

**El Cerrito POLICE DEPARTMENT
REFRESHER TASER TRAINING
2 HOUR FORMAT**

A. OVERVIEW: This class is a “Refresher” course and will cover the techniques for proper deployment of and certification of end users in the use of the TASER device(s).

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Given person(s) to be retrained with a lesson plan, instruct person(s) in the proper deployment and safety of the TASER X26. Without the aid of references, in accordance with the detailed lesson plan and manual, a certified trained user will accomplish the following:

1. Pass the written test and demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the function and use of the TASER device(s).
2. Understand how the TASER device(s) overrides and controls the sensory and motor functions of the nervous systems of a combative, or passively resistant, subject.
3. Know proper finger position for aiming and firing.
4. Be able to reload in a safe and proper manner.
5. Control unit adequately when commanded “Arm – Spark – Safe” at random (understands safety switch and trigger fully).
6. Know when the TASER device is armed and ready to deploy.
7. Know how to properly check battery pulse rate, remove and reinstall batteries correctly.
8. Know how to utilize the laser and fixed sights.
9. Understanding of probe placement and ballistics.
10. For TASER certification.
 - a. Draw TASER device and hit target at 8 feet, reload, and hit 2nd target at 12 feet with laser sight (time limit 10 seconds).
 - b. Complete a force option drill, student confronted with lethal and then non-lethal threats has to distinguish between pistol and TASER, which ever is appropriate for the threat.

C. METHOD / MEDIA: This class will be taught by the lecture / demonstration / scenario method.

- D. EVALUATION:** Topics from this class will be evaluated via written tests and via performance checklist during the practical applications conducted during the class.

COURSE TIME: User Re-Certification Course: 2 hours minimum.

CERTIFICATION: User certification is valid for one year.

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I. COURSE INTRODUCTION / ORIENTATION / SAFETY RULES

A. Course Introduction and Orientation

1. Instructor.
2. Class will be instructed using the current TASER version curriculum.
3. Goal = To provide the theory and practical training necessary to effectively instruct users to safely and effectively operate the TASER X26 electronic control device (ECD).

B. TASER Safety Rules

1. The safety switch of all TASER devices will remain in the down (SAFE) position unless the instructor directs students to arm the device or when it is appropriate to do so during a training scenario.
2. TASER devices shall not be pointed at any person unless the instructor directs students to do so as part of a training exercise or when it is appropriate to do so during a training scenario.
3. No live firearms will be brought into the training area.
4. Lasers shall not be shined into anyone's eyes.
5. Probes will be removed according to proper protocol.
6. All activity will stop when any student or instructor calls, "Stop action!" or "Cease fire!"
7. Every participant is a safety officer. All unsafe conditions will be immediately brought to the attention of the instructor. If an unsafe condition occurs or is noticed during an exercise, the student or instructor observing the unsafe condition shall call, "Stop action!" or "Cease fire!"
8. TASER devices can temporarily incapacitate target and can cause injury.

II. TASER TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

A. Electronic Control Devices (ECD)

1. Effects of the TASER device(s) on the central nervous system, sensory nervous system, and the motor nervous system.
2. Differences in pain compliance and incapacitation.

B. Electrical Overview

1. Differences between voltage, amps, and joules.
2. Amps, joules, and voltage output of the TASER device(s), and why it is a safe weapon.
3. Electricity must be able to flow between the probes or the electrodes, follows the path of least resistance, will not pass to others in contact with the subject unless contact is made directly between or on the probes, can arc through clothing and some bullet resistant material, and exposure to water will not cause electrocution or increase the power to the exposed subject.

C. Medical

1. TASER devices are among the most extensively studied weapons.
2. There is no negative effect of the TASER device when used on subjects with implanted cardiac devices or pacemakers.
3. Over 250,000 human volunteer exposures. 99% of all volunteers were incapacitated.
4. Effects of the TASER may include stress caused by pain, minor skin irritation or injury, temporary blisters, redness or minor bleeding if probes puncture skin, and possible physical exertion type injuries.

D. Weapons Safety

1. Assume Device is Loaded. Always assume that a TASER device is loaded.
2. Do Not Touch Trigger Until Ready to Use. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target and ready to fire.
3. Keep Body Parts Away. Keep your hands and body parts away from the front of the TASER cartridge.
4. Avoid Static Electricity Discharge. Avoid contact between static electricity and the TASER cartridge since static electricity can cause unexpected discharge and injury.

