








TASER® X3™, X26™, and M26™ ECD Warnings, Instructions, and Information: Law Enforcement

Important ECD Product Safety and Health Information

These safety warnings are for your protection as well as the safety of others. Disregarding this information could result in death or serious injury.¹

 WARNING	
	Complete Training First Significant differences exist between each of the TASER International, Inc. ("TASER") Electronic Control Device ("ECD") models. Do not Use ² or attempt to Use any ECD model unless you have been trained and certified by a Certified TASER Instructor ³ on that particular model.
	Read and Obey Read, study, understand, and follow all instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins and TASER training materials ⁴ before Using the ADVANCED TASER® M26™ ECD, TASER X3™ ECD, or TASER X26™ ECD. Failure to comply with these instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins, and TASER training materials could result in death or serious injury to the User, force recipient, and others.
	Obey Applicable Laws Use the ECD only in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and other regulations or legal requirements. Your law enforcement agency's Guidance ⁵ must also be followed ⁶ . Any Use of an ECD must be legally justifiable. Resistance to law enforcement interaction incurs substantial risk of death or serious injury and subjects who resist law enforcement assume all such risks of death or serious injury.
<div><p>These warnings are effective May 1, 2010, and supersede all prior revisions and relevant Training Bulletins. The most current warnings are online at www.TASER.com.</p></div> <div><p><i>This warning label appears on newer ECD models.</i></p></div>	

¹ These warnings are state of the art but cannot address all possible ECD application circumstances or permutations. They are intended to inform Users about reasonably foreseeable potential risks of harm. The decision to Use the ECD in a particular manner or circumstance must follow applicable legal standards. These warnings do not create a standard of care. Herein, the singular is also the plural, the plural includes the singular, and the masculine is also the feminine.

² The terms "Use," "Used," "Using," or "User" include, but are not limited to: acquiring; accessing; entrusting; providing; possessing; storing; handling; manipulating; carrying; holstering; drawing; brandishing; displaying; deploying; utilizing; drive-stunning; using alligator or other types of clips or attachments; or discharging an ECD.

³ A Certified TASER Instructor possesses and maintains a current TASER instructor certification for the specific product model they are teaching, demonstrating, or Using and is required to be fully compliant with TASER's most current training requirements and materials.

⁴ Current TASER Instructor Training materials may be obtained by contacting TASER's Training Department.

⁵ Law enforcement agencies are force and force tools experts and are solely responsible for their own Guidance. "Guidance" includes, but is not limited to, policy, procedure, rule, order, directive, training, continuum, and standard. TASER has no power or authority to mandate or require Guidance, set policy, require training, or establish standards of care or conduct.

⁶ Law enforcement agencies, government entities, and Users are sophisticated purchasers, sophisticated users, and learned intermediaries with respect to law enforcement weapons (including ECDs), force, force use, legality of force use, and reporting.

Scope and Purpose

This document presents important safety warnings, instructions, and information intended to reasonably minimize hazards associated with ECD deployment, intended Use, side effects, and environment of Use.

Confronting, apprehending, capturing, controlling, restraining, incapacitating, taking persons into custody, and maintaining custody are often high risk events that could result in death or serious injury.

When lawfully Used as directed, ECDs are designed in probe-deployment mode to temporarily incapacitate a person from a safer distance than some other force options, while reducing the likelihood of death or serious injury. Any use of force, physical exertion, capture, control, restraint, or incapacitation involves risks that a person may get hurt or die.⁷

Within this document certain safety signals and signal words are used to call attention to safety messages.



The safety alert symbol is used to alert Users to potential injury hazards. ALWAYS Obey all safety messages that follow this symbol to reasonably minimize the risk of death or serious injury when the ECD is Used and to enhance safe operation of the ECD.



WARNING

The signal word WARNING indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided or heeded, could result in death or serious injury. It is intended to direct the User's attention to hazards that may not be obvious, but may be reasonably mitigated by heeding training and instructions, or avoiding certain actions, circumstances, or behaviors, thereby improving the safety of the ECD. WARNINGS may be followed by instructions and information integral to the WARNING.

Safety Information: ECD Deployment and Use



WARNING



Minimize Repeated, Continuous, or Simultaneous⁸ Exposures

Reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number of ECD exposures. ECD Users should use the lowest number of ECD exposures that are objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and should reassess the subject's resistance level before initiating or continuing the exposure.



Control and Restrain Immediately

Begin control and restraint procedures, including restraining the subject during ECD exposure, as soon as reasonably safe and practical to do so in order to minimize total ECD exposure. The ECD User, and those individuals assisting the User, should avoid touching the probes, wires, and the area between the probes to avoid accidental or unintended shock during ECD electrical discharge.



Sensitive Body Part Hazard

When possible, avoid intentionally targeting the ECD on sensitive areas of the body such as the head, throat, chest/breast, or known pre-existing injury areas without legal justification. The preferred target areas are the lower center mass (below chest) for front shots and below the neck area for back shots.



Perform Spark Test Prior to Each Shift

ECDs must be safely spark tested prior to each shift.



Avoid Misuse










Use an ECD only for its intended purpose, in legally justifiable situations, and in accordance with User's agency's Guidance.

⁷ "Almost every use of force, however minute, poses some risk of death." *Garrett v. Athens-Clarke County*, 378 F.3d 1274, 1280, n.12 (11th Cir. 2004).










⁸ "Simultaneous" means delivery to the body of electrical charge by multiple ECDs or multiple completed circuits at the same time.

	Never Confuse Handgun with ECD Confusing a handgun with an ECD could result in death or serious injury. ALWAYS follow your agency's equipment carrying and holstering location Guidance and training regarding distinguishing between handguns, other weapons, and ECDs.
	Be Aware of Trigger-Held Continuous Discharge If an ECD's trigger is held back it can continue to discharge beyond the 5-second cycle until the trigger is released or the power source is expended.
	Be Aware that an ECD or Cartridge May Fail to Fire, Operate, or Be Effective No weapons system, tool, technique, or ECD is always effective. If an ECD, cartridge, or accessory is inoperable, fails to function, or the intended ECD application is ineffective in achieving the desired effect, consider reloading and redeploying, using other force options, disengaging, or using other alternatives according to agency Guidance. The failure of the ECD to fire, operate, or be effective could result in death or serious injury.
	Prepare to Redeploy ECD or Use Backup Plan Always prepare to redeploy the ECD or Use a backup plan. Be familiar with backup plans and acceptable alternatives in the event of ineffective deployment.
	Incapacitation, Falling, and Startle Hazard ECD Use may cause muscular contraction, Neuro Muscular Incapacitation ("NMI"), startling, and falling, which could result in death or serious injury.
 	NMI and Secondary Injuries An ECD may cause NMI if probes are within sufficient proximity to complete a circuit, with sufficient spread, and an adequate circuit is completed and maintained rendering the subject temporarily unable to control movement and may cause a fall. Also, ECD use may cause a startle response. This loss of control or startle may increase risk of death or serious injury resulting from loss of balance, fall, change in momentum, drowning, or loss of control of any mode of transportation, conveyance, or machinery. Especially at risk is a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could fall and suffer impact injury to the head or other area; • Is on an elevated or unstable surface (e.g., tree, roof, ladder, ledge, balcony, porch, bridge, crane, dock, chair, bunk bed, or stair); • Is less able to catch or protect self in a fall (e.g., restrained, handcuffed, incapacitated, or immobilized); • Could fall on a sharp object (e.g., holding a knife or other edged weapon or sharp object on ground); • Is running, in motion, or moving under momentum; • Is operating or riding in or on any mode of transportation (e.g., vehicle, bus, bicycle, motorcycle, cart, train, or airplane), conveyance (e.g., escalator, moving walkway, elevator, skateboard, skates, or rollerblades), or machinery; • Is located in water, mud, or marsh environment if the ability to move is restricted; or • Is physically infirm, elderly, or pregnant.
 	Eye Injury Hazard If a TASER probe, electrode, or electrical discharge contacts or comes into close proximity to an eye it could result in serious injury, including permanent vision loss. DO NOT intentionally aim an ECD at the eye of a person or animal without justification.
	Laser Light Could Result in Serious Eye Injury The ECD uses a LASER as a targeting aid. Avoid intentionally aiming the LASER at the eye of a person or animal without justification. NEVER aim the LASER at aircraft.
 	Fire and Explosion Hazard ECD Use could result in a fire or explosion when flammable gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or materials are present. An ECD can ignite explosive and flammable clothing or materials, liquids, fumes, gases, or vapors (e.g., gasoline, vapor or gas found in sewer lines or methamphetamine labs, butane-type lighters, or flammable hair gels). Do not knowingly Use an ECD in the presence of any explosive or flammable substance without legal justification. Note that some self-defense sprays use a flammable carrier, such as alcohol.

