

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ORDER**

**DATE/TIME:**            SEPTEMBER 4, 2024            0930 HOURS

**NUMBER:**              OR 24-26

**SUBJECT:**             USE OF THE TASER-10

**SCOPE:**                ALL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

**DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE AFFECTED:**    1.05, 1.07, 5.10 and 6.02

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**Portions of this document are deemed by the San Diego Police Department to be exempt from public disclosure because the public interest served by not disclosing the information clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure, pursuant to California Government Code section 7922.000.**

This Department order establishes guidelines for the proper use of the TASER-10.

The TASER-10 is a force option that is intended to temporarily incapacitate subjects to enable officers to gain control over them. The TASER-10 is an electronic conducted energy device that affects a person's sensory and motor nervous systems.

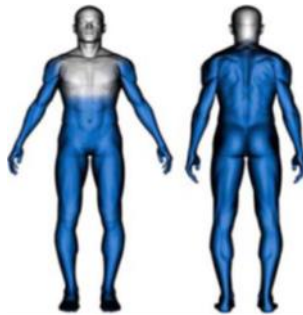
The TASER-10 fires up to 10 cartridges (probes) from a replaceable magazine. An electrical initiated primer and piston located inside the cartridge propels individual cartridge probes for every trigger pull. These probes are connected to the TASER by thin insulated copper-clad steel wires. When a minimum of two probes make contact with the target, approximately 1000 volts of electricity pass between the probes affecting the person's sensory and motor nervous systems, capable of causing temporary incapacitation. The TASER-10 is equipped with a laser sight to allow for greater accuracy in both daylight and darkness. The effective range of the Taser-10 is 0-40 feet.

**I.     PROCEDURES**

- A.     Only officers who have completed Department-approved training will be issued, and are authorized to use, a TASER-10.
  
- B.     Uniformed officers, below the rank of lieutenant and including Reserves, except when assigned to office duties, shall at all times wear a Taser-10 device on their gun belt (if trained and authorized to carry the device), along with all other required equipment, in accordance with DP 5.10.

1. Uniformed officers issued a TASER-10 shall carry it on their duty belt in a Department-approved holster at all times and carried on the opposite side from the firearm.
- C. Investigative personnel who are conducting pre-planned enforcement, such as arrests or search warrants, shall have their Taser-10 in their possession and available for use if necessary.
1. Non-uniformed officers carrying a TASER-10 will carry it in a Department approved holster on the opposite side from the firearm.
- D. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER-10 is properly functioning by performing a function test prior to starting their shift.
1. Officers should ensure the LED side lights are blue prior to completing a function test, and yellow before placing the TASER-10 in-service.
- E. Officers should be aware of the expiration date of each of their issued cartridges. Cartridges **expire after five years** and should be taken out of service and returned to the Operational Support Unit for replacement upon expiration.
- F. The TASER-10 battery shall be uploaded a minimum of every 30 days to receive firmware updates. Supervisors shall confirm their officers have done so within 30 days. This confirmation will be noted in the supervisor's monthly inspection.
- G. The TASER-10 battery shall be uploaded after every deployment including unintentional deployments.
- H. Officers are highly discouraged from holding a TASER-10 and a firearm at the same time due to the risk of unintentionally using deadly force.
- I. When the TASER-10 is turned on, not during a function test, all BWC's in buffering mode within 30 feet will automatically be activated.
1. Officers should ensure to verify that the TASER-10 is not turned on while conducting a function test to prevent activating Body Worn Camera videos.
  2. If an accidental Body Worn Camera video is created, which is not associated with a radio call or enforcement contact, officers will still be required to add the proper metadata to the video using the Axon View App. "TASER ACCIDENTAL" should be added in the ID field. The "BWC Training/Accidental" category should be added in the Categories field. Nothing is required to be added to the Title field.

