been deployed on the subject.

5. Animals

- a. A TEW may be used on animals in circumstances where the use of such device is necessary for the safety of the member, the public or the animal.

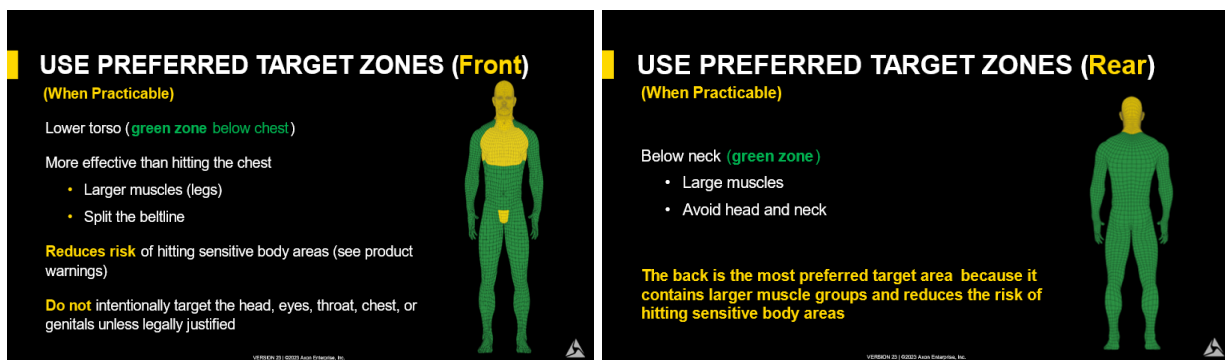
The TEW shall not be used on subjects operating bicycles or motor vehicles except in cases of aggressive resistance. A subject is deemed to be operating a motor vehicle if the motor vehicle is in motion. This includes vehicles, motorcycles, scooters, boats and bicycles.

The TEW shall not be used on subjects who are holding illegal drugs in his/her mouth when the sole method of their resistance is the refusal to spit the illegal drugs out of his/her mouth.

If there is an injury or complaint of injury or other medical necessity, OFD shall be requested and advised that the subject has been impacted by the TEW. In cases where a subject is struck with a probe in the face, throat, groin, female breast, or male nipple area, OFD must respond to the scene to treat the injury. However, OFD will not be responsible for removing probes. The subject, when struck in any of these areas, must be transported to a hospital for probe removal.

Only members certified to use a TEW are authorized to remove probes that have struck the subject in non-sensitive areas. TEW probes should be removed as soon as the member determines the potential for further resistance has subsided. TEW probes are a biohazard and must be treated as such. Consequently, latex gloves must be used when removing TEW probes.

After a Use of Force incident, replacement cartridges will be issued by the Quartermaster Unit with a requisition signed by a member with the rank of Lieutenant or above. If the Quartermaster Unit is closed, a Watch Commander may obtain the cartridges and issue them to the member. Managers approving replacement cartridges must ensure that the circumstances surrounding the discharging of the TEW are properly documented.



4.4 DOCUMENTATION

Digital photographs will be taken of the location where the TEW probes struck the body. Employees taking photographs of subjects must do so out of public view if the probes strike private areas of the subject's body.

Although Body Worn Camera footage can be marked or tagged automatically, during activations of taser deployment, etc., or manually by hitting a button to tag or mark the footage while recording, this is not considered taking a photo.

The probes and cartridges must be packaged as evidence in accordance with the current issue of the Exposure Control Plan. TEW Probes and TEW Cartridges are to be logged into evidence. The probes shall be seated into the cartridges

and placed into a Sharps container. The Sharps container shall be placed into a brown paper bag with all used serial numbers listed on the package and the evidence receipt. Cartridge numbers used shall be entered in the member's report.

In the event of a Critical TEW Incident, on call CSI shall be notified to document the incident. While on scene, the TEW and its contents shall be collected by CSI with the cartridges still inside the magazine, as soon as possible. No manipulation of the TEW shall take place prior to collection by CSI. The department TEW Coordinator shall be notified.

In the event of an accidental discharge, a Use of Force report will not be needed; however, a supervisor must be notified of an accidental discharge and ensure that the Incident Report is completed. The incident report should be forwarded to the Training Section Supervisor, and a member may be required to attend remedial training on the use of the TEW. The spent cartridge will be placed into Property and Evidence. The remedial training will be conducted by a Training Section Instructor. Remedial training can also be conducted at a supervisor's request.

4.5 DOWNLOADING DATA

Prior to the end of shift, following a TEW deployment, the officer involved shall exchange their TEW battery at a Taser 10 battery docking/recharging station for a battery illuminated green. The officer shall inspect the TEW for any damage and conduct maintenance cleaning.

Post Use of Force, supervisors will request the TEW activity log on OPD Online, and the request will be completed within 72 hours by the TEW Coordinator. The TEW activity log will be under the appropriate case number on Evidence.com for download.

5. FORMS AND APPENDICES

N/A