Safety Information: ECD Known and Potential Side Effects









 WARNING	
 Always follow and comply with all instructions, warnings, information, and current TASER training materials to reasonably minimize the risks associated with possible Use and side effects listed below.	
	Muscle Contraction or Strain-Related Injury ECDs can cause strong or moderate muscle contractions that may result in physical exertion, athletic, or sport-type injury, including, but not limited to, injury such as hernia, rupture, dislocation, tear, or other injury to soft tissue, organ, muscle, tendon, ligament, nerve, bone, or joint. Fracture to bone, including compression fracture to vertebrae, may occur. These injuries may be more serious and more likely to occur in people with pre-existing injuries, conditions or special susceptibilities, which include but are not limited to, known or unknown: pregnancy; osteopenia; osteoporosis; spinal injury; or previous muscle, disc, ligament, joint, bone, or tendon damage or surgery. Such injuries may also occur when a person reacts to the ECD deployment or discharge by making a rapid movement.
	Physiologic or Metabolic Effects The ECD can produce physiologic or metabolic effects which include, but are not limited to, changes in: acidosis; adrenergic states; blood pressure; calcium, creatine kinase ("CK"); electrolytes (including potassium), heart rate and rhythm; lactic acid; myoglobin; pH; respiration; stress hormones or other biochemical neuromodulators (e.g., catecholamines). Reasonable effort should be made to minimize the number of ECD exposures and resulting physiologic and metabolic effects. In human studies of electrical discharge from a single ECD of up to 15 seconds, these effects on acidosis, CK, electrolytes, stress hormones, and vital signs have been comparable to or less than changes expected from physical exertion similar to struggling, resistance, fighting, fleeing, or from the application of some other force tools or techniques. Adverse physiologic or metabolic effects may increase risk of death or serious injury.
	Higher Risk Populations ECD Use on a pregnant, infirm, elderly, small child, or low body-mass index (BMI) person could increase the risk of death or serious injury. ECD Use has not been scientifically tested on these populations. The ECD should not be Used on members of these populations unless the situation justifies possible higher risk of death or serious injury.
	Physiologically or Metabolically Compromised Persons Law enforcement personnel are called upon to deal with individuals in crises that are often physiologically or metabolically compromised and may be susceptible to arrest-related death ("ARD"). The factors that may increase susceptibility for an ARD have not been fully characterized but may include: a hypersympathetic state, autonomic dysregulation, capture myopathy, hyperthermia, altered electrolytes, severe acidosis, cardiac arrest, drug or alcohol effects (toxic withdrawal, sensitization to arrhythmias, etc), alterations in brain function (agitated or excited delirium), cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, sickle cell disease, and other pathologic conditions. These risks may exist prior to, during, or after law enforcement intervention or ECD Use, and the subject may already be at risk of death or serious injury as a result of pre-existing conditions, individual susceptibility, or other factors. In a physiologically or metabolically compromised person any physiologic or metabolic change may cause or contribute to death or serious injury. Follow your agency's Guidance when dealing with physiologically or metabolically compromised persons.
	Neurocardiogenic Response (Fainting) A person may experience an exaggerated response to an ECD exposure, or threatened exposure, which may result in a person fainting or falling with possible secondary injury.
	Seizure Repetitive stimuli (e.g., flashing light or electrical stimuli) can induce seizure in some people. This risk may be increased in a person with a seizure history or if electrical stimuli pass through the head area. This may also result in a person falling with a possible secondary injury.
	Stress and Pain The ECD can cause temporary discomfort, pain, stress, panic, or startle which may be injurious to some people. Anticipation of ECD exposure can cause stress, trepidation, panic, startle, or fear, which may also be injurious to some people.

Safety Information: Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection





 WARNING	
 Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection Hazard ECD Use may cause a mark, burn, scar, penetration, other skin, or tissue damage or infection. Provide First Aid and medical care as needed.	
	Scarring Use of an ECD may cause irritation, puncture, mark, abrasion, rash, burn, keloid, or other scarring that may be permanent. This risk may be increased when using the M26 or X26 ECD in drive-stun mode with the cartridge removed or the X3 ECD in drive-stun mode due to the multiple sets of electrical contacts. The nature and severity of these effects depends on the area of exposure and method of application, individual susceptibility, and other circumstances surrounding ECD Use, exposure, and after care.
	Penetration Injury The TASER probe has a small dart point which may cause a penetration injury to a blood vessel or internal organ (including lung, bone, or nerve). The probe or dart point (which may detach) can also puncture or become embedded into a bone, organ, or tissue, which may require immediate medical attention, surgical removal, or may result in scarring, infection, or other serious injury.
	Penetration Injury Care Injury due to penetration of the probe or dart point into a blood vessel, organ, nerve, or bone may require medical attention. A probe, dart point, or barb embedded in a sensitive area such as the eye, the genital area, breast, neck, throat, or vascular structure may cause serious injury and may require special medical attention and further evaluation.
	Probe Removal Probe removal may cause injury. Leaving a probe in the body may result in pain or injury. Follow your agency's Guidance and biohazard protocols for probe removal. In the case of embedment, organ or bone penetration, or probe, dart point, or barb detachment, immediate medical attention and possible surgical removal may be required.
	Skin, Wound, or Infection Treatment ECD Use may cause a skin irritation, puncture wound, abrasion, mark, rash, burn, keloid or other scar which may require medical attention and may be permanent. As with any injury of this type, infection or tetanus and resulting complications may occur in some circumstances.
	Biohazards Utilize appropriate biohazard protocols and personal protective equipment including Body Substance Isolation procedures, gloves, masks, and washing of hands and exposed areas as necessary. Follow your agency's Guidance and appropriate biohazard, waste, and evidence protocols when dealing with biohazards.
	Untethered Discharged Probe In probe deployment, it is possible that a discharged probe that does not impact a subject or target may become untethered from the wire and travel a significant distance. A loose, untethered probe can cause serious injury.



Safety Information: General Precautions

 WARNING	
	Unintentional Deployment Hazard Unintentional ECD activation could result in death or serious injury to the User, force recipient, and others. Follow and comply with the following instructions to reduce the risk of unintentional Use, deployment, or activation.




