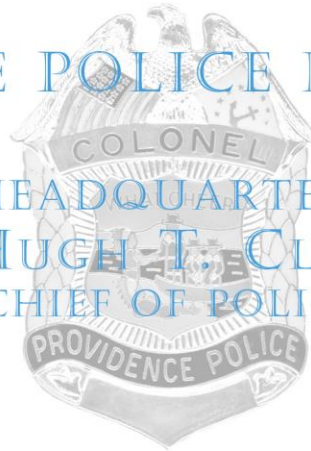


# PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS

COLONEL HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.

CHIEF OF POLICE



<b>TYPE OF ORDER</b>	<b>NUMBER/SERIES</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
General Order	310.04	4/7/2015	4/7/2015
<b>SUBJECT TITLE</b>		<b>PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES</b>	
Conducted Electrical Weapons		1/21/2015; 11/15/2013; 1/31/2013; Supersedes: G.O. #25 Series 2004; G.O. #36 Series 2004; G.O. #41 Series 2004	
<b>REFERENCE</b>		<b>RE-EVALUATION DATE</b>	
CALEA Standards 1.3.4; 1.3.5; 1.3.6; 1.3.9 – 1.3.11		4/7/2016	
<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>		<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	
Law Enforcement Operations		All Sworn Personnel	

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide Officers with procedures regarding the issuance, deployment, transport, and storage of Department-issued Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs).

## **POLICY**

The Providence Police Department issues Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs) to specially selected and trained officers as a less-lethal force option for use in the field.

These less-lethal weapons are not intended to replace verbal problem solving skills, self-defense techniques, firearms, or any other force options as outlined in the Providence Police Department Use of Force Continuum.

These weapons shall only be utilized in order to assist officers in bringing certain incidents under control, while protecting the safety of the officers and others, when deployment is deemed reasonable according to Department training. Under no circumstances shall these weapons, or any use of force option, be used as a means of interrogation, coercion, or punishment.

## **DISCUSSION**

For the purpose of this General order, the following definitions shall apply:

CEW Equipment: The Department-issued X26 and X26P TASER weapons, holsters and cartridges.

CEW Officers: Sworn Officers of the Providence Police Department who are in good standing with the Department; who have successfully passed all required training; and who have been selected and authorized by the Department to carry and use CEW equipment in the line of duty.

Anti-Felon Identification Device (AFID): Confetti-like tags that are printed with the serial number of the cartridge from which they are discharged.

Drive-Stun Mode: The method by which the TASER is activated against the body of a subject without the cartridge installed in order to affect surface tissues with electrical pulses in the direct vicinity of contact.

Probe Mode: The method by which probes conducting electrical impulses are discharged from a cartridge that has been installed onto the TASER.

This directive is an adjunct to General Order 300.01, "Use of Force". As such, this policy shall be considered within the context of the other.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **I. TRAINING**

- A. Only Department certified CEW instructors shall provide training for CEW Officers.
- B. No members of this Department may carry or discharge a CEW unless they have successfully passed all required CEW training courses.
- C. In-service training covering CEW usage/proficiency, and a thorough review of the Department's Use of Force and CEW policies, shall be conducted and completed annually by all CEW Officers.
  1. Training records shall be well documented, providing the date of attendance, persons in attendance, identity of instructor(s), pass/fail scores of all CEW Officers, and a copy of the lesson plan.
  2. CEW Officers who fail to meet the training requirements will be prohibited from carrying the TASER unless and until a remedial training course is successfully completed.
  3. Training records shall be maintained by the Weapons Bureau, and shall be made available to the Chief of Police or his designee(s), and to the Accreditation Unit.
- D. The Weapons Bureau Commanding Officer (WBCO) is responsible for ensuring that all CEW officers meet all stipulated requirements in order to carry, deploy, and/or use CEW equipment.

