


PBP FORM 290  PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE <i>"...honor, integrity, courage, respect, and compassion."</i>		SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">"TASER"</p>	ORDER NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">12-13</p>
		PLEAC STANDARD: <p style="text-align: center;">1.3.4</p>	PAGE 1 OF 8
RE-ISSUE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1/5/2021</p>	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">5/1/2012</p>	REVIEW MONTH: <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p>	RESCINDS: <p style="text-align: center;">ALL PREVIOUS</p>
		REVIEW DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1/5/2021</p>	

1.0 PURPOSE OR POLICY

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of the TASER 7 by members of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.
- 1.2 The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has approved the use of the TASER 7 to provide officers with an additional use of force option. This is a less lethal device that falls under Level 3, "Compliance Techniques," as defined in Procedural Order #12-08 "Matrix of Control" and is to be used to control actively resisting subjects, aggressive non-compliant subjects, violent or potentially violent subjects.
- 1.3 Pittsburgh Bureau of Police personnel will refer to Procedural Order #12-06, "Use of Force" which shall continue in effect as the Bureau policy regarding the utilization and reporting of force.
- 1.4 The TASER is NOT a replacement for the officer's duty firearm. In those incidents where the officer reasonably believes the actions of another constitute an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or a third party, the TASER should not be used without lethal cover.

See also General Order 12-06 Use of Force {justification of force and de-escalation}.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **TASER** – A less lethal device used to incapacitate subjects by discharging an electronic current into the subject. The TASER is a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) system and uses propelled wires to conduct energy to a remote target, thereby controlling and affecting the central nervous system. (Neuro Muscular Incapacitation – (NMI).
- 2.2 **Drive (Touch) Stun** - The touch (drive stun) method of application is not a preferred method of use for the Taser 7. This method of deployment increases the probability of creating burns to the skin at various degrees. The adaptive cross connection technology can make the Taser 7 effective even if some probes do not hit the target. Electricity is intentionally driven between all the contacts to maximize the impact of the probes deployment and to compensate for close spread or clothing disconnects. In the event the drive stun is needed, Officers should take into consideration that this type of deployment is not designed to cause incapacitation and primarily becomes a pain compliance option. Recommended areas for the drive stun are the lateral areas (outer portion) of the thighs, mound of the calves, and the outer forearms. Areas of concern are the face / head, neck, and groin areas. Officers should try to avoid the pelvic triangle, the trachea, and the back of the neck / cervical portion of the spine. Officers should only target these areas when they are defending against a violent attack to prevent serious bodily injury or death. The reasonable officer standard will apply when implanting a drive stun.
- 2.3 **Discharge** – To fire a Taser 7 cartridge sending probes down range or implementing a show of force by displaying the arc.
- 2.4 **Penetrate** – To enter or diffuse through or into the clothing or skin.
- 2.5 **Function / Spark Test** – Activation of the TASER 7 with the cartridges inserted for the purpose of verifying the operability of the TASER 7 as well as preserving the life of the TASER's internal electronics. There is no need to remove the cartridges while sparking testing the Taser 7. Allow the TASER 7 to run the full (5) five seconds.

- Ensure the Taser 7 safety is engaged (Taser is Off) and both cartridges are loaded. Taser 7 should be equipped with

the cartridges during the spark test to determine cartridge operability.

- Press and hold both ARC switches for (1) one second, then release.
- Disengage the Taser 7's safety (Turn it On).
- The CID should now be inverted in color (Yellow background, black squares, ensuring you are in functions mode), If not, repeat steps 1-3.
- Point the Taser 7 in a safe direction.
- Press and release one of the ARC switch and allow the Taser 7 to cycle for a full 5 second cycle.
- DO NOT PULL THE TRIGGER DURING A SPARK TEST / FUNCTION CHECK
- Place the Taser 7 on safe (Off) and re-holster it.
- If the spark test is done properly, it will not activate the BWC. If the spark test is not done properly, all BWCs in standby mode within 30 feet, will be activated.

2.6 ARC Function – The ARC switch on the Taser 7 allows the officer to display an electric arc without deploying probes. If reasonable under the totality of the circumstances, Officers shall be permitted to ARC the Taser 7 to de-escalate situations and gain voluntary compliance from subjects / suspects.

