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# Seattle Police Department

## DIRECTIVES

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Date: December 22, 2000

Directive: D 00-92

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### PROVISIONAL DEPARTMENT POLICY: ASSIGNMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF M26 TASERS

The following is a list of guidelines for the deployment of the M26 Taser. Sworn personnel selected to deploy with the M26 Taser shall attend a four-hour training and certification class prior to being issued a Department M26 Taser. Each M26 Taser shall be individually assigned, and shall be listed by serial number on the employee's equipment card filed in the Evidence Section.

All sworn personnel authorized to carry the M26 Taser shall adhere to the following procedures, as well as the curricula of the M26 training and certification course. Until further notice, these procedures and guidelines, in addition to the curricula of the 4-hour training and certification course, has the force and effect of Department Policy.

- I. **QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION**
  - A. Sworn personnel must successfully complete a Department authorized training and certification course before they may carry and use an M26 Taser.
  - B. Authorized officers may only carry a department issued M26 Taser and M26 Taser cartridges.
  
- II. **APPLICATIONS**
  - A. All applications of the M26 Taser shall conform to the principles outlined in the training and certification program, consistent with the RCW definition of necessary force (RCW 9A.16.010)
  - B. At the earliest practical opportunity, an SPD supervisor shall be notified and respond to the scene of a potential or completed application of the M26 Taser. Preferably, and whenever possible, a supervisor shall be on-scene during an incident where the use of the M26 Taser is considered. It is recognized, however, that on-scene supervisory command may not always be possible or timely.
  
- III. **POST-APPLICATION PROCEDURES**
  - A. Whenever an M26 Taser is applied to an individual, a Seattle Fire Department Aid or Medic Unit shall be called to the scene.
  - B. Expended Taser darts and cartridges shall be handled as a biohazard and (unless required to be retained as evidence or to document malfunction) shall be disposed of in properly marked biohazard containers.
  - C. Barring an emergency, qualified medical personnel at an authorized medical facility shall be responsible for removing M26 darts that penetrate an individual's skin.
  
- IV. **REPORTING THE USE OF M26 TASER**
  - A. When the M26 Taser is deployed on an individual, involved personnel shall follow the Department use of physical force reporting procedures. (See Section 1.149 – Reporting the Use of Force)
  
- V. **REPLACEMENT M26 CARTRIDGES AND BATTERIES**
  - A. Sworn personnel are individually responsible for obtaining replacement M26 cartridges and batteries when they deplete their supply. Each precinct stationmaster shall maintain, control and record the inventory of replacement cartridges and batteries.
  
- VI. **YEARLY QUALIFICATIONS**
  - A. Each authorized user of the M26 Taser shall qualify with their weapon once a year.
  - B. The qualification date shall be published by directive at the start of each year.
  - C. Unexcused absences shall terminate an authorization to carry the M26 Taser until the qualification can be made up.

By Order of

  
R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Chief of Police