## II. CEW EQUIPMENT

- A. The following Department-issued CEW equipment is the only such equipment authorized for field deployment and use:
  - 1. The Model X26 and X26P TASER, manufactured by TASER International, Inc.
  - 2. TASER 25' XP cartridges, manufactured by TASER International, Inc.
  - 3. Blade Tech™ holster.
- B. Each CEW Officer will be issued one (1) X26 or X26P TASER, one (1) Blade tech™ holster, and three (3) cartridges.
- C. CEW Officers are responsible for the upkeep and security of the CEW equipment issued to them.
  - 1. Officers are not allowed to swap, borrow, mix or trade any cartridge with any other CEW Officer, unless exigent circumstances exist.
  - 2. No cartridge will be replaced before proper documentation explaining a valid reason for replacement is submitted to the Department Armorer.
  - 3. Only under exigent circumstances in the field may CEW Officers deploy a CEW other than the one that has been issued to them.
- D. Prior to each instance of putting a CEW in service (i.e., at the beginning of a tour of duty):
  - 1. The CEW Officer shall ensure that the CEW equipment is in a state of operational readiness.
  - 2. The CEW Officer will turn on the CEW and perform a battery check.
  - 3. The CEW Officer shall conduct a spark test in accordance with ISOP-001, "*CEW Spark Test Procedure*".
  - 4. The CEW will then be loaded with one (1) cartridge and secured in the department-approved holster.
- E. When taking a CEW out of service (i.e., at the end of a tour of duty):

1. The CEW Officer will ensure that the CEW is turned off.
  2. The cartridge will be removed from the CEW.
  3. The CEW Officer will inspect the CEW equipment, noting any deficiencies.
- F. Any deficiencies relating to CEW equipment are to be reported in writing to the Weapons Bureau as soon as practicable.
1. Any CEW equipment found to be deficient shall be immediately taken out of service by the CEW Officer and shall not be used.
  2. The Weapons Bureau shall be responsible for collecting, inspecting, evaluating, repairing, and/or replacing any such deficient equipment.
- G. Taser units will be inspected, function checked, and approved for use by a qualified Weapons Bureau TASER instructor prior to being issued to trained Department personnel. A log will be maintained by the Department Armorer listing CEW Officers and the CEW equipment that has been issued to them.

### **III. CEW STORAGE AND TRANSPORT**

- A. CEW equipment may be transported to and from work and home, and stored at the CEW Officer's home, provided that the following requirements are met:
1. Officers who store CEW equipment at home are required to store all firearms, including all CEW equipment, safely and responsibly. A lockbox or safe designed for the secure storage of firearms, which is bolted down in a stationary and immovable manner within the CEW Officer's home, is required.
  2. CEW equipment must be kept out of sight and inaccessible to children or unauthorized persons at all times.
  3. When traveling between home and work, CEW equipment shall be carried on the support side of the CEW Officer's duty belt.
    - a. Officers shall not store CEW equipment within the transporting vehicle.
    - b. When transporting CEW equipment, CEW Officers shall travel directly between home and work.

- B. The designated secured locker in the weapons locker room located in the Patrol Bureau shall be utilized for the storage of CEW equipment whenever the Officer:
  - 1. Does not elect to transport their assigned CEW equipment home.
  - 2. Will be out of work for more than two consecutive days (i.e., furlough, sick), not including scheduled days off.
  - 3. Is out of work in an IOD status for any length of time.
  - 4. Will not be traveling directly between work and home.
- C. CEW Officers will relinquish their CEW equipment whenever ordered to do so by proper authority. Situations requiring the immediate relinquishing of CEW equipment include, but may not be limited to:
  - 1. Failure to successfully pass any required training.
  - 2. Suspension.
  - 3. A CEW discharge incident.

#### **IV. CEW DISCHARGE PARAMETERS**

- A. Only Department-approved CEW Officers are authorized to carry and discharge the CEW as a less-lethal force option. The CEW may be used when any of the following scenarios exist AND deadly force is not justified:
  - 1. A subject is exhibiting active resistance or active aggression, and any attempts to subdue the subject by lesser force options have been, or will likely be, ineffective in the situation at hand.
  - 2. To prevent an individual from harming themselves or others.
- B. Under no circumstances shall a CEW be displayed, drawn, or used as a dispersal device.
- C. Under no circumstances shall a CEW be displayed, drawn, or used as a means of interrogation, coercion or punishment.
- D. Alternative force techniques shall be considered in lieu of using a CEW when dealing with pregnant women, elderly persons, young children, and visibly frail persons, unless exigent circumstances warrant otherwise.