2.7 Accidental Discharge – A TASER 7 discharge that is not caused by the user deliberately pulling the trigger of the TASER.

3.0 AUTHORIZATION

3.1 Only officers who have completed the prescribed course of instruction at the Pittsburgh Police Training Academy are authorized to carry the TASER 7 or another make and/or model as approved by the Chief of Police.

3.1.1 All authorized TASER 7s, that are Bureau issued, shall be registered with the Bureau of Police Training Academy.

** After the complete Bureau wide issuance of the Taser 7, no other models of Taser, or privately purchased Tasers will be authorized.

3.1.2 It will be the responsibility of the Training Academy to maintain a database, which contains information pertaining to the registered TASER such as model and serial number of authorized TASERs.

3.2 TASER 7s and cartridges approved and authorized by the Chief of Police through written order are the only models that will be carried.

3.3 The TASER 7 will only be carried in holsters approved and authorized by the Chief of Police. The Taser 7 shall be positioned on the duty belt opposite the firearm, on the support hand side, or in the cross-draw position.

3.4 All members working in uniform, to include secondary employment, shall carry a Taser. Members working in a non-uniform capacity shall carry a Taser when mandated by a supervisor.

3.5 The Training Academy Director shall ensure that a current list of those officers who have been issued and are qualified to carry/use the TASER is forwarded to each duty location each year. This list will be posted and maintained by the shift supervisors at each duty location.

4.0 PROCEDURES

4.1 Officers authorized to carry the TASER 7 are responsible for maintaining the device's operational readiness. As such, officers will:

4.1.1 Inspect the TASER for any obvious damage before taking it into the field. This inspection will include a check of the light, laser site, frame, trigger housing, and safety switch for functionality. If a TASER is determined to be functioning improperly, it should be taken out of service and sent to the Training Academy for repair along with a Special explaining the repair needed.

4.1.1.1 All TASERs submitted for Maintenance, Repair, or Data Retrieval (that will require the TASER to remain at the academy) must be accompanied by either a Special or a Lost/Stolen/Damaged Uniform

or Equipment Report:

4.1.1.1.1 A Special Report, PBP Form stating:

- TASER serial number
- Name of the Officer the Taser 7 was issued to.
- The reason for repair / maintenance / data retrieval (i.e. malfunction, battery, no spark, etc.)
- Name of the officer reporting the malfunction
- If a TASER holster accompanied the TASER to the Academy
- CCR # (if applicable)
- Shift supervisor responsible for return of the TASER after the repair

4.1.1.1.2 A Lost/Stolen/ Damaged Uniform or Equipment Claim, PBP Form #81.1 stating:

- TASER serial number
- Name of the Officer the Taser 7 was issued to.
- The reason for repair / maintenance (i.e. malfunction, submerged, dropped, etc.)
- If a TASER holster accompanied the TASER to the Academy
- CCR # (if applicable)
- Shift supervisor responsible for return of the TASER after the repair

4.1.1.2 If the TASER is stuck in the "On" position, it will automatically power down after 10 minutes. It can then be safely transported to the Academy for repair.

4.1.2 Check the TASER's battery strength to ensure adequate battery charge by performing a spark test.

4.1.2.1 Officers shall conduct a spark test or function test, in a safe manner, prior to their tour of duty.

4.1.2.2 Replacement batteries will now be charged and exchanged at the Officer's zone. The Officer will no longer have to bring the Taser to the Training Academy after a deployment.

4.1.2.3 If a battery malfunctions (or will not charge), contact the Academy for replacement batteries. The Property Room will replace defective, damaged, or expended Taser cartridges.

4.1.3 When on duty, carry the TASER 7 in the approved holster, combat loaded with close quarter cartridges with the safety in the 'ON.'

4.1.4 Officers will check the expiration date and condition of the Taser 7 cartridges. Cartridges should be inspected for damage or loose doors. Discharged, expired, and /or damaged cartridges will be turned into the Quartermaster for replacement.

4.1.5 The Taser 7 shall be "combat loaded" with (2) two Close Quarters cartridges on the Officer's Taser 7 at all times. Officers shall have (2) two Stand-Off cartridges on their person, for situations where the Stand - Off cartridges would have a better chance of success (provides a distance between 11-22 feet). AT NO TIME WILL AN OFFICER COMBINE THE TWO TYPES OF CARTRIDGES AND HAVE ONE OF EACH LOADED ON THE TASER 7.

