



# Manchester Police Department

RULES AND REGULATIONS



## **Article 36 Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW)**

**Effective Date: April 2019, By Orders of the Police Chief**

## **Article 36 Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW)**

### **Summary:**

This policy is the Manchester Police Department's General Order issued for the purpose of defining policy and establishing regulations pertaining to Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW), a weapon designed to discharge electrical impulses in two modes:

**Drive Stun** — Depressing the ARC Switch on the CEW with the cartridge in place or after discharged, and placing the electrodes upon the skin/clothing of the person. Drive Stunning does not cause neuro-muscular incapacitation but causes severe pain.

**Probes Deployment** — Probes Deployment is the primary way that CEWs are used. With a cartridge attached, pulling the trigger fires two probes with barbs on the end that can penetrate the clothing or skin of a person. The two probes are connected to the CEW by wires and upon contact, if an electrical circuit is established, the CEW delivers pulsed electricity into the person, and overrides the person's voluntary motor function. Probes Deployment also causes significant pain.

**What is the X2 CEW?** The TASER X2 CEW is a software upgradable, 2-shot weapon manufactured by TASER International, Inc. The X2 CEW uses 2 replaceable Smart cartridges containing compressed nitrogen to deploy two small probes that are attached to the X2 CEW by insulated conductive wires. The X2 CEW transmits electrical pulses along the wires and into the body which are designed to affect the sensory and motor functions of the peripheral nervous system and cause involuntary muscle contractions. The cartridges are available with various wire lengths from 15' to 35' (4.6 meters to 10.7 meters). The X2 CEW deploys the cartridges one at a time. It is possible to apply energy beyond the initial burst to a deployed cartridge without deploying the remaining cartridge. It also is possible to apply a Warning Arc display or drive-stun without deploying any of the cartridges loaded in the CEW. The X2 CEW has an internal memory that stores the operating software and a record of every deployment.

### **POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to establish when a member may use force, utilizing a issued CEW and members' duties before, during, and after the Use of Force. The decision to use force requires careful attention and continual assessment of the situation, threats, options, and risks, with the goal of resolving the encounter peacefully.



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## **Article 36 Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW)**

The Manchester Police Department shall utilize the minimum amount of reasonable force to control person(s) resisting and or combative. It is the policy of the Department to thoroughly and accurately document all facts and information pertaining whenever a departmental member deploys a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW), known as the X-2 Taser whether intentional or unintentional. The only exceptions are for training purposes, departmental sanctioned activities, and spark tests. The purpose of the issued X-2 Taser is to provide a less-lethal use of force.

A. The CEW, on the force continuum, falls just after the level as the pepper spray. The use of the **Taser constitutes a serious use of force**. The CEW is neither designed nor intended to replace the firearm, pepper spray, expandable baton, or any other approved control equipment or technique.

B. Any use of the CEW must be reasonable and necessary. **The Department forbids unwarranted and excessive use of the CEW in any circumstance.**

C. Each CEW contains its own internal memory chip that, when the safety is turned ON, records the date, the time, and the duration of every trigger depression. Each CEW will have its data downloaded to ensure the integrity of the device and the member's compliance of rules governing the equipment.

***D. WHEN REASONABLE, PRIOR TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE DEVICE, EVERY MEMBER SHALL ANNOUNCE "TASER, TASER, TASER!" THIS ALSO SHOULD PREVENT CONTAGIOUS FIRE.***

**E. NO CEW WILL BE ASSIGNED OR DISTRIBUTED TO ANYONE WHO HAS NOT COMPLETED A MANDATORY EIGHT (8) HOUR TRAINING SESSION CONDUCTED BY A CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR.**

F. Members are required to complete annual recertification (4 Hours) training.

### **Deployment Methods**

- The CEW may be deployed in two different methods: Probes and the Drive Stun Method. Any deployment via the probes or drive stun method is a reportable Use of Force and requires a Use of Force investigation consistent with existing Departmental Policy. Drive Stun Method should only be used in exigent circumstances which are reasonably articulated. This method should be refrained from if at all possible.
- The use of the Taser constitutes a serious Use of Force.
- The Taser maybe used up to 25 feet when:



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- The suspect is punching, kicking, violently resisting, or
- Threatening to punch, kick, or close distance on an officer to do so, or
- Lesser Force options are ineffective or likely to be ineffective, or
- The officer reasonably believes the suspect poses a credible threat due to distance, or a risk of injury due to suspect's actions

Other considerations on deployment are:

- Imminent threat to officers and or others
- Suspect is actively resisting arrest or legal detention
- Severity of a crime at issue and the suspect is attempting to evade by flight

THE TASER SHOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST:

- Obvious persons with health issues or in need of Crisis Intervention
- Obviously pregnant females
- The Elderly
- Young Children
- Or situations where your action or use of the Taser could create a domino dangerous situation such as a fall from a significant height or a fall into oncoming traffic, etc.
- In a flammable or explosive environment including a but not limited to a Meth Lab
- A handcuffed individual unless extreme violent circumstances exists
- When confronting nonviolent resistance that does not represent a threat to officers or others
- Do not use when you could tactically de-escalate the situation by verbal or other means.