	Store In A Secure Location Store ECDs, cartridges, and accessories in secure locations inaccessible to children and other unauthorized persons to prevent inappropriate Use, which may result in death or serious injury to the User, other persons, or animals. ECDs and cartridges are weapons and are not toys.
	Use Of ECD Safety Always place the ECD safety switch in the down (SAFE) position when not in Use. Remember to place the ECD safety switch in the up (ARMED) position when you intend to Use the ECD.
	Assume ECD Is Loaded Always assume that an ECD is loaded and capable of discharging. To avoid unexpected discharge, ensure that no live cartridge is in the ECD when inserting: a battery; CDPM™, DPM™, EPM™, TPM™, or XDPM™ battery pack; TASER CAM™ recorder; or while performing spark tests (except when spark testing the X3 ECD), maintenance, data downloading, or battery charging.
	Be Aware Of ECD Deployment Mode Keep your finger off the trigger until it is legally justifiable to use the ECD. Be aware of the deployment mode (manual or semi-automatic) set on the X3 ECD before discharging that ECD.
	Keep Body Parts Away From Front of ECD or Cartridge Keep your hands and body parts away from the front of the ECD and cartridge, unless instructed otherwise. A discharging ECD or cartridge could result in serious injury.
	Avoid Static Electricity Keep the cartridge away from sources of static electricity. Static electricity can cause the ECD or X26 or M26 cartridge to discharge unexpectedly, which could result in serious injury.
	Beware of Electronic Equipment Interference Interference from electronic transmission equipment in close proximity to the ECD could interfere with the proper operation of the ECD and cause the ECD to discharge. Keep the ECD at least several inches away from other electronic equipment. Place the ECD safety switch in the down (SAFE) position whenever it is immediately adjacent to electronic equipment (including transmitting radios and cell phones). Remember to place the ECD safety switch in the up (ARMED) position prior to attempting Use.
	Avoid Dropping ECD or Cartridge If an ECD or cartridge is dropped or damaged it may unintentionally deploy or discharge, become inoperable, or fail to function, making it unsafe for continued use. If an ECD or cartridge has been dropped or damaged, refer to the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.

Safety Information: Maintenance

 WARNING	
	Failure to maintain an ECD as instructed may cause the ECD to malfunction or fail to function optimally and could result in death or serious injury. Follow and comply with the following instructions to reduce the risk of ECD malfunction, including failure.
	Damaged ECD or Cartridge Do not use a cartridge with a missing blast door unless facing an immediate threat. ECD repair or modification by an unauthorized person may cause the ECD to fire or malfunction, will void the warranty, and may put the User or other person at risk of death or serious injury.
	Update ECD Software Some ECDs, including the TASER X26 and X3, have the capability for software updating. It is important to acquire, update, and maintain the latest ECD software update. Current ECD software may be obtained by contacting TASER's Customer Service Department or following instructions at the EVIDENCE.COM™ site.

	<p>Use Only TASER-Approved Components, Batteries, Accessories, and Cartridges</p> <p>The ECD is a sophisticated electronic system. In order to provide proper function, only TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges are to be used with the ECD. Use of anything other than TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges will void the warranty, may cause malfunction, and may put the User or other person at risk of death or serious injury.</p>
	<p>Avoid Exposure to Wet Conditions</p> <p>If the ECD is drenched or immersed in water or other liquid, DO NOT Use the ECD until completing the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.</p>

Safety Information: Hazardous Substances






 WARNING	
 	<p>Hazardous Substances</p> <p>The ECD contains components that contain chemicals known to the State of California and others to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not disassemble. Refer to your agency's Guidance for proper handling and disposal.</p>



TASER® X2™, X3®, X26™, and M26™ Handheld ECD Warnings, Instructions, and Information: Law Enforcement

Important ECD Product Safety and Health Information

These warnings are for your protection as well as the safety of others.^{1,2} Disregarding this information could result in death or serious injury.

 WARNING	
	Complete Training First Significant differences exist between each of the TASER International, Inc. ("TASER") Electronic Control Device ("ECD") models. Do not use ³ or attempt to use any ECD model unless you have been trained and certified by a Certified TASER Instructor ⁴ on that particular model.
	Read and Obey Read, study, understand, and follow all instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins and TASER training materials ⁵ before using TASER ECDs. Failure to comply with these instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins, and TASER training materials could result in death or serious injury to the user, force recipient, and others.
	Obey Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Agency Guidance Use ECDs only in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and other regulations or legal requirements. Your law enforcement agency's Guidance ⁶ must also be followed. ⁷ Any ECD use must be legally justifiable. Resistance to law enforcement interaction often incurs substantial risk of death or serious injury and subjects who resist law enforcement assume all such risks of death or serious injury.
<div><p>These warnings are effective May 31, 2011, and supersede all prior revisions and relevant Training Bulletins. The most current warnings are online at www.TASER.com.</p></div> <div><p><i>This warning label appears on newer ECD models.</i></p></div>	

¹ These warnings are not based solely on the conclusions or findings of current medical or scientific literature. Rather, there are numerous factors that are considered in developing these warnings and some of those factors are more conservative than purely scientifically known, established, or confirmed principles or knowledge. The singular is also the plural, the plural includes the singular, and the masculine is also the feminine.

² The product warnings must be read as a whole. These warnings are state of the art but cannot address all possible ECD application circumstances or permutations. They are intended to inform users about reasonably foreseeable potential risks of harm. The decision to use the ECD in a particular manner or circumstance must follow applicable legal standards and law enforcement agency Guidance. These warnings do not create a standard of care.

³ The terms "use," "used," or "using" include, but are not limited to: acquiring; accessing; entrusting; providing; possessing; storing; handling; manipulating; carrying; holstering; drawing; brandishing; displaying; deploying; utilizing; drive-stunning; using alligator or other types of clips or attachments; or discharging an ECD.

⁴ A Certified TASER Instructor possesses and maintains a current TASER instructor certification for the specific product model they are teaching, demonstrating, or using and is required to be fully compliant with TASER's most current training requirements and materials.

⁵ Current TASER Instructor Training materials may be obtained by contacting TASER's Training Department.

⁶ Law enforcement agencies are force and force options and tools experts and are solely responsible for their own Guidance. "Guidance" includes, but is not limited to, policy, custom, procedure, rule, order, directive, training, continuum, and standard. TASER has no power or authority to mandate or require Guidance, set policy, require training, or establish standards of care or conduct.

⁷ Law enforcement agencies, government entities, and users are sophisticated purchasers, sophisticated users, and learned intermediaries with respect to law enforcement weapons and other force options (including ECDs), force, force use, legality of force use, and reporting.

Scope and Purpose

This document presents important safety warnings, instructions, and information intended to reasonably minimize hazards associated with ECD deployment, intended use, effects, side effects, and environment of use.

Using force⁸ is often a high risk event that could result in death or serious injury. When lawfully used as directed, ECDs are designed in probe-deployment mode to temporarily incapacitate a person from a safer distance than some other force options, while reducing the likelihood of death or serious injury. Any use of force or physical exertion involves risks that a person may get hurt or die.⁹

Within this document certain safety signals and signal words are used to call attention to safety messages:







The safety alert symbol is used to alert users to potential injury hazards. ALWAYS obey all safety messages that follow this symbol to reasonably minimize the risk of death or serious injury when the ECD is used and to enhance safe operation of the ECD.



WARNING








The signal word WARNING indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided or heeded, could result in death or serious injury. It is intended to direct the user's attention to hazards that may not be obvious, but may be reasonably mitigated by heeding training and instructions, or avoiding certain actions, circumstances, or behaviors, thereby improving the safety of the ECD. WARNINGS may be followed by instructions and information integral to the WARNING.