- E. CEW Officers should always be cognizant of a subject's location when evaluating the consequences of a CEW discharge (i.e., situations where a subject falling may cause substantial risk of injury or death).
- F. The CEW is an electrical device. As such, caution must be exercised so as not to ignite the surrounding area and/or subject(s) when discharge occurs in the proximity of flammable liquids, gases, or any other highly combustible materials.
- G. Unless exigent circumstances exist, CEW Officers shall refrain from discharging a CEW on subjects who are in physical control of any moving vehicle.
- H. The loaded, holstered CEW shall be carried in a cross-draw configuration on the support side of the CEW Officer's duty belt.
- I. A CEW Officer shall neither simultaneously draw nor have drawn their firearm and their CEW.
  - 1. This does not preclude other officers on scene from drawing a firearm should circumstances require it.
- J. Only One (1) CEW Officer should discharge a CEW upon a subject at any one time.
- K. When tactically feasible, CEW Officers shall:
  - 1. Notify the dispatcher and the officers in the surrounding area that a CEW discharge is imminent. The dispatcher shall then re-broadcast this information.
  - 2. Issue a warning to a subject prior to discharging the CEW, unless doing so would place any person at risk.
- L. Officers (other than the CEW Officer discharging the CEW) should be prepared to handcuff or control the suspect while the suspect is incapacitated by the electrical impulses produced by the CEW.
- M. As dictated by training, the CEW Officer will deploy the CEW for one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation.
  - 1. Subsequent cycles will be utilized for the sole purpose of gaining control over a subject only when deemed necessary.
  - 2. Only the minimum number of discharges necessary shall be deployed.
- N. The CEW's "Probe Mode" will be the primary setting option, with the "Drive-Stun Mode" used as a secondary option, as dictated by training.

- O. At the discretion of the CEW Officer, the CEW may be discharged to control animals, such as vicious dogs, when circumstances warrant such usage.

#### **V. PRONG REMOVAL**

- A. Prongs that have impacted a body will be treated as biohazards.
- B. No officer shall remove the prongs of a deployed CEW cartridge when the prongs have been embedded into the skin.
- C. To avoid further penetration into the skin, only the CEW Officer may remove any prongs stuck on or clinging to the suspect's clothing.
- D. Only medical or rescue personnel shall remove embedded prongs.

#### **VI. MEDICAL ATTENTION**

- A. Any suspect who has been subjected to a CEW discharge will be transported as soon as practicable by an EMS vehicle to a medical facility for evaluation by trained medical personnel.
- B. Detention personnel will be notified by the transporting officer whenever a detainee has sustained a CEW discharge, and shall increase physical observations of the detainee while the detainee is in custody.

#### **VII. POST INCIDENT REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A supervisor not involved in the CEW discharge incident shall be notified of and shall respond to the scene of the discharge as soon as practicable. This includes responding to accidental discharges of any nature.
- B. The Officer-In-Charge of the Patrol Bureau (OIC) shall report all CEW deployments to the Commanding Officer of the Uniform Division, who shall in turn notify the Chief of Police.
- C. The Force Investigation Team (FIT) will be notified of the incident by the OIC, and shall respond to the scene of CEW discharges when summoned, in accordance with General Order 310.02, entitled "*Investigations of Serious Use of Force Incidents*".
  - 1. The Weapons Bureau Commanding Officer or his/her designee (usually the FIT's Weapons Bureau representative) shall seize the CEW and shall ensure that the CEW data pertaining to the incident is downloaded and tuned-over to the Office of Professional Responsibility

(OPR) for analysis and inclusion in the FIT investigative report.

- D. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation shall be notified and respond to the scene, and shall collect and process as evidence three (3) AFID tags from each discharged cartridge.
- E. Documentation and further investigative actions shall be completed in accordance with the following written directives:
  - 1. General Order 300.01, entitled "*Use of Force*".
  - 2. General Order 310.02, entitled "*Investigations of Serious Use of Force Incidents*".

**VIII. AUDITS**

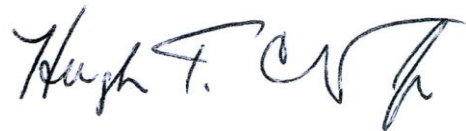
- A. An audit of all CEW equipment, including but not limited to an accounting of all assigned cartridges and the downloading of port data from all CEWs, shall be conducted at least biannually by the Commanding Officer of the OPR or his designee, with the assistance of the Department Armorer or his designee. Audit results shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

**APPROVED:**



STEVEN M. PARÉ  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**APPROVED:**



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COLONEL  
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