



POLICY & PROCEDURE

SLINGER POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: **ELECTRONIC CONTROL WEAPONS** NUMBER: 5.02
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INDEX AS: Electronic Control Weapons (ECW)
Taser

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Policy & Procedure is to provide Slinger police officers with guidance and direction on the use of Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs).

This Policy & Procedure consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. POLICY
- II. DEFINITIONS
- III. PROCEDURES

I. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of Slinger Police Department that sworn personnel use only the amount of force reasonable and necessary to arrest, apprehend, or restrain a suspect. Electronic Control Weapons may be used by authorized and trained personnel in accordance with Department Use of Force policies and the additional guidelines established herein.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. ELECTRONIC CONTROL WEAPON (ECW): A weapon designed to disrupt a subject's central nervous system by deploying battery-powered electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override voluntary motor responses.
- B. AFIDs: Antifelon Identification. Confetti-like pieces of paper that are expelled from the cartridge of an ECW when fired. Each AFID tag contains an alphanumeric identifier unique to the cartridge used.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Authorized Users

- 1. Only Slinger officers who have satisfactorily completed this Department's approved training course shall be authorized to carry an ECW.

B. Weapon Readiness

- 1. An ECW will be carried in an approved holster on the side of the body opposite the service handgun. Slinger officers not assigned to uniform patrol may utilize other department-approved holsters and carry the weapon consistent with Department training.
- 2. An ECW shall be carried fully armed with the safety on in preparation for immediate use when authorized.
- 3. Slinger officers authorized to use an ECW shall be issued a minimum of one spare cartridge as a backup in case of cartridge failure, the need for redeployment, or in case the first cartridge's leads break during engagement. The spare cartridges shall be stored and carried in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's expiration requirements.
- 4. Only Department approved battery power sources shall be used in the ECW.

C. Deployment

- 1. The ECW is generally analogous to oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray on the use of force systems, and the decisions to use an ECW involve the same basic justification. As such, it is forbidden to use the device as follows:
 - a. In a punitive or coercive manner.

- b. On a handcuffed or secured prisoner, absent overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other intrusive fashion.
 - c. On any suspect who does not demonstrate an overt intention to use violence or force against the officer or another person, or to flee in order to resist or avoid detention or arrest (in cases where officers would pursue on foot), or active resistance or its threat.
 - d. In any environment where an officer knows that potentially flammable, volatile, or explosive material is present (including but not limited to OC spray applied by an officer from another agency with a potentially volatile propellant – all OC spray issued to Slinger personnel is non-flammable and as such does not preclude the application of an ECW after its use), gasoline, natural gas, or propane.
 - e. In any environment where the subject's fall could reasonably result in death (such as in water or on an elevated structure.)
 - f. On any subject who is voluntarily willing to receive an exposor unless they are a certified taser instructor. The subject shall signed the Axon voluntary exposor liability form prior to receiving a voluntary exposor.
2. As in all uses of force, certain individuals may be more susceptible to injury. Slinger officers should be aware of the greater potential for injury when using an ECW against children, the elderly, persons of small stature irrespective of age, or those who the officer has reason to believe are pregnant, equipped with a pacemaker, or in obvious ill health.
 3. Upon firing the device, the officer shall energize the subject the least number of times and no longer than necessary to accomplish the legitimate operational objective.
 4. The subject should be secured as soon as practical, while disabled by ECW power to minimize the number of deployment cycles. In determining the need for additional energy cycles, officers should be aware that an energized subject may not be able to respond to commands during or immediately following exposure.
 5. In preparation for firing, the ECW shall be pointed in a safe direction, taken off safe, and then aimed. Center mass of the subject's back should be the primary target when reasonably possible; center mass of the chest or legs are the secondary targets.
 6. Fixed sights should be used as the primary aiming device and the laser dot as a secondary aiming device.

7. The device may also be used in certain circumstances in a “drive stun” mode. This involves removing the cartridge and pressing the unit against an appropriate area of the body based on training. It is important to note that when the device is used in this manner, it is:
 - a. Primarily a pain compliance tool due to lack of probe spread.
 - b. Minimally effective compared to conventional cartridge-type deployments.
 - c. More likely to leave marks on the subject’s skin.
 - d. Subject to the same deployment (use) guidelines and restrictions as those of the ECW in cartridge deployments.
8. The ECW shall be pointed in a safe direction with the safety on during loading, unloading, or when handled other than operational deployment.

D. Aftercare

1. The ECW darts may be removed from the subject after the subject is restrained following procedures outlined in training.
2. The following persons shall be transported to a medical facility for examination following exposure to an ECW – any person who:
 - a. Requests medical attention; officers can ask persons if they desire medical attention.
 - b. Is hit in a sensitive area (face, head, female breasts, male groin, etc)
 - c. From whom officers have difficulty removing the probes (owing to probe or barb separation)
 - d. Does not appear to recover properly after being hit.
 - e. Is in a potentially susceptible population category as defined in section (C)(2).
 - f. Has been energized more than three times.
 - g. Has had more than one ECW effectively used against him/her in any given incident.
 - h. Has been subjected to a continuous energy cycle of 15 seconds or more.
 - i. Has exhibited signs of extreme uncontrolled agitation or hyperactivity prior to ECW exposure.

E. Reporting

1. The deploying Slinger officer shall notify his/her supervisor as soon as practical after using the device, and complete the appropriate use of force report.
2. Slinger officers shall specifically articulate the rationale in their use of force report for any instance in which an ECW is energized more than three times, an energy cycle longer than 15 seconds in duration is used, more than one ECW is used against a subject in any given incident or an ECW is used against an individual designated to be in a susceptible population per (C)(2) of this policy.

Dean A. Schmidt
Chief of Police

This Policy & Procedure cancels and supersedes any and all written directives relative to the subject matter contained herein.

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