



Tulsa Police Department

This policy statement and the procedures thereunder are intended for Police Department use only. The policies, procedures, and regulations are for internal Police Department administrative purposes and are not intended to create any higher legal standard of care or liability in an evidentiary sense than is created by law. Violations of internal Police Department policies, procedures, regulations, or rules form the basis for disciplinary action by the Police Department. Violations of law form the basis for civil and/or criminal sanctions to be determined in a proper judicial setting, not through the administrative procedures of the Police Department.

Policy # 101E
Policy Name Use of TASER Energy Weapons
Approved by *Dennis Larsen, Chief of Police*

Effective Date 05/04/2026
Approved Date 05/04/2026
Previous Date 03/20/2026

PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

Updated reporting procedures for Axon.

POLICY:

Officers will use only that force which is objectively reasonable. A TASER enhances an officer's ability to neutralize a situation without the additional escalation of force and decreases the chance of injury to officers, suspects, and others. The use of a TASER is not meant to replace tactics or training and should only be viewed as an additional tool or option available to the officer. A TASER is considered Advanced Force and should be handled with care.

A TASER should ideally be deployed with cover officers present. A TASER is not a replacement for a firearm and in incidents involving an armed suspect or other threat of death or great bodily harm to officers or others, a TASER should be used with firearm backup.

Officers must be certified by the Tulsa Police Department to deploy a TASER and attend annual training to maintain their TASER certification. Any officer assigned to an enforcement unit (e.g., Patrol, Traffic, Gangs, Fugitive Warrants) previously certified on the TASER, shall be issued and carry the TASER.

SUMMARY: Procedures for the use of a TASER

APPLIES TO: All police personnel.

DEFINITIONS:

ACTIVE AGGRESSION – a threat or overt act of an assault (through physical or verbal means), coupled with the present ability to carry out the threat or assault, which reasonably indicates an assault or injury to any person is imminent.

TASER ENERGY WEAPON (TASER) – a weapon primarily designed to disrupt a subject's central nervous system by means of deploying electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual's voluntary motor responses.

EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES – circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe prompt action is necessary to prevent physical harm to officers or others.

PROCEDURES:

1. The severity of offense, threat to self or threat to others should be considered before the use of a TASER. If time permits, request cover officers before deploying.
2. When feasible, a verbal warning of impending use of force will be given prior to the use of a TASER.

3. When feasible, cover officers should use each 5-second TASER cycle or the moments immediately afterwards as a “window of opportunity” to establish control and cuff the suspect.
4. Officers must assess the effectiveness of each TASER application and determine if additional applications are warranted, or if a different tactic should be used. The application of multiple 5-second cycles and/or extended/prolonged TASER exposures will be based on the totality of circumstances. Each TASER cycle, regardless of length, is considered a separate application.
5. Officers shall not simultaneously deploy TASERs on one individual unless exigent circumstances exist.
6. A TASER should not be used on handcuffed individuals unless they are exhibiting active aggression and/or to prevent individuals from harming themselves or others.
7. The use of a TASER on certain individuals should be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject, or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the potential risk of using the device. This includes:
 - a. Obviously pregnant females or females who are known to be pregnant.
 - b. Elderly individuals or young children.
 - c. Individuals with obvious low body mass.
8. Officers should be aware of certain factors that contribute to the risk of injury associated with temporary physical incapacitation from a TASER deployment, including:
 - a. Subjects positioned on elevated surfaces.
 - b. Subjects positioned near bodies of water.
 - c. Subjects who have been exposed to flammable liquids, or are in an environment with highly flammable fumes, i.e. methamphetamine labs or other chemical environments.
 - d. Subjects who have been OC sprayed by an unknown or non-TPD source. Department issued OC spray is water based and is not an ignition source.
9. As soon as possible after a TASER deployment, a supervisor and emergency medical personnel shall be notified and summoned to the scene. Medical personnel (TPD medics or emergency medical personnel) will remove the TASER probes, treat the impact sites, and return the probes, wires, and cartridge to an officer for evidence collection. If necessary, individuals exposed to a TASER may be transported by emergency medical personnel with embedded probes. If necessary, the conductive wires should be cut as close to the probes as possible prior to transport. The names of personnel conducting the probe removal and treatment will be identified in the *Use of Force Report*.
10. Officers shall obtain photographs of the probe impact sites. The photographs shall be transferred to Evidence.com and attached to the *Use of Force Report*.
11. Officers shall advise booking personnel when a subject has received a TASER application.
12. Cartridges, probes, and wires will be collected as evidence and turned into the property room. Deployed probes are considered biohazards and will be placed in a biohazard receptacle before being turned in. Officers should avoid breaking the wires attached to the cartridge, if possible, and turn them in with the cartridge.
13. As soon as feasible, officers shall upload the TASER deployment log to Evidence.com by docking the TASER battery at a divisional docking station. Officers shall then create a TASER evidence log in Evidence.com, and attach the log to the *Use of Force Report*.