- J. As with any law enforcement equipment, the TASER-10 has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. Officers should be aware that effectiveness is not guaranteed. Officers should be prepared with other options in the unlikely event of such a failure. The TASER-10 should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device.
- K. **The TASER-10 may be used on subjects exhibiting assaultive behavior or life-threatening behavior, as defined in Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force. The TASER-10 may also be used to control actively resisting subjects reasonably believed to possess, or have immediate access to, a weapon.**
- L. Officers should evaluate whether the use of the TASER-10 is reasonable based upon the totality of the circumstances (as explained in D.P. 1.04). In some cases, other control techniques may be more appropriate, as determined by the subject's threat level to the officer and or others.
- M. When possible, the TASER-10 should be aimed at the lower center mass of a subject during frontal deployments. Back shots are still very effective and should be targeted when available. The device may be aimed at any part of the body if the subject displays life-threatening behavior. The following silhouette depicts the shaded, preferred targeting area.



- N. Cover officers should be prepared to take control of the subject while the TASER-10 is cycling. Officers can make contact with the subject while the TASER-10 is activated, as long as caution is taken not to touch the subject between the locations of the probes.
- O. Although the TASER-10 will normally immobilize a subject within two to three seconds, officers should allow the TASER-10 to activate for a full cycle unless it appears the subject is in medical distress.
- P. Individuals suspected of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol or exhibiting nudity, profuse sweating, extreme strength, extreme agitation, and irrational behavior, may be more susceptible to collateral problems and should be closely

monitored following the application of the TASER-10 until they can be examined by medical personnel.

Q. Due caution should be considered when utilizing the TASER-10 on persons in the following classes:

1. Juveniles.
2. Women who appear or claim to be pregnant.
3. Persons who are visibly frail.
4. Individuals who have a preexisting medical condition that increases danger, and of which officer become aware.
5. The elderly.

## **II. VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS**

A. Unless it would otherwise endanger officer safety, or is impractical due to circumstances, a verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER 10 shall precede the application of the device in order to:

1. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
2. Provide other officers and individuals with warning that a TASER-10 may be deployed.

B. After a verbal warning, if an individual continues to express an unwillingness to comply with an officer's lawful orders voluntarily, and it appears both reasonable and practical under the circumstances, the officer may activate the TASER-10's warning alert (audible tone, bright pulsing light, and/or the aiming laser) in a further attempt to gain compliance and de-escalate before the application of the TASER-10.

1. The aiming laser shall **NEVER** be intentionally directed into the eyes of another person as it may permanently impair his or her vision.

## **III. PROHIBITIONS**

A. The TASER-10 is prohibited from being used:

1. To inflict undue pain on any individual.

2. In a punitive or retaliatory manner.
  3. On any persons who are nonviolently participating in a public protest or passively resisting in a way that does not pose an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others.
  4. To arouse an unconscious, intoxicated, or impaired individual.
  5. On any individual when a canine has engaged, except at the canine handler's direction.
- B. The TASER-10 shall not be used on a handcuffed subject unless the subject displays life-threatening behavior.
- C. The TASER-10 should not be used when the subject is in an environment where the subject's fall could reasonably result in death or serious bodily injury (such as a body of water or a significant height), unless the subject displays life-threatening behavior.
- D. For fire safety reasons, officers should consider the immediate environment when choosing to use the TASER-10. The TASER-10 should not be fired at anyone sprayed with an alcohol-based chemical spray, including alcohol-based pepper sprays, as the fumes could ignite. The San Diego Police Department only issues water-based OC Spray that will not be ignited by the TASER-10. The TASER-10 will not ignite standard solids or black gunpowder.
- E. When the subject is no longer an immediate threat, the use of the TASER-10 shall be discontinued.

