



GENERAL ORDER

USE OF CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPONS GENERAL ORDER – 3B **Implementation Date: October 26, 2001** **Revokes: None**

3B.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the use of the department approved Conducted Electrical Weapon (C.E.W.) as a non-lethal method of controlling violent or potentially violent offenders and those who resist arrest or other lawful commands.

All sworn members and authorized non-sworn members (herein after collectively referred to as authorized members) shall be issued a copy of this Order and be instructed in Department policies regarding the use of force prior to the issuance and authorization to use the department approved Conducted Electrical Weapon (C.E.W.).

3B.2 DEFINITIONS

See General Order 3D

3B.3 POLICY/PROCEDURES

The use of the C.E.W. by authorized members is intended to prevent injury to the subject involved, the sworn member involved, and other persons present.

- A.** C.E.W. exposure causes certain effects, including psychological and metabolic changes, stress, and pain. In some individuals, the risk of serious injury or death may increase with cumulative C.E.W. exposure. Repeated, prolonged or continuous C.E.W. applications may contribute to cumulative exhaustion, stress, cardiac, psychological, metabolic, respiratory, and associated medical risks and shall be avoided.
- B.** When using the C.E.W., officers shall use the fewest exposures and the shortest duration of C.E.W. exposure objectively reasonable to accomplish their lawful objectives. If an officer determines that the C.E.W. is not operating as intended or that a deployment is ineffective in incapacitating the subject or achieving compliance, alternative control measures should be considered.
- C.** The use of the C.E.W. is authorized to be used only for its intended purpose when the implementation of lesser control measures is perceived to be inadequate, for example: when soft empty hand control techniques in all likelihood will fail. The use of the C.E.W. as a means of retribution, retaliation, or torture is prohibited.

- D. The C.E.W. may be used as necessary against an animal to prevent injury to oneself or another person.
- E. No modification related to the design of any C.E.W. shall be allowed without specific written approval of the respective Division Deputy Chief.
- F. The C.E.W. should not be deployed on young children, low body mass index people, elderly, the infirm, or females known to be pregnant. However, when there is a reasonable belief that a subject may do serious physical injury to themselves or others, or there exists another objectively reasonable need to subdue a subject, then no distinction shall be made to age, size, or medical condition of the subject.
- G. The C.E.W. should not be deployed on a subject who is in a body of water where there is a potential for drowning. However, when there is a reasonable belief that a subject may do serious physical injury to others or there exists another objectively reasonable need to subdue a subject, then no distinction shall be made as to their location.
- H. When practicable, the C.E.W. should not be deployed on a subject who is in an elevated position from which there is a potential to fall and be seriously injured, is less able to catch or protect themselves in a fall (e.g. restrained, handcuffed, or immobilized), or is running or moving under momentum. However, when there is an objectively reasonable need to subdue a subject, then no distinction shall be made as to their location or movement.
- I. C.E.W. exposure in the chest area near the heart has a low probability of inducing extra heart beats (cardiac capture). In rare circumstances, cardiac capture could lead to cardiac arrest. When possible, department members will avoid targeting the frontal chest area near the heart to reduce the risk of potential serious injury or death.
- J. When utilizing the C.E.W., department members will make, when practicable, all attempts to strike the preferred target areas; below the neck area for back shots and the lower center mass (below chest at beltline) for front shots. The preferred target areas increase dart-to-heart distance and reduce cardiac risks. Back shots are preferable to front shots when practical.
- K. Department members shall avoid simultaneous C.E.W. exposures (e.g. probe discharge mode or drive stun mode). Officers shall not use multiple C.E.W.'s, multiple completed circuits, or multiple drive-stuns at the same time without justification. Multiple C.E.W.'s or multiple completed circuits at the same time could have cumulative effects and result in increased risks.
- L. Utilizing the C.E.W. in drive-stun mode is for pain compliance only. It may be less effective on individuals who do not respond to pain. Officers will avoid repeated drive-stuns on such individuals if compliance is not achieved.
- M. C.E.W.'s use a LASER targeting aid. LASER's can cause some serious eye injury, including permanent vision loss. Department members shall not aim a LASER at an aircraft or the operator of an aircraft or moving vehicle without justification.
- N. The C.E.W. shall not be knowingly used within the reasonable proximity to any explosive or flammable substance.

- O. The C.E.W. is not allowed to be carried by authorized members while off duty, with the exception of Department approved details or at the discretion of the Training Unit sergeant.

3B.3.1 Issue of the Conducted Electrical Weapon

- A. Only a Department issued non-lethal C.E.W. shall be carried by authorized members. All CSPD authorized members shall wear the C.E.W. in an issued holster.

B. Training

1. All authorized members shall undergo training by a certified weapons instructor coordinated by the Training unit. Members must demonstrate proficiency with the C.E.W. prior to being authorized to carry.
2. See G.O. 3C section 3C.3.12 for guidelines on carrying conducted electrical weapons by authorized members. During annual training, the instructor shall inspect the C.E.W. and approve its continued use. This inspection will include checking the expiration date on the C.E.W. cartridge and removing expired cartridges from service.
3. Annually, all authorized members will receive proficiency training in the use of the C.E.W. During annual training, should an authorized member not be able to show proficiency, they will not be allowed to carry a C.E.W. until such time as they pass the proficiency training. A memo will be sent from the Training Unit to the authorized member's supervisor. Any retraining will be arranged between the Unit Supervisor and the Training Unit.