## **Probes**

A. Whenever probes are deployed intentionally or not:

1. Remove the cartridge from the device and safely holster the device only when the situation allows.
2. Immediately notify your supervisor and request EMS to respond.
3. If the subject was shocked, immediately request an ambulance.
4. Advise medical personnel that the subject has been shocked. Note if the subject loses consciousness, appears to exhibit signs of a serious medical condition, sustains an injury (such as a result from a fall), and/or probes penetrated sensitive areas (such as face, eyes, neck, breast, and groin). Give the approximate time of occurrence to the medical personnel.
5. **Only qualified medical personnel shall remove probes that have penetrated the skin.** Discourage subjects from removing the probes themselves.



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6. **NOTE:** *Probes that have penetrated the skin are considered bio-hazardous and shall be treated as such. Ensure that the cartridge has been detached from the Device and have the Hospital, or Ambulance personnel, remove the probes. Once the probes are safely secure, they are to be maintained by the Manchester Police Officer(s) and placed in evidence. Cables should not be cut, unless it can't be avoided.*

### **Drive Stun**

- A. If a subject has been drive stunned:
  1. Safely holster the device as soon as the situation allows.
  2. Immediately request an ambulance and notify your supervisor. Advise medical personnel that the subject has been shocked. Note if the subject loses consciousness, appears to exhibit signs of a serious medical condition, sustains an injury (such as a result from a fall), and/or probes penetrated sensitive areas (such a face, eyes, neck, breast, and groin). Give the approximate time of occurrence to the medical personnel.
  3. Document any additional injury that occurred as a result of being shocked.

### **Assist Other Agency**

**At no time shall any officer respond to any assist other agency call for the sole purpose of a potential Taser use unless specifically requested by that Agency's supervisor via police radio.** This does not pertain to common sense usage while on the scene of an assist other agency calls. However, it is also important that members of this agency remember that the agency handling the out of Manchester jurisdiction call have primary responsibility for the call.

### **Securing of Tasers**

It is the responsibility of each member of this agency to secure their CEW at the end of his/her tour of duty. The CEW is to be locked and secured when not on their person; following the same security protocol and best practices for a Firearm. No person outside of the Manchester Police Department's qualified members; Certified CEW Instructor or Technician should have access to the CEW.

### **Use of Force Report**



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A. Any use of the CEW (Taser) shall require notification to the **immediate supervisor**. In addition, use of the CEW will require the submission of a Use of Force report. This report shall be completed as soon as possible and submitted to the Patrol Supervisor. The following should be done:

- Notify supervisor and Chief of Police
- Ensure proper medical attention
- Identify all witnesses
- Photograph suspect and scene
- Statements are needed from all involved Officers and witnesses
- If serious injury or death resulted, secure scene and notify CCSO Detectives and Crime Lab. It may be required to notify MSP Homicide.
- The air Cartridge and probes used shall be placed into evidence for a minimum of 3 Years. Probes more than likely will be biohazard. The wires should be wrapped around the cartridge. Place in evidence package and secure in evidence locker and book.

## **Replacement of the CEW and Cartridges**

A. Replacement of the device and/or cartridges will be solely the responsibility of the Chief or his/her designee to ensure proper reporting has been submitted if required.

## **TRAINING**

1. All officers shall receive training, annually, on this agency's use of force CEW policy and related legal updates.
2. In addition, training shall be provided on a regular and periodic basis and designed to provide techniques for the use of and reinforce the importance of de-escalation; simulate actual shooting situations and conditions; use of less lethal force and implicit bias training, all to enhance officers' discretion and judgment in using less-lethal, de-escalation and deadly force in accordance with this policy. All use-of-force training shall be documented

## **RECISSION**

Remove and destroy/recycle any and CEW Use of Force Policy(s) prior to April 2019.

## **COMMUNICATION OF POLICY**

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.