#### **IV. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER-10**

- A. If, after the initial cycle of the TASER-10, the officer is still unable to overcome the subject's level of resistance and circumstances allow, the officer shall:
1. Determine if other options or tactics may be more appropriate; or
  2. Consider whether the probes are making proper contact; or
  3. Determine if the use of the TASER-10 is limiting the ability of the individual to comply.
- B. Multiple uses of the TASER-10 may be reasonably necessary, but the use of the TASER-10 shall be discontinued once the subject does not pose an immediate threat:

1. The officer should reassess the subject after each probe deployment and cycle to determine compliance or the presence of any possible medical issues.
- C. Simultaneous applications of the TASER-10 from multiple devices are generally prohibited.
- D. The first probe fired from a TASER-10 does not send conductive energy to the subject. The second probe should be deployed as quickly and as accurately as possible to achieve neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI). Additional probes may be deployed until the subject complies or is no longer an immediate threat. If multiple TASER-10 probes are deployed, the TASER-10 will automatically select the optimal probes to achieve NMI.
1. Officers are to continuously assess the subject and use only the number of Taser-10 energy cycles that is reasonable, and which reasonably appears to overcome the immediate threat, take a subject into custody, or safely control a person. Officers should evaluate the situation and consider certain factors before additional applications of the Taser-10. Officers should minimize repeated, continuous, or simultaneous exposures to reduce the risk of death or serious injury. Once NMI is achieved, if reasonably safe and feasible to do so, officers should consider other force options before using more than three Taser -10 cycles or more than 15 seconds of Taser-10 application. Officers are to transition to other tools or tactics when the Taser-10 is not achieving the intended goal.
- E. Using one TASER-10 device on multiple subjects is generally prohibited.

## **V. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

Subjects of a TASER-10 deployment, including one or more probes making contact with the skin shall be transported to a contract hospital for a medical examination prior to booking or final disposition. The decision to transport a subject by police vehicle or to request paramedics should be based on the officer's judgment as to which option will provide the fastest access to professional medical care, based on the circumstances. A subject of a TASER-10 deployment with more than two probes and/or more than one cycle, shall be transported by paramedics.

For medical treatment and transportation requirements, refer to [Department Procedure 1.07](#).

## **VI. REPORTS**

- A. Officers shall notify their supervisor as soon as possible following the application of a TASER-10 deployment.
- B. All TASER-10 deployments shall be reported and documented pursuant to the guidelines articulated in Department Procedure 1.04 - Use of Force.
- C. All TASER-10 deployments shall be documented in the related case report.
  - 1. Officers reporting a TASER-10 deployment shall document in writing the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident that led the officer to decide to use a TASER-10.
  - 2. Officers should carefully and thoroughly articulate the observations made that caused them to deploy a TASER-10. The related reports should include whether a verbal and/or other warning was given prior to deploying a TASER-10, if the built in warning alert was activated, or if no warnings were given, the report should include the reason(s) it was not given.
- D. If the subject is booked into the San Diego County Jail system, a notation of TASER-10 deployment shall be made in the "Statement of Booking Officer" of the Intake Screening and Triage.
- E. Any unintentional deployments of a TASER-10 shall be reported immediately to a supervisor.

## **VII. IMPOUND PROCEDURE**

- A. After deployment of the TASER-10 probes, officers shall impound the TASER-10 cartridge(s), the probes, and the wires. Officers shall place the probes back inside the cartridge(s) with the barbs facing inward prior to impounding. The wires shall be bundled, and everything shall be placed inside of a property bag.
- B. If there are any bodily contaminants on the probes, treat them as a biohazard and follow proper impounding procedures in Department Procedure 3.02.

## **VIII. MAINTENANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY**

The TASER-10 should consistently have 10 cartridges in the magazine. If an officer deploys a TASER-10 cartridge(s), they need to replace the expended cartridge(s) from Operational Support during business hours or the Watch Commander's Office after hours.

For maintenance/accountability requirements, refer to [Department Procedure 1.07](#).

**IX. TRAINING**

The Training Division is responsible for all aspects of TASER-10 training and certification. The Training Division will maintain a list of certified TASER-10 instructors and certified TASER-10 operators.

**X. DANGEROUS ANIMALS**

The TASER-10 may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternate methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

If you have any questions, please contact the Operational Support Unit at (**Redacted – record exempt**).

Department Procedure 1.07 and any other affected DPs will be updated to reflect these changes.

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Please read at squad conferences and give a copy to all personnel.