Safety Information: ECD Known and Potential Side Effects

 WARNING	
 Always follow and comply with all instructions, warnings, information, and current TASER training materials to reasonably minimize the risks associated with possible Use and side effects listed below.	
	Physiologic or Metabolic Effects The ECD can produce physiologic or metabolic effects which include, but are not limited to, changes in: acidosis; adrenergic states; blood chemistry, blood pressure; calcium, creatine kinase ("CK"); electrolytes (including potassium); lactic acid; myoglobin; pH; respiration; heart rate, rhythm, capture; stress hormones or other biochemical neuromodulators (e.g., catecholamines). Therefore, reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number of ECD exposures and resulting physiologic and metabolic effects. In human studies of electrical discharge from a single ECD of up to 15 seconds, the effects on acidosis, CK, electrolytes, stress hormones, and vital signs have been comparable to or less than changes expected from physical exertion similar to struggling, resistance, fighting, fleeing, or from the application of some other force tools or techniques. Adverse physiologic or metabolic effects may increase risk of death or serious injury.
	Physiologically or Metabolically Compromised Persons Law enforcement personnel are called upon to deal with individuals in crisis who are often physiologically or metabolically compromised and may be susceptible to arrest-related death ("ARD"). The factors that may increase susceptibility for an ARD have not been fully characterized but may include: a hypersympathetic state, autonomic dysregulation, capture myopathy, hyperthermia, altered electrolytes, severe acidosis, cardiac arrest, drug or alcohol effects (toxic withdrawal or sensitization to arrhythmias), alterations in brain function (agitated or excited delirium), cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, sickle cell disease, and other pathologic conditions. These risks may exist prior to, during, or after law enforcement intervention or ECD use, and the subject may already be at risk of death or serious injury as a result of pre-existing conditions, individual susceptibility, or other factors. In a physiologically or metabolically compromised person any physiologic or metabolic change may cause or contribute to death or serious injury. Follow your agency's Guidance when dealing with physiologically or metabolically compromised persons.

⁸ The terms "using force" and "use of force", include, but are not limited to: confronting, apprehending, capturing, controlling, restraining, incapacitating, taking persons into custody, and maintaining custody.

⁹ "Almost every use of force, however minute, poses some risk of death." *Garrett v. Athens-Clarke County*, 378 F.3d 1274, 1280, n.12 (11th Cir. 2004). Therefore, as with any use of force, the user must appropriately balance the actual risks inherent in the force option used against the exigencies presented by a particular incident.







	Higher Risk Populations ECD use on a pregnant, infirm, elderly, small child, or low body-mass index ("BMI") person could increase the risk of death or serious injury. ECD use has not been scientifically tested on these populations. The ECD should not be used on members of these populations unless the situation justifies possible higher risk of death or serious injury.
	Muscle Contraction or Strain-Related Injury ECDs can cause strong or moderate muscle contractions that may result in physical exertion, athletic, or sport-type injury, including, but not limited to, injuries such as: hernia rupture, dislocation, tear, or other injury to soft tissue, organ, muscle, tendon, ligament, nerve, bone, or joint; or injury or damage associated with or to orthopedic or other hardware. Fracture to bone, including compression fracture to vertebrae, may occur. These injuries may be more serious and more likely to occur in people with pre-existing injuries, orthopedic hardware, conditions or special susceptibilities, which include but are not limited to, known or unknown: pregnancy; osteopenia; osteoporosis; spinal injury; or previous muscle, disc, ligament, joint, bone, or tendon damage or surgery. Such injuries may also occur when a person reacts to the ECD deployment or discharge by making a rapid movement.
	Seizure Repetitive stimuli (e.g., flashing light or electrical stimuli) can induce seizure in some people. This risk may be increased in a person with a seizure history or if electrical stimuli pass through the head area. This may also result in a person falling with a possible secondary injury.
	Stress and Pain The ECD can cause temporary discomfort and pain which may result in stress, panic, anger, rage, or startle which may be injurious to some people and may cause adverse changes in blood chemistry. Additionally, anticipation of ECD exposure can cause stress, trepidation, panic, startle, or fear, which may also be injurious to some people.
	Neurocardiogenic Response (Fainting) A person may experience an exaggerated response to an ECD exposure, or threatened exposure, which may result in a person fainting or falling with possible secondary injury.
	Incapacitation, Falling, and Startle Hazard ECD use may cause muscular contraction, Neuro Muscular Incapacitation (NMI), startling, and falling, which could result in death or serious injury.
	NMI and Secondary Injuries An ECD may cause NMI if probes are within sufficient proximity to complete a circuit, with sufficient spread, and an adequate circuit is completed and maintained rendering the subject temporarily unable to control movement and may cause a fall or uncontrolled fall. Also, ECD use may cause a startle response. This loss of control or startle may increase risk of death or serious injury resulting from loss of balance, fall, uncontrolled fall, change in momentum, drowning, or loss of control of any mode of transportation, conveyance, or machinery. Especially at risk is a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could fall and suffer impact injury to the head or other area; • Is on an elevated or unstable surface (e.g., tree, roof, ladder, ledge, balcony, porch, bridge, crane, dock, chair, bunk bed, or stair); • Is less able to catch or protect self in a fall (e.g., restrained, handcuffed, incapacitated, or immobilized); • Could fall on a sharp object (e.g., holding a knife or other edged weapon or sharp object on ground); • Is running, in motion, or moving under momentum; • Is operating or riding in or on any mode of transportation (e.g., vehicle, bus, bicycle, motorcycle, cart, train, or airplane), conveyance (e.g., escalator, moving walkway, elevator, skateboard, skates, or rollerblades), or machinery; • Is located in water, mud, or marsh environment if the ability to move is restricted; or • Is physically infirm, elderly, or pregnant.

Safety Information: ECD Deployment and Use









 WARNING	
	Minimize Repeated, Continuous, or Simultaneous¹⁰ Exposures Reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number of ECD exposures. ECD users should use the lowest number of ECD exposures that are objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and should reassess the subject's behaviors, reactions, and resistance level before initiating or continuing the exposure. If subject is non-compliant after a number of ECD exposures, consideration should be given to whether alternative control measures in conjunction with or separate from the ECD are appropriate under the circumstances.
	Control and Restrain Immediately Begin control and restraint procedures, including restraining the subject during ECD exposure, as soon as reasonably safe and practical to do so in order to minimize total ECD exposure. The ECD user, and those individuals assisting the user, should avoid touching the probes, wires, and the area between the probes to avoid accidental or unintended shock during ECD electrical discharge.
	Other Conditions Unrelated to ECD exposure, conditions such as excited delirium, severe exhaustion, drug intoxication or chronic drug abuse, and/or over-exertion from physical struggle may result in death or serious injury. Accordingly, it is advisable to use expedient physical restraint to minimize the overall duration of stress and exertion particularly on individuals exhibiting symptoms of superhuman strength, excited delirium and/or exhaustion.
	Sensitive Body Part Hazard When possible, avoid intentionally targeting the ECD on sensitive areas of the body such as the head, throat, chest/breast, or known pre-existing injury areas without legal justification. The preferred target areas are below the neck area for back shots and the lower center mass (below chest) for front shots. The preferred target areas increase dart-to-heart safety margin distance. ¹¹
	Avoid Misuse Use an ECD only for its intended purpose, in legally justifiable situations, and in accordance with user's agency's Guidance.
	Never Confuse Handgun with ECD Confusing a handgun with an ECD could result in death or serious injury. ALWAYS follow your agency's equipment carrying and holstering location Guidance and training regarding distinguishing between handguns, other weapons, and ECDs.
	Trigger-Held Continuous Discharge If an ECD's trigger is held back (on all but the X2 ECD with an APPM), it can continue to discharge beyond the 5-second cycle until the trigger is released or the power source is expended.
	5-Second Discharge Cutoff and Trigger Reactivation Necessity for an X2 ECD with APPM The X2 ECD may be programmed with an optional automatic shut-down feature (the APPM) that will stop a continual trigger discharge at 5 seconds (even if the user continues to hold back the trigger) and require an additional trigger pull by the user for an additional cycle. The X2 ECD programmed with the APPM emits an audible alert 4 seconds into the ECD output cycle. Under high stress circumstances or noisy environments, the user may not hear the audible warning.
	Immediate Subject Reaction A subject receiving an ECD discharge may immediately regain their physical and/or cognitive abilities upon cessation of the delivered ECD discharge.
	Drive-Stun Mode is Usually Pain Compliance Only The use of a handheld ECD in drive-stun mode is painful, but also is generally temporary, localized, and does not cause NMI.
	ECD or Cartridge May Fail to Fire, Operate, or Be Effective No weapons system, tool, technique, force option, or ECD is always effective. If an ECD, cartridge, or accessory is inoperable, fails to function, or the intended ECD application is ineffective in achieving the desired effect, consider reloading and redeploying, using other force options, disengaging, or using other alternatives according to agency Guidance. The failure of the ECD to fire, operate, or be effective could result in death or serious injury.






