TASER

PROTECT LIFE

# Annual Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) User Update

Version 20.2

Effective: January 15, 2018

# ANNUAL CEW USER UPDATE CONTENTS

- Annual User Recertification Requirements
- CEW Warnings
- CEW Targeting/Tactical Considerations
- CEW Smart Use Considerations
- CEW Medical Overview

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# ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Review this PowerPoint
- Receive and review current version of:
  - TASER Law Enforcement Product Warnings
  - CEW Study Aid: Smart Use Considerations
- Pass Functional Test
- Deploy a minimum of 2 live CEW cartridges into preferred target zones

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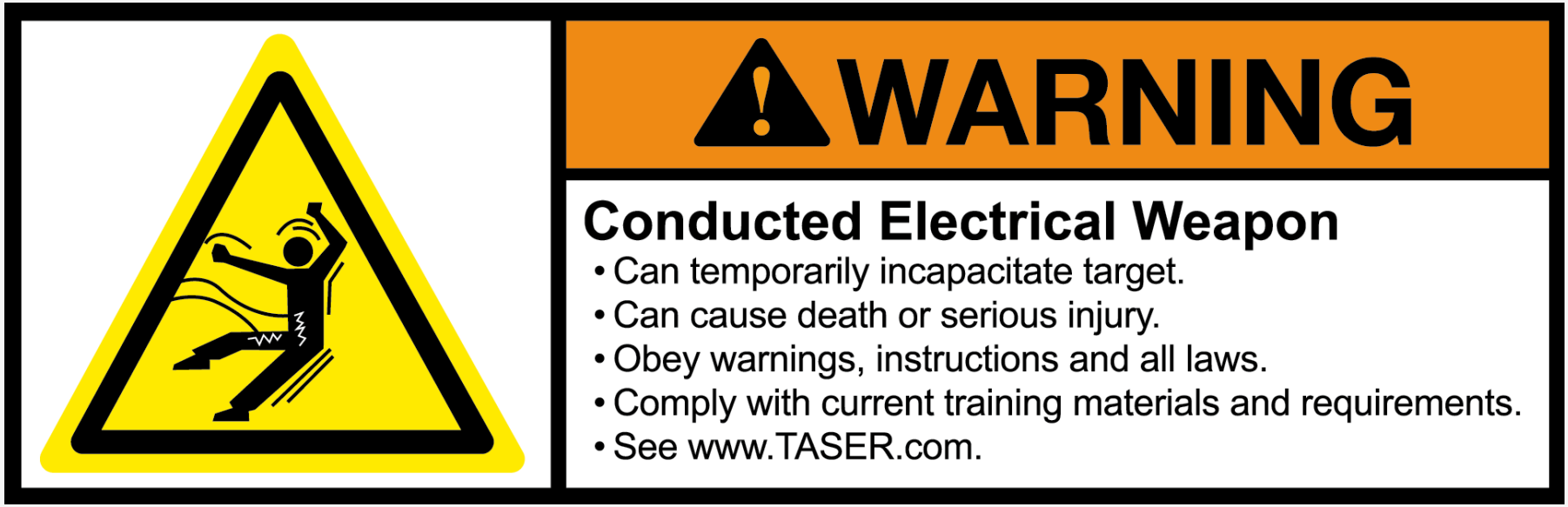
# TASER CEWS HAVE RISKS





At this time distribute, review and understand the current TASER product warnings

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# CEW ADVANTAGES

- Most studied and most effective minimal force option
- Reduces risk of injury to officers and suspects alike
- Saves lives and de-escalates use of deadly force
- Allows incapacitation from a distance
- In probe mode, doesn’t rely on pain compliance
- Displaying red LASER dot or arcing the current often achieves compliance without deployment

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# TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Probe Placement Considerations
- Limited CEW Effectiveness
- Other Tactical Considerations

