

PERRY TOWNSHIP 2013 TASER POLICY

D. PROCEDURES FOR DEPLOYING THE TASER Neuro - Muscular Incapacitation Device (X-26 Taser):

Consistent with the Perry Township Police Department's policy of using an action response continuum the Taser may be used as an intermediate weapon. The Taser can be used to gain compliance with those individuals who resist our lawful mission or are aggressive and threatening to officers or innocent parties. The Taser is a weapon that is to be deployed as an option when time permits in circumstances outlined in the procedure.

1. Only officers trained on the use of Taser and who have completed the instructional course are approved to use the device as an intermediate weapon. Officers will follow manufactures guidelines as outlined in the Taser X26 Operator's Manuel and any sub sequential manufactures updates or advisories.
2. Officers will receive refresher courses on the Taser on an annual basis or in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
3. The Taser is designed to temporarily immobilize a violent suspect or individual who is resistant to lawful police authority.
4. The Taser should be used within the action response use of force continuum to control potentially violent suspects or individuals who are resisting lawful police authority.
5. Examples of situations in which the Taser may be used include, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Dealing with the mentally ill subject who is perceived violent.
 - a. Armed offender(s).
 - c. Warrant service where offender(s) are perceived violent.
 - d. Violent persons who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
 - e. Persons expressing the intent and having means to commit suicide.
 - f. When the officer reasonably believes that this device if deployed will stop resistance or any threat of violence.

- g. With all of the above in mind, the Taser is not a substitute for Lethal Force.



6. The recommended point of aim to the front is to target the lower-center of mass for front shots. The blue highlighted area in the above target man represents the preferred target area. There are three reasons:
- Simplify targeting for all Taser systems to one easy to remember map, avoiding chest shots when possible and the risk of a head /eye shot.
 - Close spread ECD discharges to the front of the body are more effective when at least one probe is in the major muscle.
 - Back shots are the preferred area when practical.
7. Officers should be prudent before deploying the Taser on certain individuals including but not limited to the following:
- Physically challenged (wheelchairs).
 - Pregnant women and young children.
 - Individuals who have debilitating illness or the elderly.
 - In areas that may have combustibles, gases or blasting materials.
 - Subjects that are in control of a motor vehicle.
 - Handcuffed subjects unless they pose a danger to themselves, public safety officers or the public.
 - Elevated position where a fall may cause substantial injury or death.

8. The projectiles and the cartridge packs used will be submitted as evidence as prescribed in evidence submission procedures. Photographs should be taken of the affected area(s) of the suspect where the Taser was deployed.
9. The Taser may be kept in the trunk of the patrol car or officers may carry the Taser in a holster that is worn on the weak side away from the gun side.
10. Care of the Taser:
 - a. Do not store the Taser cartridge at temperatures above 150 degrees Fahrenheit. Extreme temperatures can cause defects in the cartridges. The Taser and cartridges will be removed from the patrol cars at the end of the officer's shift.
 - b. At the beginning of the shift, officers will ensure the Taser batteries are charged and functioning properly. The check will be noted on the officer's daily inspection report.
 - c. Periodically check the expiration date of the Taser cartridge and ensure the blast doors are intact. Remove expired and defective cartridges from service.