

# SOUTH KINGSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

1790 KINGSTOWN RD., WAKEFIELD, RI 02879



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410.04	STANDING ORDER	12/11/14	07/13/2020
CHAPTER : SUBSECTION		TITLE	
LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS: USE OF FORCE		CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (CEW/TASER)	
REVIEW DATES		REVISION DATES	
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## I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide officers with guidance on the use of the Taser X2® CEW Conducted Electrical Weapon, referred to hereinafter as “CEW”.

## II. POLICY

Consistent with the South Kingstown Police Department’s policy of using only that force that is reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, while protecting the life of the officer or another, the Department authorizes the use of the *Taser X2® Conducted Electrical Weapon* (CEW) by certified officers. The primary purpose of employing the CEW is to reduce injuries to officers and suspects by stopping threats from a safe distance. The CEW is not intended to be used in place of lethal force or as a general substitute for other non-lethal force options.

## III. DEFINITIONS

***Anti-felon Identification Tags (AFIDs)*** – Small, patented tags contained within each Smart cartridge that are dispersed when the cartridge is deployed; used to trace the use of the cartridge.

***Central Information Display (CID)*** – A single color (yellow) display screen allows the X2 CEW operator to observe system status information and view option changes.

***Performance power magazine (PPM)*** – The CEW’s battery.

***Cartridge*** – Known as a Smart Cartridge; contains a small circuit board that communicates cartridge type, distance and status to the X2 CEW.

***Warning Arc*** – An arc across both bays without discharge of the Smart Cartridges.

***Function “Spark” Test*** – A daily function test which assists in confirming the proper

operation of the electrical components.

***Drive Stun*** – CEW has direct contact with the subject. There are two modes of drive stun: 1) utilizing the electrodes on the front of the CEW and 2) three-point deployment. Drive stun generally does not cause incapacitation.

***Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI)*** – NMI systems affect BOTH the sensory and motor nerves. The Motor Nervous System consists of the nerves that go out from the spinal cord and connect to the muscles, controlling the muscle movements. These are the nerves we really want to control to stop aggressive subjects. That is how NMI systems work; they stimulate these motor nerves causing uncontrollable muscle contractions that inhibit the subject from being able to perform coordinated movement.

## IV. PROCEDURES

### A. Discussion

1. CEW's are designed to restrain violent individuals where alternative restraint tactics have or are reasonably likely to fail, and / or where it would be unsafe for an officer to approach a subject to apply restraints.
2. CEW's are designed to use propelled wires or direct contact to conduct electrical charge to primarily affect motor functions and/or the sensory nervous system. The CEW projects two probes that are attached by thin, insulated wires leading back to the CEW cartridge. An electrical signal transmits throughout the region where the probes make contact with the body or up to 2 ¼" of clothing. The result is neuro-muscular incapacitation (NMI), which affects the subject's neuromuscular control. There are different levels of NMI, ranging from limited area affects to significant body lockup. The greater the probe spread, the higher likelihood of NMI. The subject should normally be immobilized long enough for the officers to apply restraints while the subject is under the CEW's power. CEW's may not achieve total NMI incapacitation. Manufacturers state that no permanent damage is caused by the CEW under normal conditions; however, precautions in its use shall be followed in accordance with provisions of this policy.

### B. Training and Issuance

1. Only officers who have successfully completed the Department's approved course of instruction on the CEW are authorized to use it.
2. Officers will receive refresher training in the use of the CEW on an annual basis or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. A record of those officers who have successfully completed the department's approved course of instruction on the CEW will be maintained in the Office of Training. A list of those officers will be given to all Shift Commanders.
4. CEW's are stored in the Weapons Locker in Roll Call. Certified officers will sign out CEW with their shift supervisor at the beginning of their shift and return the unit at the end of their shift.
5. Officers may be issued a CEW for take home, with prior authorization from the Chief, or designee. Such issuance will be documented in a memo. Should an officer be issued a CEW, he/she will present it to the Training Officer or a

certified instructor, upon request, for periodic downloading and/or maintenance.

6. CEW's are to be kept in the holster on the officer's duty belt or vest until use is necessary.
7. CEW's will be reviewed, inspected and approved by a certified CEW instructor prior to being put into service in the weapons locker.
8. Should a CEW appear or become damaged, it will be left secure in the Weapons Locker and the Training Officer will be notified.

### C. Usage and Handling

1. The CEW may be used when other less-than-lethal force options have been ineffective or when it reasonably appears that such an option will be ineffective in restraining the subject.
2. Examples of situations in which the CEW may be used include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Dealing with the emotionally disturbed person (EDP) who is displaying violent behavior and is an immediate danger to himself or others;
  - b. Armed subjects;
  - c. Execution of a warrant where the subject is perceived to be violent;
  - d. Violent persons under the influence of drugs and / or alcohol;
  - e. Persons expressing the intent and having the means to commit suicide or otherwise harm themselves;
  - f. When deemed a reasonable alternative to lesser force options that will likely be ineffective or greater force options that may be inappropriate given objective circumstances.
3. When an officer deployed with a CEW encounters a situation that may require its use, he will request a supervisor and a back-up officer to the scene prior to its use, if circumstances and time permit. If this is not possible, the OIC will be notified as soon as possible after deployment.
4. The CEW will not be pointed at any individual unless the officer reasonably believes it will be necessary to use the device.
5. An officer will, when practical, shout "TASER!" as a warning to the intended target, other officers and anyone else in proximity.
6. A warning arc can be displayed according to departmental training as an attempt to deter an attacker/aggressive subject or crowd. This is not mandated and largely depends on the situation.
7. The CEW will **not** be used in the following situations:
  - a. When the officer cannot, for safety or other reasons, approach the subject within range;
  - b. In proximity to flammable liquids, gases, blasting material or any other highly combustible materials that may be ignited by use of the device, including but not limited to any subject who may have been contaminated with combustible

liquids;