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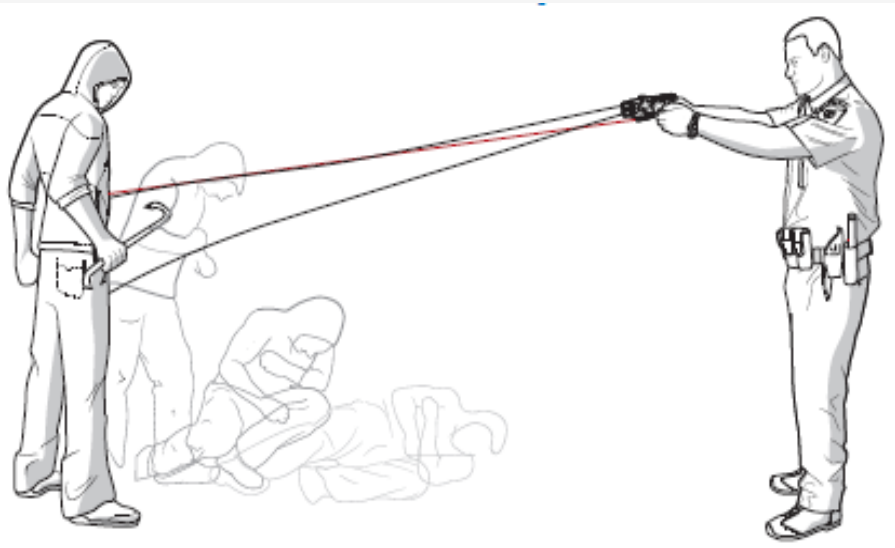
# TARGETING



Avoid intentionally targeting the CEW on sensitive areas of the body such as the head, throat, breast/chest or area of the heart, genitals, or known pre-existing injury areas without legal justification

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# PREFERRED TARGET ZONE REAR

(when practical)

The back is always the preferred target area when reasonably practical

Below neck (blue zone)

- Larger muscles
- Clothing fits tighter
- Surprise factor
- Decreases risk of probe strike to eyes, throat, chest/breasts or genitals

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# PREFERRED TARGET ZONE FRONT

(when practical)

Lower torso (blue zone below chest)

- More effective
  - Larger muscles
- Reduces the risk of hitting sensitive body areas
- Increases dart-to-heart safety margin distance
- Do not intentionally target genitals

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# NEURO-MUSCULAR INCAPACITATION (NMI)

- CEWs may not achieve total NMI
- NMI levels range from limited area effects to significant body lockup
- The greater probe spread, the higher likelihood of NMI
- Subject may maintain muscle control, particularly in arms and legs
- Be prepared with other force options, including a drive (or touch) stun follow up away from the probes to expand NMI area
- Drive (or touch) stuns alone cause localized pain, not NMI

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# PROBE SPREAD

- Greater probe spreads generally increase effectiveness
- 12”+ spread optimal
  - Deployment distance 7-15 feet (2-4.5 meters)
- Probe spreads under 4” typically create pain effect only
  - Exception is close probe spreads where one probe is above the waist and one is below the waist causing loss of balance and ability to stand
- Consider deploying a second cartridge or using a 3-point drive stun if spread is insufficient to cause NMI

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# SPLIT THE BELTLINE

For close-range deployments from 0-7 feet (0-2 meters):

- Target the waist area to “split the belt line”
  - Affects core muscles needed for balance
  - Increases officer and cardiac safety
- Avoid the genitals when practical

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# SOME CAUSES OF LIMITED CEW EFFECTIVENESS

- Miss or single dart hit
- Incomplete, broken, or intermittent circuit
- Loose or thick clothing
- Low nerve or muscle mass hit
- Obese subject
- Limited probe spread
- Wires break
- Operator error

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# LOOK FOR CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR

- Look AND listen when evaluating the effectiveness of a CEW deployment
- Watch the subject's reaction and look for a change in behavior
- Loud arcing sound typically indicates no or intermittent connection
- Intermittent arcing typically indicates a poor connection such as a clothing disconnect

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# ARCING SOUNDS

If you *hear* a loud arcing noise and *see* no change in subject behavior, *think* bad connection

- Reload (X26/X26P) and target different area or 3-point drive stun follow-up with cartridge still attached
- For X2 deploy second cartridge

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# TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Avoid TASER CEW over-dependence
- Have reasonable and appropriate force options available
- Consider cover and distance tactics
- When practical:
  - Have at least one back-up officer present to control/cuff under power
  - Optimize choice of landing zone
  - Deploy to back (rather than front)

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# TACTICAL CONTINGENCIES

- CEW may have limited or no effect
- No weapon system will operate or be effective all the time
- A CEW or cartridge may not fire
- Do not attempt to reuse a “dud” cartridge and carry a spare cartridge if possible per department policy
- Be prepared to transition to other force options

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# BE CAREFUL OF DISTRACTIONS

- Officers have been accused of using excessive CEW exposures due to stress or distractions, including nearby family members, bystanders, and incident witnesses
- Distraction or situational stress may result in electrical discharge of unintended duration if the officer inadvertently holds the trigger down
- Be alert to and avoid potential distractions that may result in extended exposures or unintentional additional applications

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# CONTROLLING/CUFFING UNDER POWER