C. Maintenance of Conducted Electrical Weapons

1. The C.E.W. shall be encased in a protective holster when not in use. Care should be taken to avoid dropping it. Defective devices shall be returned to the Training Unit with a memo detailing the problem.
2. It shall be the authorized members responsibility to ensure that the C.E.W. is maintained and in ready use. This shall include daily spark tests performed in the following manner: point the C.E.W. in a safe direction, press the Arc Switch activating the rear display, turn the safety switch off, press the Arc Switch again and this will perform a (5 second) spark test. Note: **Do NOT pull the trigger**, as this will deploy a loaded cartridge.
3. Authorized members assigned a C.E.W. will maintain awareness of their C.E.W. cartridge expiration, obtaining a replacement prior to the expiration date.
4. To ensure proper battery life and to receive firmware updates, members must replace their C.E.W. battery every 30 days.

3B.3.2 Use of the Conducted Electrical Weapons

- A. Prior to discharge of the C.E.W., a verbal warning shall be issued, if feasible.
- B. When other members are present, the authorized member using the C.E.W. shall warn the other members of his intention by loudly saying "TASER". This warning should give other members time to disengage from the subject.

- C. When the C.E.W. is deployed on a subject, authorized members should, as demonstrated in training, move in to control the subject during the five (5) second discharge or as soon as practical. Authorized members shall not discharge their C.E.W. multiple times on a subject unless the subject is still actively resisting the authorized member's efforts to gain compliance.

3B.3.3 After Care – Deployment of Conducted Electrical Weapon

- A. Upon discharging a C.E.W., the authorized member shall immediately notify a supervisor.
- B. Once the subject is in custody, the authorized member deploying the C.E.W. will properly remove the probes using the cartridge clip, using gloves, and clean the area of probe insertion using a sterile alcohol wipe and band-aid. This procedure is to be followed unless the probe is embedded in an area, which will require removal by qualified medical personnel.
 - 1. Probes imbedded in the eye, face, neck, aureole (nipple), or groin, shall be removed by qualified medical personnel. (Possible injuries from falling after deployment of the Taser should be anticipated).
 - 2. **ALL** prisoners **MUST** have medical clearance prior to booking and will only be accepted at the Broward Sheriff's Office Central Booking Facility.

3B.3.4 Evidence Submission of C.E.W. Cartridge

- A. After proper removal of the probes from the subject:
 - 1. Remove cartridge from C.E.W.
 - 2. Place probes into the cartridge cavity, barb end first.
 - 3. Wrap lead wire around cartridge.
 - 4. Place cartridge in the cartridge clip and collect as one single unit.
- B. Place entire cartridge into evidence bag and submit according to General Order 27. If the barbs entered the skin of the subject, the evidence bag must be labeled as bio-hazard.

3B.3.5 Documenting Use of C.E.W.

- A. Every deployment of a C.E.W. must be documented in a clear and concise manner on a Response to Resistance Report and on an Incident Report. The authorized member shall clearly articulate the circumstances surrounding the need for additional discharges of the C.E.W. in order to gain control of a subject. This documentation shall be in accordance with GO 3, section 3.3.6 and also include a body diagram. If discharged at an animal or accidentally, only an Incident Report shall be required for documentation. If discharged unintentionally while involved in a law enforcement action, and a subject is struck, a Response to Resistance Report must be completed.
- B. When a used C.E.W. cartridge is submitted into evidence because of an accidental discharge, the cartridge may be destroyed by Evidence Unit personnel. On the property receipt, mark "destroy" and indicate on the receipt that it was an accidental discharge.

- C. After each C.E.W. deployment, the authorized member will dock their battery to allow information to be uploaded to Evidence.com.

3B.3.6 Replacement of C.E.W. Cartridge

The Shift Lieutenant, or Patrol Sergeant, will control dissemination of replacement C.E.W. cartridges in the following manner:

- A. In order to receive a replacement cartridge, the authorized member shall provide their supervisor, if available, with a case number from the used cartridges. Cartridges being turned in due to damage only do not require a case number but shall be noted as damaged.
- B. The Shift Lieutenant, or Patrol Sergeant shall issue a new cartridge using the Axon Device Manager application to assign it to the individual officer.
- C. Authorized members shall carry one 3.5 degree angle Stand Off (SO) Cartridge and one 12 degree angle Close Quarter (CQ) Cartridge.
- D. If a Shift Lieutenant or Patrol Sergeant is not available, a member of the Training Unit may issue a replacement cartridge.
 - 1. The member must provide a case number for the used cartridge unless being turned in due to damage.
 - 2. The Training Unit shall issue a new cartridge using the Axon Device Manager application to assign it to the individual officer.
- E. Quarterly, the Training Unit Sergeant shall audit all cartridge logs to ensure cartridges are being replaced according to policy.

APPROVED


Clyde H. Parry
Chief of Police