¹⁰ "Simultaneous" means delivery to the body of electrical charge by multiple ECDs or multiple completed circuits at the same time.

¹¹ Proximity of the ECD electrical discharge to, or across, the heart has been identified as a principal concern for ECD-caused cardiac risks and safety.









	Limited Effects An ECD's effectiveness is determined by many factors including, but not limited to: absence of delivered electrical charge; probe locations; probe spread; subject's muscle mass; clothing; and movement. Even though a subject may be affected by an ECD in one part of his body the subject may maintain full muscle control of other portions of his body.
	Probe Trajectory Deviations Probe discharge, flight trajectory, and subject impact location can be affected by numerous factors, including but not limited to: failure of cartridge to properly deploy; strong air movements; officer and subject movements; or probe striking subject, clothing, or object with insufficient force or trajectory to penetrate or adhere to subject. Deviations can result in the ECD not being effective or being of limited effectiveness due to failure to complete the electrical circuit, a small probe spread, or failure to deliver a sufficient charge to the subject.
	Prepare to Redeploy ECD or Use Backup Plan Always prepare to redeploy the ECD or Use a backup plan. Be familiar with backup plans and acceptable alternatives in the event of ineffective deployment.
  	Fire and Explosion Hazard ECD use could result in a fire or explosion when flammable gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or materials are present. An ECD can ignite explosive and flammable clothing or materials, liquids, fumes, gases, or vapors (e.g., gasoline, vapor or gas found in sewer lines or methamphetamine labs, butane-type lighters, or flammable hair gels). Do not knowingly use an ECD in the presence of any explosive or flammable substance without legal justification. Note that some self-defense sprays use a flammable carrier, such as alcohol.





Safety Information: Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection

 WARNING	
 	Eye Injury Hazard If a TASER probe, electrode, or electrical discharge contacts or comes into close proximity to an eye it could result in serious injury, including permanent vision loss. DO NOT intentionally aim an ECD at the eye of a person or animal without justification.
 	LASER Light Could Result in Serious Eye Injury The ECD uses a LASER as a targeting aid. Avoid intentionally aiming the LASER at the eye of a person or animal without justification. NEVER aim the LASER at aircraft or aircraft operator, or other moving vehicle.
	Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection Hazard ECD use may cause a mark, burn, scar, penetration, other skin, or tissue damage or infection. Provide First Aid and medical care as needed.
	Scarring Use of an ECD may cause irritation, puncture, mark, abrasion, rash, burn, keloid, or other scarring that may be permanent. This risk may be increased when using the M26 or X26 ECD in drive-stun mode with the cartridge removed or the X3 or X2 ECD in drive-stun mode due to the multiple sets of electrical contacts. The nature and severity of these effects depends on numerous factors including the area of exposure and method of application, individual susceptibility, and other circumstances surrounding ECD use, exposure, and after care.
	Penetration Injury The TASER probe has a small dart point which may cause a penetration injury to a blood vessel or internal organ (including lung, bone, or nerve). The probe or dart point (which may detach) can also puncture or become embedded into a bone, organ, or tissue, which may require immediate medical attention, surgical removal, or may result in scarring, infection, or other serious injury.








	Penetration Injury Care Injury due to penetration of the probe or dart point into a blood vessel, organ, nerve, or bone may require medical attention. A probe, dart point, or barb embedded in a sensitive area such as the eye, the genital area, breast, neck, throat, or vascular structure may cause serious injury and may require special medical attention and further evaluation.
	Probe Removal Probe removal may cause injury. Leaving a probe in the body may result in pain or injury. Follow your agency's Guidance and biohazard protocols for probe removal. In the case of embedment, organ or bone penetration, or probe, dart point, or barb detachment, immediate medical attention and possible surgical removal may be required.
	Skin, Wound, or Infection Treatment ECD use may cause a skin irritation, puncture wound, abrasion, mark, rash, burn, keloid or other scar which may require medical attention and may be permanent. As with any injury of this type, infection or tetanus and resulting complications may occur in some circumstances.
	Biohazards Utilize appropriate biohazard protocols and personal protective equipment including Body Substance Isolation procedures, gloves, masks, and washing of hands and exposed areas as necessary. Follow your agency's Guidance and appropriate biohazard, waste, and evidence protocols when dealing with biohazards.
	Untethered Discharged Probe In probe deployment, it is possible that a discharged probe that does not impact a subject or target may become untethered from the wire and travel a significant distance. A loose, untethered probe can cause serious injury.

Safety Information: General Precautions


 WARNING	
	Unintentional Deployment Hazard Unintentional ECD activation could result in death or serious injury to the user, force recipient, and others. Follow and comply with the following instructions to reduce the risk of unintentional use, deployment, or activation.
	Store In A Secure Location Store ECDs, cartridges, and accessories in secure locations inaccessible to children and other unauthorized persons to prevent inappropriate use, which may result in death or serious injury to the user, other persons, or animals. ECDs and cartridges are weapons and are not toys.
	Use Of ECD's Safety Always place the ECD safety switch in the down (SAFE) position when the ECD is not in use. Remember to place ECD safety switch in the up (ARMED) position when you intend to use the ECD.
	Assume ECD Is Loaded Always assume that an ECD is loaded and capable of discharging. To avoid unexpected discharge, ensure that no live cartridge is in the ECD when inserting: a battery; CDPM, DPM, XDPM, PPM, TPPM, APPM, EPM, or TPM battery pack; TASER CAM™ recorder; or while performing spark tests (except when spark testing the X2 or X3 ECD), maintenance, data downloading, or battery charging.
	Be Aware of ECD Trigger Keep your finger off the trigger until it is legally justifiable to use the ECD.
	Be Aware of X3 ECD's Deployment Mode Be aware of the deployment mode (manual or semi-automatic) set on the X3 ECD before using that ECD.
	Be Aware of X2 ECD Static (Fixed) LASER Mode The X2 ECD has static dual LASERs. One LASER is intended to align with the top dart; the other LASER is designed to align with the bottom dart, both of which are set-up for 15' (4.6 m) to 25' (7.62 m) cartridges at a 15' distance from the target. The trajectory of the 35' (10.7 m) long range cartridge will not line up with the bottom LASER when placed in the X2 ECD.



	Keep Body Parts Away From Front of ECD or Cartridge Keep your hands and body parts away from the front of the ECD and cartridge, unless instructed otherwise. A discharging ECD or cartridge could result in serious injury.
	Avoid Static Electricity Keep the cartridge away from sources of static electricity. Static electricity can cause the ECD or X26 or M26 cartridge to discharge unexpectedly, which could result in serious injury.
	Beware of Electronic Equipment Interference Interference from electronic transmission equipment in close proximity to the ECD could interfere with the proper operation of the ECD and cause the ECD to discharge. Keep the ECD at least several inches away from other electronic equipment. Place the ECD safety switch in the down (SAFE) position whenever it is immediately adjacent to electronic equipment (including transmitting radios and cell phones). Remember to place the ECD safety switch in the up (ARMED) position prior to attempting use.
	Avoid Dropping ECD or Cartridge If an ECD or cartridge is dropped or damaged it may unintentionally deploy or discharge, become inoperable, or fail to function, making it unsafe for continued use. If an ECD or cartridge has been dropped or damaged, refer to the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.