- Use each 5-second CEW cycle as a “window of opportunity” to establish control/cuff while subject is affected
- You can go hands on with the subject during the 5-second cycle without getting shocked
  - Do not place hands on or between probes
  - Do not touch wires

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# TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Be aware of the maximum range of your cartridges
- Keep sufficient slack in the wires
- Move with the subject if they start to roll
- Failure to do so may result in wire breakage or probe disconnect causing loss of CEW contact with the subject

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# SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS

Hand out CEW Study Aid

TASER Protect Life

**TASER CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (CEW) STUDY AID**

This is a rapid study guide only and is a supplement to, but not a substitute for, TASER training and warnings available in full online at https://www.axon.com/training/resources.

CEW use and physical incapacitation, alone or in combination with physical exertion, stress, unforeseen circumstances, or individual susceptibilities, may increase risk or cause serious injury or death.

**WARNING**

**Conducted Electrical Weapon**
- Can temporarily incapacitate target.
- Can cause death or serious injury.
- Obey warnings, instructions and all laws.
- Comply with current training materials and requirements.
- See www.TASER.com.

**TASER CEW SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS**
**(THESE GUIDELINES MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN CONSITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND DO NOT ESTABLISH ANY STANDARD OF CARE)**

**This Study Aid is intended to reduce CEW safety risks and excessive force claims.**
**Distribute this Study Aid to all CEW users and review regularly and at annual recertification training.**

- If no exigency or immediate safety risk exists, slow down and consider alternative force options/solutions including negotiation, commands, or physical skills.
- Physical resistance alone does not equal immediate danger.
- Emotionally disturbed person (EDP) or mentally ill alone does not indicate immediate threat.
- Choose a force option reasonably likely to cure the immediate safety risk.
- Non-deadly danger to self does not justify higher force risk.
- CEWs do not replace deadly-force options.

**Incident Basics:**
- Complete training first; recertify annually
- Review latest TASER CEW warnings
- Follow all laws, regulations, policies
- If CEW is not achieving intended goal, transition to different force option
- Monitor subject post-CEW; if unresponsive, initiate EMS/CPR protocols

**Subjects with Increased Risks (requiring ↑ justification):**
- Higher risk populations (children, pregnant, elderly, thin)
- Known medical conditions (pregnancy, heart disease, pacemaker, seizure history)

**Secondary Risks (requiring ↑ justification):**
- Uncontrolled falls, subjects in elevated positions or running on hard surfaces
  - Consider if tackling or intentional grounding is objectively reasonable
- Operating machinery or transportation (car, motorcycle, bicycle, skateboard)
- Presence of explosive, flammable substance, or vapor

**Probe Targeting:**
- Back shots ↑ safety and effectiveness
- Avoid intentionally targeting sensitive areas (eyes, head, throat, chest/heart, genitals, known pre-existing injury areas)
- Use preferred target areas (blue areas on target figures)
- Avoid chest (↓ cardiac risks, particularly in thin subjects)
- Close-range deployment - split beltline

**Minimize Number and Duration of CEW Exposures:**
- Each CEW trigger pull or 5 seconds of discharge must be objectively reasonable
- Control and restrain subject immediately, if safe and practical
- Use 5-second "window of opportunity" to restrain and "cuff under power"
- Avoid simultaneous CEW exposures with multiple CEWs or multiple circuits
- Avoid repeated or continuous exposures beyond 15 seconds absent reasonably perceived immediate threat and ↑ justification

**Probe Spread:** Wider probe spreads ↑ effectiveness. 12" (30.5 cm) probe spread is necessary for ↑ effectiveness, stopping forward motion.
- Optimal probe spread for incapacitation requires minimum 7-foot (2.13 m) distance between front of CEW cartridge and subject.
- If too close to achieve good probe spread, attempt to ↑ distance. Targeting leg may allow tactical advantage.

**CEW Use:**
- Use objectively reasonable force under totality of circumstances
- Use force only on those actively/aggressively resisting or higher
- Give a verbal warning before using force, if practical
- Give subject reasonable opportunity to comply before force is used or repeated
- Cease force once subject is controlled

**If subject is NOT an immediate threat or flight risk, Avoid CEW Use:**
- Without first attempting verbal de-escalation, commands, or physical skills
- On elevated risk populations
- For pain compliance if pain foreseeably ineffective due to ↑ tolerance from drugs, alcohol, or psychosis