E. TASER X26 Nomenclature / Functions / Operations

1. Nomenclature
2. Shaped pulse technology
3. Incapacitation Rating – MDU
4. Digital Pulse Controller (DPC)
5. Batteries: DPM / XDPM
6. Digital Memory
7. Spark Tests
8. Ambidextrous Safety
9. Central Information Display (CID)
10. Illumination Button
11. Cartridges = 21ft. / 25ft.
12. Probe Spread = 1ft. spread for every 7 feet of travel
13. TASER cartridge / darts / wires / AFIDs

III. AGENCY POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Use-of-Force Policy

1. Reasonable Force
2. Penal Code 835(a)
3. Factors Used to Determine the Reasonableness of Force
4. Non-Deadly Force Applications

B. TASER Use-of-Force Guidelines

1. Carrying the TASER
2. Verbal and Visual Warnings
3. Use of the TASER
4. Multiple Applications of the TASER
5. Report of Use
6. Medical Treatment
7. Training
8. Flammability
9. Tactical Considerations

C. Case Law / Liability Issues

1. Use on pregnant woman
2. Violation of rights
3. Appropriate use of force – Traffic Stop
4. Appropriate use of force – Handcuffed Person
5. Multiple Discharges
6. TASER vs. other Less Lethal options

IV. TASER X26 MAINTENANCE

A. Maintenance and Care

1. Check batteries / DPM regularly.
2. Always store X26 with DPM inserted.
3. Secure in protective holster, when not in use, not in pockets.
4. Occasionally wipe out the TASER Cartridge firing bay with dry cloth for carbon build-up.
5. Use PDI Super Sani-Cloth to wipe down any X26 that gets contaminated by any body fluids.

B. Dropped or Wet TASER

1. Avoid dropping – sensitive, electronic device – similar care of a cell phone
2. Avoid exposing X26 to excessive moisture
3. If completely submerged, return to TASER Int'l.

V. TASER X26 TRAINING DRILLS

A. Training Drills

1. Safety Switch / Spark Drill
2. Aiming/holster Drill (Dry Fire)

3. Loading Cartridges
- B. Live Fire Training Drills
 1. Live Fire – 8 feet
 2. Tactical Reloading
 3. Live Fire – 12 feet
 4. Force Option Drills, with TASER and RED GUNS

VI. CONCLUSION & TEST

- A. Written Tests
 1. TASER X26 written test.
 2. TASER X26 nomenclature test.
- B. Live Fire Drills
 1. Hit target at 8 feet and 12 feet.
 2. Demonstrate proficiency in reloading.

It shall be the policy of the El Cerrito Police Department to conduct all training in such a manner as to promote an attitude of safety among instructors and students alike. Concern for safety is contagious and can only result in a reduction of risk.

The efforts of all personnel involved in training shall be directed toward ensuring a safe atmosphere within which maximum training benefit can be realized.

I. Staff / Administrative Responsibilities

- A. The Instructional Staff shall provide advance notice to prospective trainees and their agencies regarding anticipated physical demands and or physical performance expectations.
- B. Instructors shall be provided with a copy of the specific safety guidelines pertaining to their course of instruction prior to the commencement of their class.
- C. The Instructional Staff shall ensure that emergency communications (cellular phone, radio) are accessible at all training sites.
- D. At least one member of the Instructional Staff, either directly involved in the training event or immediately available at the training site, shall be trained in First Aid and CPR.
- E. Student emergency notification information shall be maintained for the duration of the course.
- F. When planning a training event, the Instructional Staff shall identify which medical facilities and emergency services are available or subject to call in the event of an emergency or student injury.

II. Instructional Staff to Student Ratios

A. Instructional Staff-to-Student ratios for each psychomotor skill area have been established. Factors considered in establishing these ratios included, but were not limited to:

- The intensity or pace of the training experience
- Student familiarity with the material
- Characteristics of the training site
- Injury potential
- Active versus passive participation

B. For the purposes of establishing an Instructional Staff-to-student ratio, the following personnel titles and descriptions are viewed by the ECPD as exerting functional supervision over students in training:

- Training Specialists in addition to:
- Instructors
- Program Coordinator

C. Reassessment of the Staff-to-Student ratio will be initiated when curriculum changes are proposed or when course structure is otherwise modified.

D. There shall be *at least one instructor for each six trainees during all Electronic Weapons activities excluding lectures.*

E. Trainees will be briefed as to expected behavior during Electronic Weapons Training. Horseplay will not be tolerated.

F. Instructional Staff shall conduct a pre-training inspection to insure that the trainees have met the clothing and equipment requirements.

G. All Electronic Weapons equipment will be cleaned and inspected regularly to insure a safe and healthy environment.

H. The Department will provide specific equipment for contact training. Any 'Take Down' Maneuvers will be done on safety mats.

III. Instructor Responsibilities

- A. The lead Instructor or designee shall be responsible for conducting safety inspections of students and facilities used for training.
- B. Instructors should be aware of environmental factors such as weather or air quality and adjust the instruction as necessary.
- C. The Lead Instructor or designee shall verbally review specific safety rules with students.
- D. Specific safety rules shall be incorporated into lesson plans. Copies of safety rules may be distributed to students as part of the course handouts.
- E. Instructors shall adhere to the expanded course outline as submitted to P.O.S.T. Instructors shall also adhere to their lesson plan as approved by the ECPD.
- F. Instructors shall advise students of their responsibility to report and or stop unsafe actions during training.