- c. When it is reasonable to believe that incapacitation of the subject may result in serious injury or death, (e.g., incidents as noted in Section IV, paragraph C (10) below, and situations where the suspect's fall may result in serious physical injury or death).
  - d. On a handcuffed or secured prisoner, absent overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other less intrusive fashion.
8. For maximum effectiveness the CEW should be fired at approved target areas, with a preferred range of 7 to 15 feet away. The face and neck areas are to be avoided if at all possible.
  9. Use of the CEW within less than the preferred range can be done through "drive stun".
    - a. "Drive Stun" shall only be applied in accordance with department training.
    - b. Some situations "drive stun" may be deployed are if a cartridge does not deploy properly, ineffective probe contact, missed probe contact, close proximity or for the immediate safety of officers involved.
  10. In non-lethal force situations, when possible, an officer should avoid using the CEW on the following:
    - a. Persons in control of a vehicle;
    - b. Persons in wheelchairs;
    - c. Pregnant women;
    - d. People with known heart problems;
    - e. People with apparent debilitating illness or the elderly;
    - f. Children or those persons under 80 pounds;
    - g. Individuals with known neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, or epilepsy.
  11. Probes that have been removed from a subject or fired at a subject will be placed in a biohazard evidence tube and stored according to department evidence procedures. Cartridge packs used against individuals will be tagged as evidence.
  12. Officers will collect at least 3 or 4 AFIDs that are left behind after firing the probes and tag them as evidence.
  13. The CEW will be issued to authorized officers at the beginning of their shift. The supervisor will record on the patrol roster which officer was issued a CEW. (Exception noted in B. 5.)
  14. Before an issued officer's shift, each CEW should be spark tested, contacts should be inspected for carbon buildup, and officers should check the CID to ensure the PPM has sufficient charge. For any reading below 20%, the PPM should be removed from service/replaced.

#### D. Officers Discharging an Electronic Control Device (CEW)

1. If a supervisor is not present, request the response of a supervisor.
2. Subjects who have been restrained by use of an CEW, whether or not the probes

penetrated the skin, shall be treated as follows:

- a. Once in custody, police will initiate an EMS response to ensure medical care for the restrained subject in accordance with the RI EMS Pre-hospital Care Protocols and Standing Orders. At least one officer will accompany the suspect if taken in the rescue.
- b. The officer will inform the responding EMS staff that the person was subjected to a CEW and relate the approximate time the action occurred. The officer will request of the medical staff a physical examination of the person with particular emphasis on secondary injuries due to the fall. Only emergency room staff may remove probes, (probes can only penetrate to a maximum depth of ¼ inch).
- c. The supervisor will ensure photographs will be taken of the person – in the area where the probes penetrated and any secondary injuries that may have occurred.
- d. The officer will obtain medical clearance from the emergency room physician before transporting the person to the Police Department or another facility.

#### E. After – Action Report

1. Use of a CEW is considered a use of force and the officer is required to fill out a “Use of Force Report” as well as a providing proper documentation in the arrest report. The OIC will ensure the reports are completed and forwarded to the Captain of Professional Standards. A copy of the Use of Force Report will be forwarded to the Training Office for the purpose of downloading the data from the CEW.
2. With the exception of training, all instances of CEW usage including accidental discharges at or towards a person or animal will be reported on a Use of Force Report and reviewed by the Captain of Professional Standards. Other accidental discharges (in-station, when ‘spark testing’...) will be reported in memo format and forwarded through the chain of command to the Captain of Professional Standards.

#### F. Maintenance

1. Testing and maintenance of the CEW will be consistent with manufacturer’s specifications.
2. After a CEW is discharged, it will be taken out of service and placed in the specified bin in the Weapons Locker, to be downloaded and cleaned. Any officer issued a CEW under section B. 5. of this policy, will take their issued CEW out of service in the same manner. He/she can temporarily take a replacement CEW and will document this via e-mail (including Taser # and serial #) to the Training Officer.
3. Cartridges should be stored in a cool, dry environment and will be replaced according to the manufacturer’s expiration date.
4. A CEW should not be left in direct sunlight due to the possible adverse effects on plastic parts.

5. The Department Training Officer and CEW Instructor(s) will develop and maintain a testing and maintenance schedule for all Department CEW's and their component parts.
6. The Training Officer or CEW Instructor(s) will download the information from each CEW on a regular basis, or as necessary for data collection, and a log containing this information will be maintained. A copy of the log reports will be kept on the department computer.

By Order of:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Ewing - Chow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joel J. Ewing-Chow  
Interim Chief of Police