**Limit CEW Drive Stun Use:**
- Avoid using CEW drive (touch) stun except:
  - 3 or 4-point contact to complete circuit or ↑ probe spread
  - "break-contact" or distraction tactic when assaulted or tied up with subject
  - brief application to attempt pain-compliance, must give reasonable time and opportunity to comply
- Avoid repeated drive stuns if compliance is not achieved, particularly with EDPs

**Documentation** (always document force/CEW justification):
- Document immediate safety risks, danger, resistance, force used from officer POV
- Fully document (identify, collect, maintain evidence)
  - Subject's threats, behaviors, and actions
  - Each application of force, and each injury or alleged injury
  - Each CEW trigger pull or 5-second discharge

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# SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS

When objectively reasonable and as practicable

- If no exigency or immediate safety risk exists, slow down and consider alternative force options/solutions including negotiation, commands, or physical skills
- Do not immediately resort to CEW
- Physical resistance or mental illness alone does not indicate immediate threat

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# SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS

When objectively reasonable and as practicable

- Choose a force option reasonably likely to cure the immediate safety risk
- Use CEW only on those “actively resisting” or higher
- Subject’s non-deadly danger to self does not justify higher risk of force
- CEWs do not replace deadly-force options

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# SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS

- Use CEW within:
  - Law
  - Department policy and training
- Do not use CEW for:
  - Verbal defiance
  - Belligerence
  - Punishment
  - Horse play

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# SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS

When objectively reasonable and as practicable

- Give verbal warning before CEW use
- Give subjects a reasonable opportunity to comply before CEW is used or repeated
- Consider if medical/mental condition is limiting compliance
- Immediately cease any force once subject is under control

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# SMART USE CONSIDERATIONS

- **Avoid using CEW drive stuns *except*:**
  - 3 or 4-point contact to complete circuit or increase probe spread
  - “break-contact” or distraction tactic create reactionary distance
  - brief application to attempt pain compliance
- Do not repeat drive stuns if compliance not achieved
- Do not use drive stuns if pain is unlikely to gain compliance due to mind-body disconnect (psychotic episode) or increased pain tolerance (drugs/alcohol)

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# CEW MEDICAL/RISKS OVERVIEW

- Higher risk populations
- Injuries from falls
- Increased injury risk examples
- Flammability Risks
- Cardiac Risks
- Physiologic/Metabolic Effects

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# HIGHER RISK POPULATIONS

CEWs, like other force options, have not been laboratory tested on:

- Pregnant women
- Mentally ill
- Elderly
- Small children
- Low body-mass (very thin) persons

**CEW use on these individuals could increase the risk of death or serious injury**

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# INJURIES FROM FALLS

- CEWs frequently cause subject to fall
- Falls are often uncontrolled
- Falls, even from ground level, can cause serious injuries or death (especially on hard surfaces)
- Always consider environment subject is standing on
- Consider if you would be justified in tackling or intentionally grounding

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# INCREASED INJURY RISK EXAMPLES

- Elevated position
- In water, mud/muck (drowning risk)
- Operating machinery/vehicle
- Running or in motion (bike/skateboard)
- Sensitive target areas (head/eyes/groin)
- Probes in heart or chest area
- Repeated or continuous CEW discharges

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# FLAMMABILITY

- TASER CEWs can ignite explosive materials, liquids, fumes, gases, vapors, and gels
- Some personal defense sprays use flammable carriers such as alcohol and can be dangerous if used in immediate conjunction with CEWs

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# CARDIAC RISKS

Experts have identified the following key factors related to CEW cardiac risks:

- Dart-to-heart distance
- Duration of delivered electrical charge

**The further the CEW dart is away from the heart and the fewer CEW cycles applied, the lower the risk of the CEW affecting the heart**

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# CARDIAC RISKS

CEW cardiac risks are low, but not zero

To reduce cardiac risks (when possible):

- Target the back
- Avoid targeting the chest
- Avoid prolonged or continuous exposures

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# PHYSIOLOGIC/ METABOLIC RISKS

CEWs may produce effects that could increase the risk of sudden death, including changes in:

- Blood chemistry
- Blood pressure
- Respiration
- Heart rate and rhythm
- Adrenaline and stress hormones

The longer the CEW exposure, the greater the potential effects

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# AVOID REPEATED/EXTENDED CEW DURATIONS

- Minimize the number and duration of CEW exposures
- CEW exposure is a physically and psychologically stressful event
- Use the shortest duration of CEW exposure objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives
- Avoid repeated or continuous exposures beyond 15 seconds absent reasonably perceived immediate threat and increased justification
- Reassess the subject's behavior before repeating or continuing the exposure, and provide time for compliance

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# THANK YOU!