



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

Effective Date 07/02/2025

Policy Name Use of Conducted Electrical Weapons

Approved Date 07/01/2025

Approved by Dennis Larsen, Chief of Police

Previous Date 05/02/2023

PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

To update procedures.

POLICY:

Officers will use only that force which is objectively reasonable. A CEW 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 CEW is not meant to replace tactics or training and should only be viewed as an additional tool or option available to the officer. A CEW is considered Advanced Force and should be handled with care.

A CEW should ideally be deployed with cover officers present. A CEW 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 CEW should be used with firearm backup.

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

SUMMARY: Procedures for the use of a CEW

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.

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (CEW) – 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 CEW. 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 CEW.
3. When feasible, cover officers should use each 5-second CEW 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 CEW 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 CEW exposures will be based on the totality of circumstances. Each CEW cycle, regardless of length, is considered a separate application.
5. Officers shall not simultaneously deploy CEWs on one individual unless exigent circumstances exist.
6. A CEW 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 CEW 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 CEW 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 CEW probes, treat the impact sites, and return the probes, wires, and cartridge to an officer for evidence collection. If necessary, individuals exposed to a CEW 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 CEW 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 CEW shall only be used in the manner established by department training and this policy.
2. Officers shall only carry the department-issued CEW 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 CEW with their support/weak hand.
4. Officers shall not modify a CEW.
5. Any deployment of a CEW 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 CEW data, and
 - d. Documentation of the incident in a *Use of Force Report*.
6. Any deployment of a CEW on an animal shall result in a Damage to Property Report. Deployments on animals will not require the cartridge, probes, or wires to be collected as evidence.
7. The CEW “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 CEW (either in “probe” or “drive-stun” mode) should avoid the head, neck, upper chest, and genitalia.
9. All subjects exposed to a CEW 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 CEW 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 CEW shall never be used as a means of punishment.
13. CEWs shall not be used against subjects in control of any vehicle in motion unless exigent circumstances exist.
14. Officers should ensure their CEW is functional prior to beginning each shift, by placing the CEW in “Function Test Mode” and conducting a 5-second function test. Functionality testing and maintenance of a CEW shall be done in a controlled environment not in the view of the public.
15. Officers shall dock their CEW rechargeable battery pack at least every 30 days for battery maintenance, data uploading, and firmware updates.

REFERENCES:

101A, *Use of Force*
TASER 7 User Course, Version 23, Effective May 1, 2023
Axon Training Annual Operator Update, Effective January 1, 2025