Safety Information: Maintenance

 WARNING	
	Failure to maintain an ECD as instructed may cause the ECD to malfunction or fail to function optimally and could result in death or serious injury. Follow and comply with the following instructions to reduce the risk of ECD malfunction, including failure.
	Perform Spark Test Prior to Each Shift ECDs must be safely spark tested prior to each shift. Spark testing helps verify operational functionality. See the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials for further information on spark testing.
	Damaged ECD or Cartridge Do not use a cartridge with a missing blast door unless facing an immediate threat. ECD repair or modification by an unauthorized person may cause the ECD to fire or malfunction, will void the warranty, and may put the user or other person at risk of death or serious injury. Cartridges with blast doors that have been repaired should only be used for training and not for field use.
	Update ECD Software Some ECDs, including the TASER X26, X2, and X3 ECDs, have the capability for software updating. It is important to acquire, update, and maintain the latest ECD software update. Current ECD software may be obtained by contacting TASER's Customer Service Department or following instructions at www.evidence.com .
	Use Only TASER-Approved Components, Batteries, Accessories, and Cartridges The ECD is a sophisticated electronic system. In order to provide proper function, only TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges are to be used with the ECD. Use of anything other than TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges will void the warranty, may cause malfunction, and may put the user or other person at risk of death or serious injury.
	Avoid Exposure to Wet Conditions If the ECD is drenched or immersed in water or other liquid, DO NOT use, or attempt to use, the ECD until completing the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.

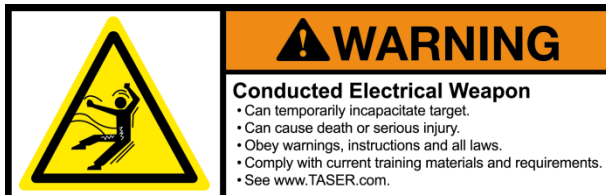
Safety Information: Hazardous Substances

 **WARNING**



Hazardous Substances

The ECD contains components that contain chemicals known to the State of California and others to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not disassemble. Refer to your agency's Guidance for proper handling and disposal.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY AND HEALTH INFORMATION**

This document presents important safety warnings, instructions, and information intended to minimize hazards associated with the use of TASER International, Inc. (TASER) Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs). These instructions and warnings are for your protection as well as the safety of others. **Read the entire document before using a CEW.**

When used as directed in probe-deployment mode, CEWs are designed to temporarily incapacitate a person from a safer distance than some other force options, while reducing the likelihood of death or serious injury. However, any use of force, including the use of a CEW, involves risks that a person may get hurt or die due to the effects of the CEW, physical incapacitation, physical exertion, unforeseen circumstances, or individual susceptibilities. Following the instructions and warnings in this document will reduce the likelihood that CEW use will cause death or serious injury.

These warnings and instructions are effective **March 1, 2013**, and supersede all prior revisions and relevant Training Bulletins. **Immediately distribute this document to all TASER CEW users.** The most current warnings are also available online at www.TASER.com.

1. **Complete training first.** Significant differences exist between different TASER CEW models. Do not use or attempt to use any CEW model unless you have been trained by a Certified TASER Instructor on that particular model.¹
2. **Read and obey.** Read, understand, and follow all current instructions, warnings, and relevant TASER training materials before using TASER CEWs. Failure to do so could increase the risk of death or serious injury to the user, force recipient, or others.
3. **Obey applicable laws, regulations, and agency Guidance.** Use of CEWs must be legally justified and comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The decision to use a CEW in a particular manner or circumstance must follow applicable law enforcement agency Guidance.²


Always follow all current instructions, warnings, and TASER training materials to minimize CEW risks.

This document uses a signal word panel to mark specific warnings:

 **WARNING** This signal word panel indicates a **potentially hazardous situation which if not avoided could result in death or serious injury.**

Warnings may be followed by instructions and information to help avoid the hazard and improve CEW safety.

SAFETY INFORMATION: CEW RISKS AND RISK AVOIDANCE

 **WARNING** **Cumulative Effects.** CEW exposure causes certain effects, including physiologic and metabolic changes, stress, and pain. In some individuals, the risk of death or serious injury may increase with cumulative CEW exposure. Repeated, prolonged, or continuous CEW applications may contribute to cumulative exhaustion, stress, cardiac, physiologic, metabolic, respiratory, and associated medical risks

¹ A Certified TASER Instructor is not a TASER agent, but maintains a current TASER instructor certification and complies with TASER's most current training requirements, materials and license agreement. Representations inconsistent with this document made by any Certified TASER Instructor are expressly disclaimed.

² Law enforcement agencies are force experts and are solely responsible for their own Guidance. "Guidance" includes policy, custom, procedure, rule, order, directive, training, continuum, and standard. TASER has no authority to mandate Guidance, set policy, require training, or establish standards of care or conduct.

which could increase the risk of death or serious injury. Minimize repeated, continuous, or simultaneous exposures.

Physiologic and Metabolic Effects. CEW use causes physiologic and/or metabolic effects that may increase the risk of death or serious injury. These effects include changes in blood chemistry, blood pressure, respiration, heart rate and rhythm, and adrenaline and stress hormones, among others. In human studies of electrical discharge from a single CEW of up to 15 seconds, the effects on acid/base balance, creatine kinase, electrolytes, stress hormones, and vital signs were comparable to or less than changes expected from physical exertion similar to struggling, resistance, fighting, fleeing, or from the application of some other force tools or techniques.

Some individuals may be particularly susceptible to the effects of CEW use. These susceptible individuals include the elderly, those with heart conditions, asthma or other pulmonary conditions, and people suffering from excited delirium, profound agitation, severe exhaustion, drug intoxication or chronic drug abuse, and/or over-exertion from physical struggle. In a physiologically or metabolically compromised person, any physiologic or metabolic change may cause or contribute to sudden death.

Stress and Pain. CEW use, anticipation of use, or response to use can cause startle, panic, fear, anger, rage, temporary discomfort, pain, or stress which may be injurious or fatal to some people.

To reduce the risk from CEW exposure:

1. **Minimize the number and duration of CEW exposures.** Most human CEW lab testing has not exceeded 15 seconds of CEW application, and none has exceeded 45 seconds. Use the shortest duration of CEW exposure objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives, and reassess the subject's behavior, reaction, and resistance before initiating or continuing the exposure. If a CEW deployment is ineffective in incapacitating a subject or achieving compliance consider alternative control measures in conjunction with or separate from the CEW.
2. **Avoid simultaneous CEW exposures.** Do not use multiple CEWs or multiple completed circuits at the same time without justification. Multiple CEWs or multiple completed circuits at the same time could have cumulative effects and result in increased risks.
3. **Control and restrain immediately.** Begin control and restraint procedures, including during CEW exposure ("cuffing under power"), as soon as reasonably safe and practical to minimize CEW cumulative effects and the total duration of exertion and stress experienced by the subject.
4. **Avoid touching probes/wires during CEW discharge.** Controlling and restraining a subject during CEW exposure may put the CEW user and those assisting at risk of accidental or unintended shock. Avoid touching the probes and wires and the areas between the probes during the electrical discharge.

WARNING **Cardiac Capture.** CEW exposure in the chest area near the heart has a low probability of inducing extra heart beats (cardiac capture). In rare circumstances, cardiac capture could lead to cardiac arrest. When possible, avoid targeting the frontal chest area near the heart to reduce the risk of potential serious injury or death.

Cardiac capture may be more likely in children and thin adults because the heart is usually closer to the CEW-delivered discharge (the dart-to-heart distance). Serious complications could also arise in those with impaired heart function or in those with an implanted cardiac pacemaker or defibrillator.

To reduce the risk of injury:

1. **Use preferred target areas.** The preferred target areas (blue) are below the neck area for back shots and the lower center mass (below chest) for front shots. The preferred target areas increase dart-to-heart distance and reduce cardiac risks. Back shots are preferable to front shots when practicable.
2. **Avoid sensitive areas.** When practicable, avoid intentionally targeting the CEW on sensitive areas of the body such as the face, eyes, head, throat, chest area (area of the heart), breast, groin, genitals, or known pre-existing injury areas.



WARNING **Muscle Contraction or Strain-Related Injury.** CEWs in probe-deployment mode can cause muscle contractions that may result in injury, including bone fractures.

