

# KING5 NEWS

## Non-lethal but powerful

### Seattle police use new, non-lethal weapon

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REPORTED BY Jeff Gradney

SEATTLE – Seattle police used a new, non-lethal weapon for the first time to subdue a suspect at Eastlake Avenue and Harrison Street on Thursday evening.

The 25-minute stand-off with a mentally ill man threatening to use a knife ended when he was stunned with an M-26 Advanced Taser. Police said it was the perfect solution to a dangerous situation, preventing injury to both the suspect as well as officers.

"The neat thing is that when you fire this, it immediately incapacitates the subject. The benefit is that once it's turned off, they're perfectly fine," said Steve Ward of the Seattle Police SWAT team.



Officer Steve Ward of Seattle SWAT Team with M26

The Advanced Taser fires tiny prongs connected to it by minute wires that send an electrical shock, causing the target to temporarily lose muscle control.

After officer Tom Duran shot and killed mentally ill David Walker, who was also armed with a knife, last April, mayor Paul Schell ordered police to find new and non-lethal weapons to use.

In addition to being non-lethal, the Advanced Taser also has a computer data port from which firing information can be gathered to help prevent misuse. The weapon costs around \$400.

The only drawback for officers training to use the Advanced Taser is that they have to experience being shot themselves, an effect that has been described as "interesting."