- G. Instructors shall display an attitude of safety and a professional demeanor at all times.
- H. Trainees shall be briefed on hazards particular to the site. Sites used to conduct Defensive Tactics training are at 6323 Manila Avenue, El Cerrito. The location does not have any particular hazards associated with it.
- I. The Safe Area is the entrance way outside of the main meeting room at 6323 Manila Avenue, El Cerrito. All trainees in the Safe Area will be supervised by an instructor or their designee of the rank FTO or higher.
- J. Instructional Staff shall wear the approved grey Defensive Tactics Instructor polo shirt and athletic warm-up pants. Shoes shall be appropriate to provide for foot protection. They shall be of a running or cross training type.
- K. A specific systematic physical warm-up shall be initiated prior to training.
- L. Performance expectations are included in the program outline.
- M. All Instructors and students will have phone numbers or radio procedures for transportation protocol and locations of the nearest emergency care facilities; those being Kaiser Permanente Emergency Room in Richmond or Alta Bates Hospital Emergency Room in Berkeley.

IV. Student Responsibilities

- A. Student shall immediately notify the Instructional Staff of any known pre-existing medical condition which is likely to be aggravated by, or effect performance during training.
- B. Students shall be excluded from training when doubt exists as to the student's medical fitness unless evidence of medical or physical fitness is provided.
- C. Students shall immediately notify a member of the Instructional Staff of any injury sustained during training.
- D. Students are responsible for adhering to all safety requirements of individual courses.
- E. Trainees shall wear clothing that will allow for flexibility and movement.
- F. The command "Stop" will be used to stop action during Electronic Weapons Training. The command can be issued by either the instructors or the trainees.
- G. Trainees shall ask for assistance of an Instructor if unsure of how to proceed with a particular exercise involving use of the Electronic Weapon.

V. Response to Injuries

- A. In the event of an injury, the following actions shall be taken as necessary:
- B. Render First Aid
- C. Obtain appropriate medical assistance. In all cases where a student loses consciousness, an evaluation shall be sought from a competent medical authority before the student is allowed to return to training.
- D. Initiate student emergency notification information, agency notification requirements and ECPD Administration.**
- E. Investigate and complete an accident report using ECPD approved reporting procedures.
- F. Students who sustain an injury which requires treatment by a physician must obtain a medical release before they will be allowed to resume training.
- G. The Instructors will follow ECPD policy for reporting of injuries to ECPD supervisory or management personnel as soon as practical.
- H. If attendees are from allied law enforcement agencies, at the beginning of the course they will notify the Instructors of who to contact at their agencies in the case of an emergency.

** Reference has been made to the following resources in developing this policy.

- POST Guidelines for Student Safety in Certified Course, California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, 1900

Training Drills and Scenarios Safety Rules

WARNING: Ultimate responsibility for the safety of all instructors, students, and observers rests with the instructor. The basic safety rules are a modified version of the standard firearms safety rules and apply to all classroom instruction and training drills. In order to allow dynamic, realistic training under controlled conditions during the scenario-based training, specific modifications to the basic safety rules are authorized as listed below.

Basic Safety Rules:

- NO firearm (loaded or unloaded) shall be permitted in the Training Area
- Treat all Electronic Weapon weapon systems as if they are loaded
- Keep finger outside the trigger guard until you are on target and ready to fire
- Always point the Electronic Weapon device in a safe direction
- Know your target and what may be within a 25 foot perimeter
- Except during scenario training, never deploy a Electronic Weapon toward another person even if they are well beyond 21 feet away.
- Unsafe behavior of any type will not be tolerated
- Students must advise the Instructor if they have any injury or pre-existing health condition that would preclude their participation in any training exercise
- Report any injuries immediately to the instructor. If any injuries are reported, the Instructor must complete the Accidental Discharge/Injury Report in the Forms Chapter
- The command "Cease Fire" will be used anytime a situation is deemed hazardous. This command may be given by ANY of the participants or observers. When given, every participant will cease all activity and point their weapons in a safe direction and put the safety switch in the down (SAFE) position. The Electronic Weapon Safety Officer (EWSO) will advise when it is clear to resume the drill or scenario

Additional Safety Rules for Scenario Training:

- All participants during live-fire scenario-based training must wear eye protection.
- If any protective equipment becomes dislodged, an immediate "Cease Fire" should be declared. The scenario can resume only when the equipment has been properly adjusted.
- Not all Electronic Weapon products are designed for use in training against live targets. Treat all Air Cartridges as live and conductive until personally verified by the instructor or Electronic Weapon Safety Officer
- The protective suit does not provide any ballistic protection from any conventional ammunition. Nor does it protect the wearer from the effects of the drive stun. DO NOT USE THE PROTECTIVE SUIT FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN TRAINING WITH THE BLUE (LS) AIR CARTRIDGE
- The temperature inside the suit can become warm when used over a long period of time especially during long drawn-out scenarios. It is recommended that role-players be given regular breaks and encouraged to drink lots of water. It also aids in cooling if the role-player wears loose fitting, comfortable clothing. The suit should not be worn directly over the skin since a layer of clothing provides an additional layer of protection.

