



GEDDES POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

No. 218

Subject: Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Handling and Deployment		
Issuing Authority: Chief of Police	Effective Date: 04/01/2025	Supercedes: 10/02/2019

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this order is to provide Town of Geddes Police Department officers with guidance and direction on the use of non-lethal Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), previously referred to as Taser weapons. [Revised: 04/01/2019]
- II. **POLICY:** It is the policy of the Town of Geddes Police Department to use only that level of force which is reasonably necessary to control or otherwise subdue violent or potentially violent individuals. Less lethal CEW's have proven effective in the furtherance of this policy and are authorized for use in appropriate circumstances by trained personnel. [Revised: 04/01/2019]
- III. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - A. **Less-Lethal Conducted Energy Weapon** - Devices designed to disrupt a subject's nervous system by means of deploying battery powered electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual's voluntary motor responses.
 - B. **NEURO MUSCULAR INCAPACITATION (NMI)** – The desired effect when deploying CEW's designed to temporarily incapacitate violent and/or dangerous subjects so they may be safely taken into custody.
 - C. **PROBE DELIVERY** – Refers to the firing of probes from a CEW into a subject for the purpose of incapacitation through NMI. This type of delivery produces the most desired effect.
 - D. **DRIVE STUN** – When contact is made by pressing an active CEW onto the body of the subject. The drive stun affects the sensory nervous system producing pain compliance and may not achieve NMI.
 - E. **SPARK DISPLAY** – A non-contact demonstration of the CEW to convince a subject to voluntarily comply with a lawful order prior to force options. Spark display technique will only be utilized when proper justification exists. Spark display techniques require the user to first remove the cartridge.
 - F. **PHYSICAL INJURY** - Impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.
 - G. **OBJECTIVELY REASONABLE** - An objective standard used to judge an officer's actions. Under this standard, a particular application of force must be judged through the perspective of a reasonable officer facing the same set of circumstances, without the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, and be based on the totality of the facts that are known to that officer at the time that the force was used.
 - H. **ACTIVELY POINTING** - The intentional targeting of a person with a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), firearm, impact weapon, impact projectile or chemical agent.

IV. PROCEDURE:

A. Authorized Users

1. Only those CEW's that have been approved by the Chief of Police may be carried on-duty. Refer to the uniform standards manual for those devices currently approved.
2. Only officers who have satisfactorily completed this agency's basic training course, and/or the manufacturer's certification course of instruction shall be authorized to carry a CEW.
3. Civilian members are prohibited from using CEW's. There is a mandatory carry of the CEW by all trained officers.

B. Weapon Readiness

1. Department CEW's and holsters will be assigned at the beginning of each shift. Members may use the department approved holster, Blackhawk SERPA model #X26P, if purchased individually.
2. If not individually issued, members shall document the department CEW number on the sign-out sheet.
3. Conducted Energy Weapons will be carried by authorized members in the patrol section. The department approved holster will be positioned on the side of the body **opposite the duty weapon**. Those members authorized to use the devices and not assigned to the patrol section may utilize the CEW and carry it consistent with approved department training.
4. Conducted Energy Weapon shall be carried fully armed with the safety in the "on" position, in preparation for immediate use when authorized.
5. Only battery power sources recommended by the manufacturer shall be used in all Conducted Energy Weapon.

C. Care and Maintenance

1. The CEW shall be pointed in a safe direction, in accordance with department and Taser International training, in the high ready position with the safety on during loading and unloading. During an operational deployment the CEW will be pointed in a safe direction in the ready position for deployment.
2. Prior to operational deployment, members shall ensure the proper functioning of the unit to include a visual inspection of the battery capacity readout display and are required to conduct a spark test with the air cartridge removed. (Other than for operational purposes spark tests will be conducted outside of general public view.) The member will conduct a spark test in the basement of the police department, in front of the established Taser Spark Test zone, prior to the beginning of their shift, or as soon as possible thereafter, and do the following:
 - a. Remove the air cartridge from the CEW.
 - b. Place the air cartridge in the designated area.

- c. Conduct a complete 5 second spark test while pointing the CEW at the established spark test zone.
 - d. Upon completion of a successful spark test, the air cartridge may be retrieved from the designated area and re-attached to the CEW for deployment.
3. A battery reading of < 20% shall require the unit to be taken out of service.
 4. Members should never eject or remove the CEW battery pack; this action should only be conducted by a CEW instructor for the purpose of replacing a depleted battery pack.
 5. Members shall avoid exposing the CEW to extended exposures of rain and/or moisture as this may permanently damage the device.
 6. Members shall immediately report to a supervisor any malfunctions or defects observed along with a memo describing the malfunction or defect.
 7. No alternations or modifications shall be made to the CEW and all repairs will be conducted by an authorized vendor.
 8. Any discharge, other than a spark test, either intentionally or accidentally, shall be reported immediately to a supervisor along with a memo detailing the incident.