REGULATIONS:

1. A TASER shall only be used in the manner established by department training and this policy.
2. Officers shall only carry the department-issued TASER after successfully completing the appropriate training. Officers shall complete annual recertification training to maintain TASER Operator certification.
3. To reduce the likelihood of weapon confusion, the officers shall draw the TASER with their support/weak hand.
4. Officers shall not modify a TASER.
5. Any deployment of a TASER on a person (whether in “probe” or “drive-stun” mode) shall result in:
 - a. Notification and summons of a field supervisor to the scene,
 - b. Request for emergency medical personnel to respond to the scene,
 - c. Upload of TASER data, and
 - d. Documentation of the incident in a *Use of Force Report*.
6. Any deployment of a TASER on an animal shall result in an *Animal Encounters Form* in Axon Standards. Deployments on animals will not require the cartridge, probes, or wires to be collected as evidence.
7. The TASER “Probe Mode” should be the primary setting option, with “Drive-Stun Mode” generally used as a secondary option. Any “Drive-Stun Mode” application is considered the same level of force as a “Probe Mode” application.
8. Any deployment of a TASER (either in “probe” or “drive-stun” mode) should avoid the head, neck, upper chest, and genitalia.
9. All subjects exposed to a TASER deployment will be assessed by medical personnel. At the scene, officers shall request that emergency medical personnel evaluate and/or transport the subject to a medical facility. The names of all medical personnel involved in assessment, evaluation, treatment, and transportation (i.e., emergency medical personnel, EMT, attending emergency room physician) shall be included in the *Use of Force Report*.
10. Officers shall provide medical personnel with a “Physicians Reference Guide” card, if requested. This guide can be found in policy 101E, Attachment.
11. Officers shall monitor individuals who have been exposed to a TASER at all times. If a subject displays signs of medical distress, officers shall seek immediate medical attention, up to and including requesting emergency medical personnel to the scene, transporting the subject to a medical emergency facility, and/or initiating life-saving measures.
12. A TASER shall never be used as a means of punishment.
13. TASERs shall not be used against subjects in control of any vehicle in motion unless exigent circumstances exist.
14. Officers should ensure their TASER is functional prior to beginning each shift that the TASER is worn, by placing the TASER in “Function Test Mode” and conducting a 5-second function test. Functionality testing and maintenance of a TASER shall be done in a controlled environment not in the view of the public. Non-patrol officers (Detectives, desk officers, etc.) who do not regularly carry the TASER should conduct a function test prior to any shift when the TASER is worn as part of their duty uniform.

15. All officers who are issued a TASER, regardless of assignment, shall dock their TASER rechargeable battery pack at least every 30 days for battery maintenance, data uploading, and firmware updates.

REFERENCES:

101A, *Use of Force*

TASER 7 Operator Certification Course, Version 24, 2025

Axon Training Annual Operator Update, Effective January 1, 2025