4.1.6 Store the TASER 7 and any extra cartridges in the issued holster or case when not in use.

4.1.7 Avoid dropping the TASER 7 and exposing it to water.

4.1.8 Avoid direct sunlight exposure and static electricity.

5.0 TASER USAGE CRITERIA

5.1 Discharge of the TASER 7 constitutes physical force under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Section 508 (Use of Force in Law Enforcement). The discharge of the TASER is authorized when used in accordance with the Rules &

Regulations of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, in particular, policies on use of force and use of TASER and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America, in particular the Constitution of the United States.

5.2 Situations in which the use of the TASER 7 may be justified include, but are not limited, to the following:

- When presented with a mentally ill individual who is exhibiting behavior that would lead an officer to use the TASER as a reasonable force option.
- Warrant service when the individual who is exhibiting behavior that would lead an officer to use the TASER as a reasonable force option.
- Persons under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol who are exhibiting behavior that would lead an officer to use the TASER as a reasonable force option.
- Persons expressing the intent and having the means to commit suicide and who are exhibiting behavior that would lead an officer to use the TASER as a reasonable force option.
- When presented with an aggressive animal, the Taser can be a reasonable use of force option to protect against being bitten or attacked. If deployed on a domestic animal, consider having animal control available to restrain the animal. Officers should consider that deployment on domestic animals may be difficult versus a human subject based on their smaller body size and erratic movements. If applicable, contact animal control to mitigate the situation regarding aggressive wild / domestic animals, prior to deploying the Taser 7.

****Note:** Officers / Detectives and K-9 Officers at a scene must work closely to develop a tactical plan for the deploying the Taser 7 when a K-9 is present. If a K-9 bites a probe, the wires, bites the subject between the probes, or touches the cartridge wires, the K-9 could receive a shock. This could have a significant negative impact on the future duty of the K-9.

5.3 Under no circumstances shall an officer resort to the use of the TASER where such a use of force is in violation of General Order #12-06, "Use of Force" policy. Nothing in this policy is intended to conflict with or replace the provisions of the "Use of Force" policy.

5.4 It is also the policy of this Bureau that personnel will not necessarily or unreasonably endanger themselves in applying these guidelines. Furthermore, it is policy of this Bureau that the TASER is not intended to be used as a substitute when the officer is justified in the use of deadly force in accordance with the policy outlined in the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Manual of Procedural Orders, General Order #12-06.

6.0 INTENTIONAL TASER DISCHARGE

6.1

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS AFTER TASER DISCHARGE

7.1 Following the discharge of the TASER, the officer shall secure the subject and the scene ensuring officer safety.

7.2 A medical release from a hospital will be obtained for all subjects exposed to the discharge of the TASER, either by contact stun or probes if the subject is to be lodged in the ACJ or other detention facility.

7.3 If the officer observes any objective sign indicating that the subject requires IMMEDIATE medical treatment following exposure to the discharge of the TASER, either by contact stun or by probes, an EMS Unit shall be summoned to the scene immediately.

7.4 The following grid shall be consulted to determine the appropriate probe removal procedure to be taken after a TASER probe discharge if the subject is to be lodged in the ACJ or other detention facility:

****Note:** If probe removal is conducted, the probe removal tool should be used and is mandatory to carry. The probe removal tool shall be stored in a location where it is accessible to the Officer. (Duty bag, glove box).

	TASER Probes Successfully Discharged?	Yes	No
1.	Did the probes penetrate the subject?	Go to Block #2	No further action.
2.	If the probes penetrated the subject, was a Supervisor called?	Go to Block #3	Call a Supervisor and Go to Block #3
3.	Did the probes penetrate the subject's clothing ONLY ?	An officer trained in probe removal may immediately remove the probes and transport the subject to the hospital for a medical release	(Probes penetrated subject's body) Go to Block #4
4.	Did penetration of the probes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Render the subject unconscious ▪ Cause him/her to exhibit signs of a serious medical condition ▪ Cause a secondary injury as a result of a fall ▪ Cause penetration in sensitive tissue areas (i.e. face, neck, breast or groin)? 	Request EMS Unit. Wait for the EMS unit to arrive for probe removal. Transport the subject to the hospital for treatment and/or release. Go to Block #5	Although discharge resulted in penetration, an officer trained in probe removal may immediately remove the probes if none of these conditions resulted. The subject shall then be transported to the hospital
5.	Subject transported to Hospital	Obtain a medical release	Transport to hospital for medical release.