WARNING **Higher Risk Populations.** CEW use on a pregnant, infirm, elderly, or low body-mass index person or on a small child could increase the risk of death or serious injury. As with any force option, CEW use has not been scientifically tested on these populations. Use a CEW on such persons **only** if the situation justifies an increased risk.

CEWs in probe-deployment mode can cause muscle contractions resulting in injuries similar to those from physical exertion, athletics, or sports, including hernia rupture, dislocation, tear, or other injury to soft tissue, organ, muscle, tendon, ligament, cartilage, disc, nerve, bone, or joint; or injury or damage associated with or to orthopedic or other hardware. Fractures to bone, including compression fracture to vertebrae, may occur.

These injuries may be more serious and more likely to occur in people with pre-existing injuries, orthopedic hardware, conditions or special susceptibilities, including pregnancy; low bone density; spinal injury; or previous muscle, disc, ligament, joint, bone, or tendon damage or surgery. Such injuries may also occur in drive-stun applications or when a person reacts to the CEW deployment by making a rapid or unexpected movement.

WARNING **Secondary Injury.** The loss of control resulting from a CEW exposure may result in injuries due to a fall or other uncontrolled movement. When possible, avoid using a CEW when secondary injuries are likely.

Loss of control associated with CEW use can have several causes:

- **Seizure.** Repetitive stimuli (e.g., flashing light or electrical stimuli) can induce seizure in some people, which may result in death or serious injury. This risk may be increased in a person with epilepsy, a seizure history, or if electrical stimuli pass through the head. Emotional stress and physical exertion, both likely in incidents involving CEW and other uses of force, are reported as seizure-precipitating factors.
- **Fainting.** A person may experience an exaggerated response to a CEW exposure, or threatened exposure, which may result in fainting or falling.
- **Muscle contraction, incapacitation, or startle response.** CEW use may cause loss of control from muscle contraction, incapacitation, or startle response.

To reduce these risks, consider the person's location before using a CEW. When practicable, avoid using a CEW on a person in the following circumstances unless the situation justifies a higher risk.

When practicable, avoid using a CEW on a person who:

- is on an elevated or unstable surface (e.g., tree, roof, ladder, ledge, balcony, porch, bridge, or stair);
- could fall and suffer impact injury to the head or other area;
- could fall on a sharp object or surface (e.g., holding a knife, falling on glass);
- is less able to catch or protect self in a fall (e.g., restrained, handcuffed, incapacitated, or immobilized);
- has impaired reflexes (e.g., from alcohol, drugs or certain medications);
- is running, in motion, or moving under momentum;

- is operating or riding any mode of transportation (e.g., vehicle, bus, bicycle, motorcycle, or train), conveyance (e.g., escalator, moving walkway, elevator, skateboard, rollerblades), or machinery; or
- is located in water, mud, or marsh environment if the ability to move is restricted.

SAFETY INFORMATION: INJURY OR INFECTION

A CEW may cause injury as a result of the probe or electrical discharge. The nature and severity of these effects depends on numerous factors including the area of exposure, method of application, individual susceptibility, and other circumstances surrounding CEW use, exposure, and after care. Medical care may be required.



Eye Injury Hazard. A TASER probe, electrode, or electrical discharge that contacts or comes close to an eye can result in serious injury, including permanent vision loss. **DO NOT** intentionally aim a CEW, including the LASER, at the eye of a person or animal without justification.



LASER Light Hazard. CEWs use a LASER targeting aid. LASERS can cause serious eye injury, including permanent vision loss. **NEVER** aim a LASER at an aircraft or the operator of an aircraft or moving vehicle.



Probe or Electrode Injury, Puncture, Scarring, or Infection Hazard. CEW use may cause a permanent mark, burn, scar, puncture, or other skin or tissue damage. Infection could result in death or serious injury. Scarring risk may be increased when using a CEW in drive-stun mode. Increased skin irritation, abrasion, mark, burning, or scarring may occur with a CEW with multiple cartridge bays when used in drive-stun or three-point deployment modes.



Penetration Injury. The TASER probe has a small dart point which may cause a penetration injury to a blood vessel or internal organ, including lung, bone, or nerve. The probe or dart point (which may detach or break) can puncture or become embedded into a bone, organ, or tissue, which may require immediate medical care, surgical removal, or may result in scarring, infection, or other serious injury.

To reduce the risk of serious or permanent injury:

1. **Provide medical care as needed.** Injury due to penetration of a probe or dart point into a blood vessel, organ, nerve, or bone may require medical care. A probe, dart point, or barb embedded in a sensitive area such as the eye, genitals, breast, neck, throat, or vascular structure may cause serious injury and require medical care. CEW use may cause skin irritation, puncture wound, abrasion, mark, rash, burn, or other scar or infection, which may require medical care and may be permanent. As with any injury of this type, infection or tetanus and resulting complications may occur. In accordance with your agency's Guidance, ensure access to medical care if needed.
2. **Follow agency Guidance for removing probes.** Probe removal may cause injury. Leaving a probe in the body may result in pain or injury. Follow your agency's Guidance and biohazard protocols for probe removal. In the case of embedment, organ or bone penetration, or probe, dart point, or barb detachment, immediate medical care and possible surgical removal may be required.
3. **Follow biohazard protocols.** Use appropriate biohazard protocols including isolation procedures and protective equipment (e.g., gloves, masks, and washing of hands and exposed areas as necessary). Follow your agency's Guidance and appropriate biohazard, waste, and evidence protocols when dealing with biohazards.

SAFETY INFORMATION: CEW DEPLOYMENT AND USE



CEWs and cartridges are weapons and as with any weapon follow safe weapon-handling practices and store your CEW securely. Follow practices herein and additional requirements in your agency's Guidance. Failure to follow these warnings may result in death or serious injury to the user or others.



⚠ WARNING **Confusing Handgun with CEW.** Confusing a handgun with a CEW could result in death or serious injury. Learn the differences in the physical feel and holstering characteristics between your CEW and your handgun to help avoid confusion. Always follow your agency's Guidance and training.

⚠ WARNING **Trigger Hold-Back Model Differences.** If the trigger is held back, most CEWs will continue to discharge until the trigger is released or the power source is expended. With an APPM installed, the X2 and X26P can be programmed to stop a CEW discharge at 5 seconds *even if the user continues to hold back the trigger*, requiring a deliberate action to re-energize the deployed cartridge. Know your model and how it works. Avoid repeated, prolonged, or continuous CEW applications when practicable.

⚠ WARNING In stressful or noisy circumstances, the APPM's audible warning may not be heard.

1. **Use properly.** Use a CEW only for its intended purpose, in legally justifiable situations, and in accordance with your agency's Guidance. Do not use for torture.
2. **Store in a secure location.** Store CEWs, cartridges, and accessories in secure locations inaccessible to children and other unauthorized persons to prevent inappropriate access or use.
3. **Use the safety switch.** Place the CEW safety switch in the down (SAFE) position when the CEW is not in use. Remember to place the CEW safety switch in the up (ARMED) position when you intend to use the CEW.
4. **Assume CEW is loaded.** Always assume that a CEW is loaded and capable of discharging. To help avoid unexpected discharge, ensure that no live cartridge is in the CEW when inserting a battery pack; TASER CAM™ or TASER CAM HD recorder; or while performing spark tests (except when function testing the X2 or X3), maintenance, data downloading, or battery charging.
5. **Be aware of CEW trigger.** Keep your finger off the trigger until it is legally justifiable to use the CEW and you are ready to deploy.
6. **Know how the CEW works.** Significant differences exist between different TASER CEW models. Before using any CEW, including a multi-shot CEW, ensure you understand the functioning and effects of that model.
7. **Be aware of X2 and X3 deployment mode.** Be aware of which deployment mode (manual or semi-automatic) is set on the X2 and X3 before use.
8. **Be Aware of X2 Static (Fixed) LASER Sight Mode.** The X2 has static dual LASERs. One LASER is intended to approximately align with the top dart and the other with the bottom dart, both of which are set-up for 15' (4.6 meters (m)) and 25' (7.62 m) cartridges at a 15' distance from the target. The trajectory of the 35' (10.7 m) long range cartridge will not line up with the bottom LASER when placed in the X2.
9. **Use simulation (training) cartridges ONLY for training or practice. DO NOT** use a CEW loaded with a simulation training cartridge for field use or self-defense. Simulation cartridges are intended for practice only and will have no incapacitating effect on a subject. Simulation cartridges use non-conductive wires and will not transmit electrical pulses to the probes.