D. Deployment

1. Members are not authorized to draw or display the CEW other than for a justified use of force or an authorized training purpose. The CEW will be handled in the same manner as a firearm.
2. The CEW is one use of force option available to members. The CEW, like baton, OC spray and empty hand techniques, may not be effective in every situation. Members must assess the effectiveness in each application and determine whether further applications are warranted or a different tactic should be deployed.
3. Conducted Energy Weapons are equal to OC spray on the use of force continuum circle and decisions to deploy them require the same basic justification however, when making a determination to use the CEW, the totality of the circumstances should be considered together with the following:
 - a. The likelihood of physical injury resulting from a CEW strike to include: accidental probe contact to a sensitive tissue area or a secondary injury to the subject from falling post deployment.
 - b. The optimal effective range of the CEW is 7 to 15 feet; 2 feet being the minimum recommended range and 21 feet the maximum range.
 - c. Number of members or suspects on scene.
4. When justification exists and when appropriate, members may consider removing the air cartridge and conducting a spark display to encourage compliance prior to firing the weapon in full probe delivery.
5. When practical, members shall give proper warnings to other officers and particularly to the intended subject prior to firing the CEW.

6. The primary target areas should be lower center of mass for front shots and center of mass for back shots.
7. When encountering subjects wearing heavy or loose clothing on their upper body, the legs should be considered as a target.
8. When possible, attempts should be made to avoid hitting the subject in sensitive tissue areas such as the head, face, neck, groin or female breast area.
9. The CEW may also be used during exigent circumstances in a “drive stun” mode. The air cartridge is removed and the unit is pressed firmly against an appropriate area such as the abdominal region, hips, thigh and the brachial plexus origin. Drive stuns shall only be used when proper justification exists.
 - a. The user should attempt to avoid the following:
 - i. Trachea, back of neck, cervical portion of the spine (neck region, pelvic region, base of sternum (as this may cause a contraction of the diaphragm and affect breathing), head and female breasts.
10. Under the following conditions, the risks of foreseeable direct or secondary injuries are elevated, *thus elevating the level of justification needed on the part of the officer prior to CEW application*.
 - a. When the member knows that the subject has come in contact with flammable liquids or is in a potentially flammable environment.
 - b. When the subject is in a position where a fall may cause substantial injury or death.
 - i. Running – subject exposed to CEW may fall at a greater momentum resulting in possible secondary injuries.
 - ii. Operating machinery (i.e.: motorized vehicles, bicycles, scooters, etc.) – CEW application could lead to loss of control of machinery and may cause substantial injury or death.
 - c. When the subject is in an Elevated Risk Population:
 - i. Obviously or known pregnant
 - ii. Smaller people or children
 - iii. Elderly
 - iv. Those who are frail or infirm
 - v. Individuals with known neuromuscular illness (i.e.; Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy)
 - vi. Individuals that require more than three (3) applications to gain custody and control
 - vii. Individuals exhibiting signs of “excited delirium”, - Excited delirium is not a recognized medical or psychiatric diagnosis, but is a term often used to describe a state in which someone presents themselves. The

manifestations of excited delirium vary depending on the individual and can be observed by the following characteristics:

- a) Violent behavior
- b) Extreme agitation and restlessness
- c) Incoherent and rambling speech
- d) Hallucinations and delusions with paranoid features
- e) Lack of purposeful activity and/or destruction
- f) Elevated body temperature, profusely sweating
- g) Little or no clothing
- h) Lack of response to pain stimuli
- i) Combativeness and extra ordinary strength
- j) History of stimulant abuse, most commonly cocaine and/or methamphetamine.

viii. When the subject is in or around water.

- d. Other environments that may cause foreseeable direct or secondary injury.
- e. Punitively for purposes of coercion.

11. The CEW may be used in defense against animals where proper justification exists.

12. Verbal Commands

- a. When tactically safe, a warning should be given to an individual prior to activating the CEW and before any additional application to allow the subject an opportunity to voluntarily comply. Be aware that an announcement of imminent deployment of a CEW may cause the subject to attack officers, flee, inflict self-injury or attempt to injure others and/or self and care must be taken to avoid placing others at risk.
- b. When applicable, an announcement to other officers that a CEW is going to be activated should be made.