7.5 Ensure that any discharged cartridges and probes are collected and logged as evidence.

7.6 If a subject has been exposed to the discharge of the TASER and it is determined that the charges against the subject will proceed by summons or citation (i.e. the subject will be released and not taken to the ACJ or another detention facility), the subject will be offered medical treatment at a local medical facility or the medics shall be called to the scene for evaluation of the subject. If the subject refuses treatment by the medics, or refuses transportation to a medical facility, the Officer shall notify a supervisor, dispatch via radio, and record it on BWC or MVR, so as to leave recorded documentation of the subject's refusal. Officers shall also document the subject's refusal in their reports.

7.6.1 If the subject agrees to treatment, the subject will be transported to a medical facility by the PBP and dropped off. The transporting officer will ensure that the subject, at a minimum, checks in at the medical facility before leaving. The subject will be responsible to procure transportation from the medical facility to their home, vehicle, etc.

7.6.2 If the subject refuses treatment and has not been exposed to a TASER probe in a sensitive tissue area such as the face, neck, breast, or groin, officers shall notify a supervisor, dispatch via the radio, and record it on BWC or MVR, so as to leave recorded documentation of the subject's refusal. Officers shall also document the subject's refusal in their reports.

7.6.3 If the subject has been exposed to a TASER probe in a sensitive tissue area such as the face, neck, breast, or groin, the officer shall get treatment at a medical facility for the subject. The officer shall call EMS to the scene and EMS shall determine if the subject requires transport to a medical facility by ambulance. If EMS does not transport the subject, the officer shall transport the subject to a medical facility. If the subject refuses, Officers shall call the medics to the scene for evaluation of the subject. If the subject refuses treatment by the medics, or refuses transportation to a medical facility, the Officer shall notify a supervisor and dispatch via radio and record it on BWC or MVR, so as to leave recorded documentation of the subject's refusal. Officers shall also document the subject's refusal in their reports.

- 7.6.3.1 At the medical facility, if the subject refuses treatment, that refusal must be made to medical facility personnel and not City EMS. The officer shall document the subject's refusal as well as the attending physician's name for their report. Once the subject has been released from the medical facility, the officer shall explain to the subject that he/she is no longer in police custody.
- 7.6.3.2 At the medical facility, if the subject accepts treatment, the officer may leave once the subject has been admitted by the medical facility or they have otherwise accepted the subject into their care.
- 7.6.4 If the subject is exhibiting symptoms that a reasonable officer would conclude are a sign of medical distress, the officer shall immediately summon medical personnel.
- 7.6.5 Officers will use the nearest medical facility to the incident unless they have approval from a supervisor to use a different facility.

8.0 THE HANDLING OF PROBES FROM THE TASER

- 8.1 Probes that have penetrated the body should be treated as bio-hazardous "sharps."
- 8.2 Probes are to be carefully placed sharp tip first into the spent cartridge wire pockets and secured in place with a strip of tape, i.e. evidence tape.
- 8.3 Probes are to be treated as evidence. Once the probes are secured into the spent cartridge they are to be packaged and sent to the Property Room.

9.0 REPORTING USAGE OF THE TASER

- 9.1 All intentional discharges of the TASER are to be reported by the discharging officer. Any discharge, whether resulting in physical contact with an individual or not, shall be reported on the PBP Form #10.1 "Subject Resistance Report Form" along with any other related reports and submitted to the officer's supervisor for review. Officers will include the serial number of the TASER and cartridge(s) in their report.
- 9.2 Officers will notify their supervisor following the deployment of the probes.
- 9.3 If the actor or officer requires medical treatment a supervisor will respond to the scene.
- 9.4 All unintentional discharges will be reported through a PBP Form #54.0 "Special Report" outlining the specific circumstances of the discharge. This Special Report shall then be forwarded through the shift supervisor, along with any other related reports, through the chain of command to the Chief of Police the discharged cartridge shall be forwarded by the officer to the Property Room.
- 9.4.1 The Training Academy's Defensive Tactics Section, or their designee, will conduct a debriefing on all unintentional discharges if the Officer's supervisor deems it necessary. This debriefing is to be scheduled by the duty location Commander as soon as is practical. The Officer's individual supervisor(s) will evaluate the situation and determine if the Officer shall be sent for retraining on the use of the Taser 7. (Supervisors should take into consideration misuse of the Taser, and unintentional discharges in the field versus unintentional discharges during a spark or function test).
- 9.4.2 All required reports will be completed and submitted before the end of the affected officer's tour of duty.
- 9.5 If the discharging officer is not able to make the necessary reports immediately following the usage incident, the shift supervisor will complete and submit all of the required reports prior to the end of the supervisor's tour of duty.