SAFETY INFORMATION: CEW EFFECTIVENESS

A CEW, like any weapon or force option, does not always function as intended and is not effective on every subject. As with any use of force, if a particular option is not effective, consider using other force options, disengaging, or using other alternatives per agency Guidance. **Always have a back-up plan.**

⚠ WARNING **Subject Not Incapacitated.** An ineffective CEW application could increase the risk of death or serious injury to the user, the subject, or others. If a CEW does not operate as intended or if subject is not incapacitated, disengage, redeploy the CEW, or use other force options in accordance with agency Guidance.

A CEW's effects may be limited by many factors, including absence of delivered electrical charge due to misses, clothing disconnect, intermittent connection, or wire breakage; probe locations or spread; subject's



muscle mass; or movement. Some of the factors that may influence the effectiveness of CEW use in effecting or achieving control of a subject include:

- **Subject may not be fully incapacitated.** Even though a subject may be affected by a CEW in one part of his body, the subject may maintain full muscle control of other portions of his body. Control and restrain a subject as soon as possible, and be prepared in case the subject is not fully incapacitated.
- **Subject may recover immediately.** A subject receiving a CEW discharge may immediately regain physical or cognitive abilities upon cessation of the delivered CEW discharge. Control and restrain a subject as soon as possible, and be prepared in case the subject immediately recovers.
- **Drive-stun mode is for pain compliance only.** The use of a handheld CEW in drive-stun mode is painful, but generally does not cause incapacitation. Drive-stun use may not be effective on emotionally disturbed persons or others who may not respond to pain due to a mind-body disconnect. Avoid using repeated drive-stuns on such individuals if compliance is not achieved.
- **Probes may deviate.** CEWs are not precision-aimed weapons. Probe discharge, flight trajectory, and impact location can be affected by numerous factors, including cartridge or probe accuracy; failure of cartridge to properly deploy; strong air movements; user and subject movements; or probe striking subject, clothing, or object with insufficient force or trajectory to penetrate or adhere to subject. Deviations can result in limited or lack of effectiveness due to misses, failure to complete or maintain the electrical circuit, a small probe spread, or failure to deliver a sufficient charge to the subject.
- **CEW or cartridge may fail to fire or operate.** No weapon system, force option, or CEW is always operational or effective. If a CEW, cartridge, or accessory is inoperable or fails to function, consider reloading and redeploying, using other force options, disengaging, or using other alternatives per agency Guidance.

SAFETY INFORMATION: OTHER HAZARDS



Probe Recoil or Ricochet. If your target is farther away than the length of the probe wire, or if one or more probes miss the target, the probe can recoil and bounce back to strike the user or a bystander, causing injury. Probe recoil is more likely with simulation cartridges because of the nylon probe wire used.

Always be sure your target is within range. Wear protective eyewear when deploying any CEW in training or for practice. Be sure practice targets have a firm backing that will allow the probes to stick and not bounce off and strike an unintended person, animal, or object, or continue through the backing and strike objects behind the target.



Untethered Discharged Probe. A discharged probe that does not impact a subject or target may become untethered from the wire and travel a significant distance causing serious injury. Always be sure your target is within range.



Fire and Explosion Hazard. CEW use can result in a fire or explosion when flammable gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or materials are present. Use of a CEW in presence of fire or explosion hazard could result in death or serious injury. When possible, avoid using a CEW in known flammable hazard conditions.

A CEW can ignite explosive or flammable clothing or materials, liquids, fumes, gases, or vapors (e.g., gasoline, vapor or gas found in sewer lines or methamphetamine labs, butane-type lighters, flammable hair gels or some self-defense sprays). Do not knowingly use a CEW in the presence of any explosive or flammable substance unless the situation justifies the increased risk.

SAFETY INFORMATION: GENERAL PRECAUTIONS



Unintentional CEW Deployment or Discharge Hazard. Unintentional CEW activation or unexpected cartridge discharge could result in death or serious injury to the user, subject, or others.



To reduce the risk of unintentional deployment or discharge:

1. **Avoid static electricity.** Keep cartridge away from sources of static electricity. Static electricity can cause a CEW or X26, X26P, or M26 cartridge to discharge unexpectedly, possibly resulting in serious injury.
2. **Keep body parts away from front of CEW or cartridge.** Always keep your hands and body parts away from the front of the CEW and cartridge. If the CEW discharges unexpectedly you could be injured.
3. **Avoid electronic equipment interference.** Electronic transmission equipment close to a CEW could interfere with the proper CEW operation and cause the CEW to deploy or discharge. Keep the CEW at least several inches away from other electronic equipment. Place the CEW safety switch in the down (SAFE) position whenever it is near electronic equipment, including transmitting radios and cell phones. Remember to place the CEW safety switch in the up (ARMED) position before use.
4. **Avoid dropping CEW or cartridge.** If a CEW or cartridge is dropped or damaged it may unintentionally deploy or discharge, become inoperable, or fail to function, making it unsafe for continued use. If a CEW or cartridge has been dropped or damaged refer to the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Training materials.

SAFETY INFORMATION: MAINTENANCE



WARNING Failure to maintain a CEW as instructed may cause the CEW to malfunction or fail to function optimally, increasing the risk of death or serious injury. Follow recommended maintenance procedures.

To reduce these risks:

1. **Safely perform spark (function) test before each shift.** Testing helps verify that the CEW is functioning properly. See the current version of the TASER Training materials for further information on testing.
2. **Avoid using a damaged CEW or cartridge.** Do not use a cartridge with a missing blast door unless facing an immediate threat. CEW repair or modification by an unauthorized person may cause the CEW to fire or malfunction, will void the warranty, and may put the user or other person at risk of death or serious injury. Cartridges with blast doors that have been repaired should only be used for training and not for field use.
3. **Update CEW software.** Some CEWs have updateable software. Current CEW software may be obtained by contacting TASER's Customer Service Department or following instructions at www.evidence.com or www.TASER.com.
4. **Use only TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges.** The CEW is a sophisticated electronic system. For proper function, use only TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges with your CEW. Use of anything other than TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges will void the warranty, may cause malfunction, and may put the user or other person at risk of death or serious injury.
5. **Avoid exposure to wet conditions.** If the CEW is drenched or immersed in water or other liquid, **DO NOT** use or attempt to use the CEW until completing the procedure recommended by the manufacturer.
6. **Keep Smart™ cartridge contacts clean.** If the contacts on the Smart cartridge or inside the Smart cartridge bay of the X2 or X3 are not kept clean the CEW may fail to deploy the Smart cartridge.



TASER® Handheld CEW Warnings, Instructions, and Information: Law Enforcement



7. **Know CEW and cartridge expected useful life.** Under normal storage, handling, and operating conditions, a CEW and cartridges have a 5-year expected useful life. Use or attempted use of a CEW or cartridge after its expected useful life may result in malfunctions and lack of effectiveness. Failure to properly care for and maintain a CEW or cartridge may substantially reduce or eliminate the expected useful life of the product.

SAFETY INFORMATION: HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES



Hazardous Substances. The CEW (including the cartridge) has components that contain chemicals known to the State of California and others to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not disassemble. Refer to your agency's Guidance for proper handling and disposal.