Training Drills and Scenario Training Introduction

Training Drills Objectives: To familiarize students with the basic operation of the Electronic Weapon device controls and provide students with the practical experience to safely and effectively operate the Electronic Weapon device.

WARNING: SOME TRAINING DRILLS USE EXPENDED (OR NO) AIR CARTRIDGES AND SOME REQUIRE THE USE OF LIVE AIR CARTRIDGES. INSTRUCTORS MUST USE EXTREME CARE TO ENSURE THAT NO LIVE CARTRIDGES ARE PRESENT DURING TRAINING DRILLS REQUIRING THE USE OF EXPENDED CARTRIDGES.

Scenario Training Objective: To provide realistic training in proper deployment of the Electronic

Weapon devices in a variety of real world scenarios and to provide the opportunity to apply learned knowledge and skills under a stressful yet controlled environment.

Scenario training is a required component of the Electronic Weapon Operator Course. The more realistic the scenarios are the more the student will gain from the training. With this in mind, it is highly recommended that Instructors use training aids when possible to enhance the realism. No firearm that is capable of firing lethal munitions shall be used whether loaded or not.

If for some reason the simulation suit and/or LS (blue) cartridges are not available to conduct the scenario training, the Instructor may still certify the student instructors by modifying the scenarios to use live cartridges and fixed targets.

WARNING: DUE TO THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF SCENARIO-BASED TRAINING AND THE GREATER RISK FOR INJURY, THE E.C.P.D. REQUIRES STRICT ADHERENCE TO ALL SAFETY GUIDELINES. INSTRUCTORS, STUDENTS, AND/OR OBSERVERS MUST COMMAND A "CEASE FIRE" IF THEY OBSERVE ANY VIOLATION OF SAFETY PROCEDURES.

Scenario Training Location:

- Staging (Safe) Area:** This area is outside the 15 foot perimeter surrounding the Training Area. This will be in the entry way just outside of the main training room, between the restrooms and the training room.
- Training Area:** A 15 foot perimeter (from the Electronic Weapon) within which training takes place. This area will also include a "downrange" area where all Electronic Weapon fire will be directed. The downrange area will be clear of all persons not wearing a simulation suit and free from anything that could be damaged by Electronic Weapon probes.

Scenario Training Roles and Responsibilities

In order to safely and effectively manage the scenario training, the Instructor is responsible for designating students and/or other instructors to assume certain roles and responsibilities.

Electronic Weapon Safety Officer (EWSO): The EWSO is responsible for monitoring the overall safety of the scenario and is normally the Instructor. Since it is not possible to maintain overall awareness when actively participating in the scenario, the Instructor should not assume an active role in the scenarios and should not be the person wearing the simulation suit. The Instructor may also designate another instructor or student to perform the role of EWSO during a scenario. The EWSO will ensure all weapons are removed from students and role-players prior to participating or entering the training location. The EWSO must personally supervise the pre-scenario personnel/equipment inspections to ensure that only the blue LS cartridges are used in the scenario.

Electronic Weapon Evaluation Officer (EWEO): The EWEO is responsible for setting-up and running the scenarios. The EWEO also leads the post-scenario discussion and critique with all participants. The EWEO should be very knowledgeable about the Electronic Weapon and have a strong training background. The primary responsibility of the EWEO is to ensure the scenario objectives are met. This includes evaluating the student's performance on the scenario. The EWEO shall also direct the role-players if needed. One of the instructors will be the EWEO for the scenarios.

Role Player (Subject): The role player is the subject in each scenario and must wear the simulation suit. The EWEO provides clear and concise instructions to the role-player to ensure they understand the objectives. The Instructor needs to emphasize the importance of following the scenario parameters with the role player. Some latitude is given to the role player to get students to respond to the simulated threat, but not at the expense of safety. The EWSO must ensure that the protective suit is properly adjusted on the role player before, during and after each scenario. The role-player must follow the directions of the EWSO and EWEO at all times.

Responder(s): Each student must participate as a responder in at least one scenario, even if the student has also participated as a role player or EWEO. The EWEO provides clear and concise instructions to the responder regarding the specific scenario and critiques the student performance at the end of the scenario. Response to each scenario should be based on responder's department SOP.