10.0 TACTICAL FORMATIONS

- 10.1 Under the direct supervision of a Supervisor, the TASER 7 may be utilized as a means of crowd control using formations and display of the TASER's arc. In these situations, a supervisor shall document the TASER discharges by completing an Investigative Report Form 3.0 listing all officers in the formation and noting the times the discharges occurred.

10.1.1 Any officer who discharges a TASER and makes contact with a subject during a tactical formation shall complete the appropriate forms as directed by Section 9.0 of this order.

11.0 PROHIBITED USAGE OF THE TASER

- 11.1 The City of Pittsburgh forbids the discharge of the TASER 7 in any way that is deemed "excessive force." All intentional discharges of the TASER must fall within the "reasonable officer standard."
- 11.2 While the TASER is a less lethal weapon meant to gain compliance from a subject, it is not a deadly force weapon and therefore should not be used as a substitute for deadly force.
- 11.3 The TASER shall not be discharged in the proximity of flammable liquids, gases, or any other highly combustible materials that may be ignited by the device including any individual that may have been exposed to combustible substances or liquids such as gasoline.
- 11.4 The TASER is not to be discharged if the officer has knowledge that any member of another police department, agency, or a civilian has sprayed the subject with OC Spray or any type of other chemical agent because of the potential for combustion.
- 11.5 The TASER is not to be discharged if it or the air cartridge is submerged in water, due to the likelihood of the cartridge being damaged or unreliable.
- 11.6 The TASER is not to be used on individuals who have expressed the intent and have the means to commit suicide and any incapacitation resulting from the discharge of the TASER would present a real threat of danger to public safety or a high risk of serious bodily injury to him or herself or another. (i.e. actor has a gun in his/her hand, or the actor is standing on a ledge). Officers need to recognize the quantum use of force and the secondary effects of the taser.
- 11.7 Officers should avoid using the TASER 7 on the high risk population (pregnant women, elderly, small children), obviously pregnant females and those individuals under the age of 7 or over the age of 70, unless the encounter rises to the level of a deadly force situation. This restriction is based on the potential for these individuals to fall when incapacitated by the TASER.
- 11.8 The TASER is not to be used on passively resistant individuals strictly to gain compliance.
- 11.9 The TASER is not to be used on the driver of a vehicle where that vehicle is in motion or likely to be put in motion by the incapacitation of the driver by the TASER discharge.

12.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHIFT SUPERVISORS

- 12.1 Shift supervisors are responsible for ensuring that:
- 12.1.1 All incidents involving any discharge of the TASER 7 are appropriately documented and proper procedure is followed.
- 12.1.2 All reports of incidents involving the use of the TASER 7 are forwarded through the Chain of Command.

13.0 BATTERY RECHARGING / TASER DOWNLOAD

- 13.1 Taser 7 docking systems are used with the battery packs to:
- Upload logs to Axon Evidence (Evidence.com)
 - Update firmware
 - Update CEW Settings
 - Update the real time clock (RTC) time on batteries.

**Note – It is recommended that the battery pack be docked every 30 days to ensure good functionality of the CEW.

- 13.2 The Taser battery should be placed in the docking station located in each zone / unit. This will ensure that the Taser battery is recharged, all information from the Taser is downloaded, and if necessary, all firmware is uploaded to the battery. The officer should wait until the battery indicator light turns green, or simply take another recharged battery.

13.3 When a recharged or a new battery is inserted into the Taser 7, the Officer shall not remove it for (5) five minutes. If the battery is removed to quickly, this can cause a malfunction with the Taser and the uploading of firmware from the battery to the Taser.

Approved by:



Scott Schubert
Chief of Police