13. Multiple CEW Applications

- a. CEW users should be aware that the associated risks with multiple exposures to a CEW are unknown and the role of CEWs causing death in these cases is unclear. Caution should be used in using multiple activations to subdue a subject. (See Elevated Risk Populations)
- b. Officers are reminded to use only the appropriate force necessary to accomplish the necessary purpose intended. If more than three (3) consecutive cycles or fifteen seconds (15) are required, officers should reassess the situation and consider transition to another applicable force option.

- c. Officers should be mindful that direct contact mode creates pain compliance only and may not stop a subject from struggling with an officer and pulling away from the electrodes as the officer attempts to apply the CEW in direct contact mode. As a result of the struggle, multiple contact marks may be left on a subject's skin indicative of multiple cycles being applied by an officer as he/she attempts to subdue the subject. Downloaded data should be checked to verify the actual number of cycles used during the incident.
- d. Generally, only one CEW should be used on a subject at a time, absent reasonable appearance that one or more of the devices are malfunctioning.

E. Post Deployment and Aftercare

1. Each time the CEW is deployed and makes contact with a person, EMS must be notified to respond for medical assessment and/or provide necessary medical treatment.
2. CEW probes may be removed from a subject by a trained officer once the subject has been restrained using procedures outlined in training. Universal precautions shall be followed to protect the officer from the transfer of bodily fluids. In the event that a CEW probe penetrates a sensitive tissue area (i.e. groin, eye, female breast, face or neck) the subject shall be taken via ambulance to an emergency care facility for removal, or in cases where the deploying officer or his supervisor determines that is otherwise necessary.
3. Photographs of the affected area(s) must be taken after the probe(s) have been removed.
4. If the suspect is to be secured at a detention facility, the detention personnel will be notified of all CEW strikes.
5. When the device has been used operationally, the shift supervisor, SRO or an assigned evidence technician will collect the air cartridge, wire leads, probes and AFIDs as evidence. Probes shall be secured in the empty air cartridge and clearly marked as a biohazard. Probes may also be properly secured in a sharps container and properly marked as bio-hazard. All items are to be sealed in an evidence bag and secured in an evidence locker.
6. Members shall notify the shift supervisor who will in turn notify the Duty Chief regarding all CEW deployments. The member must complete a Use of Force Report.
7. Following an operational CEW strike, the shift supervisor shall ensure proper procedures are followed to include taking the CEW out of service with notification to the department CEW Instructor for inspection and data extraction. Prior to going back in service, the member who deployed the CEW will then retrieve a different CEW from the CEW locker, if available.
8. Additionally after an operational CEW deployment, the CEW Instructor will review the incident with the involved member(s) and provide a manufacturer Supervisory CEW Use Report for the deploying member to complete. The CEW Instructor will complete a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) Application Report and submit same to the Chief of Police for filing with the Use of Force Report.

F. Reporting

1. The deploying member shall complete a Use of Force report following any CEW deployment or application, to include utilizing a spark display technique.
2. Information relative to the circumstances surrounding the CEW's deployment or level of application is to be documented within the deploying officer's CNYLEADS report.

G. Post-Deployment after Accidental Discharge

1. Any accidental discharge shall be reported immediately to the shift supervisor, or in his/her absence the Duty Chief, along with a memorandum detailing the incident. The shift supervisor or designee of the Duty Chief must conduct an immediate investigation of the accidental discharge. Once complete, a memorandum containing the circumstances and facts relative to the discharge will be submitted to the department Police Chief.
2. When the device has been discharged, the shift supervisor, or designee of the Duty Chief, will collect the CEW, air cartridge, wire leads, probes and AFIDs. Probes shall be secured in the empty air cartridge. All items are to be sealed in an evidence bag and secured in an evidence locker.
3. Following the discharge, the shift supervisor shall ensure proper procedures are followed to include taking the CEW out of service and notifying, by memorandum, the department CEW instructor for inspection and data extraction.
4. Any member who has an accidental discharge of a CEW will receive remedial training from the department certified CEW instructor before he or she is authorized to carry a CEW for future service. This training will be documented by the certified CEW instructor and forwarded to the department Police Chief.

H. Training

1. Members authorized to carry a CEW must have satisfactorily completed this agency's eight (8) hour basic training course and/or the manufacturer's certification course.
2. All members authorized to carry a CEW shall complete a minimum of four (4) hours of annual in-service refresher training.
3. Department CEW instructors shall receive refresher training prior to the expiration of their certification every two (2) years.
4. All remedial training shall be documented.
5. A failure to demonstrate proficiency after reasonable remedial training has been provided may serve as the basis of disciplinary action.

I. POSTING OF THE USE OF FORCE POLICY

1. This Use of Force policy shall be conspicuously posted on the department's public website in accordance with Executive Law Section 837-t (Currently 72 hours after amendments).

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