

Attachment to LC QON 3265

FR-1.6 TASER

Statute Law

· *The Criminal Code Sections 231, 233, 235, 248, 260, 262 and 266*

· *Criminal Investigation Act 2006 Section 16*

- *Police Act Section 9*

Refer:

· FR-1.1 Use of Force – Generally

- FR-1.1.1 Reporting Use of Force Guidelines and Procedures

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Western Australia Police (WAPOL) to make Taser available for use by suitably qualified members.

Taser must only be used to reduce a threat and gain control of a subject where there is a real and imminent risk of serious injury to any person.

Any Use of Force **MUST** be reasonable, appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances and members will be accountable for such force.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of these guidelines is to:

- Reflect WAPOL's commitment to providing members with less than lethal tactical force options
- Identify the circumstances under which Taser may be issued and used

Other than in authorised training members may only carry Taser when they:

Have successfully completed the Critical Skills 1 (CS1) and 2 (CS2) training programs

Are current in Critical Skills (Police Life Support)

Definitions

'Taser' means the Taser X26. It is an Electronic Control Device (ECD) that uses propelled wires (Probe Deployment) or direct contact (Drive Stun) to conduct energy to affect the sensory and motor functions of the nervous system.

'Automated Cycle' means an automated uninterrupted cycle of the Taser for a five second duration activated by application of the trigger.

'Taser Control' means Taser was used in Display, Red Dot or Arc Display.

'Display' means Taser was drawn from the holster and obviously displayed to the subject, without arming the device.

'Red Dot' means the Red Dot of the Taser was aimed at the subject.

'Unauthorised Discharge' means a reference to any instance where the use of a Taser occurs, either intentionally or unintentionally, which is not excused or justified by law or WAPOL policy and guidelines.

'Arc Display' means the Taser was 'arced' without a cartridge and obviously displayed to the subject.

'Taser Use' means the Taser was used in the 'probe deployment' and/or 'drive stun' modes.

Situational Tactical Options Model (STOM)

The STOM is a judgmental decision making process to guide members when responding to operational policing tasks while maintaining member safety, continuous assessment and re-assessment as the primary responsibility.

All members are reminded that in the operational environment they may be required to use a variety of tactical options at any time. The selection of tactical options is not a linear progression. Members must be cognisant of all available tactical options before committing to any course of action and be prepared to escalate or de-escalate as the circumstances dictate.

The framework of the STOM comprises:

- Information and intelligence
- Situational appreciation (including risk and threat assessment)

- Powers and policy
- Tactical options
- Actions and outcomes

Refer STOM

FR-1.6.1 USE OF TASER

Refer:

- FR-1.1 Use of Force – Generally
- FR-1.1.1 Reporting Use of Force – Guidelines and Procedures
- FR-1.6 Taser
- FR-1.6.7 Aftercare
- Situational Tactical Options Model

The Taser must only be used to reduce a threat and gain control of a subject where there is a real and imminent risk of serious injury to any person.

Any Use of Force must be reasonable, appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances and members will be accountable for such force.

When selecting Taser as a tactical force option, members should ensure that their decision is made in accordance with the Western Australia Police (WAPOL) Situational Tactical Options Model (STOM).

Use of Taser must be in accordance with the Western Australia Police (WAPOL), Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU), Taser training program and the STOM.

Deployment Considerations

The purpose of deploying the Taser is to temporarily incapacitate the subject and provide member/s with an opportunity to safely approach, secure and control the subject.

Application of the Taser in probe deployment or drive stun mode will initiate an automated cycle. Where member's are unable to secure and control a subject during the initial cycle, there may be a requirement for extended or multiple cycles.

Members should be aware that any prolonged application of the Taser involving either extended or multiple cycles will be subjected to a greater degree of scrutiny.

Where Taser is selected as a tactical force option, members must be aware that there are risks subsequent to the deployment.

The subject may be incapacitated and temporarily lose coordinated control of the effected muscles. Where the subject is standing they may fall to the ground in an uncontrolled manner potentially causing significant forceful contact of the head with a hard surface. Where

practicable, additional members should move forward to support and secure the subject at the earliest opportunity.

While members will be accountable for any use of force, where one or more of the below risks is evident, use of the Taser in such circumstances will be subjected to a greater degree of scrutiny. These risks include, but are not limited to

- Subjects with known/suspected or claimed heart conditions
- Subjects displaying signs of excited delirium
- Subjects with known/suspected or claimed mental health issues
- Subjects who do not recover within a reasonable time
- Women who are known/suspected or claimed pregnant
- Elderly or infirm subjects
- Children
- Any use of the Taser in the near vicinity of explosive materials, flammable liquids or gases
- Subjects situated in, or adjacent to, water due to the risk of drowning
- Subjects situated in elevated positions due to the risk of falling from a height
- Subjects operating a vehicle or machinery
- Where a subject is handcuffed
- Probes deployed into the chest, face and/or genital region of the subject
 - Probes deployed into the back of a subject who is running away from members

Aftercare

Where the Taser is used, subject aftercare must be provided.

Should any of the above risks also be present, the member/s present must be aware of their responsibilities and appropriate response.

Probe Deployment

The Taser should be used in the probe deployment mode in order to achieve incapacitation of the subject.

Drive Stun

Members must only use the Taser in the drive stun mode if a cartridge is attached to the firing bay. In these circumstances the Taser must be re-applied to another location on the subject's body with a follow up drive stun in order to achieve the intended incapacitation as instructed in training.

Arcing

The Taser shall not be used in the 'arc' mode unless exceptional circumstances exist. This practice may expose the member to greater risk by reducing the effectiveness of the Taser.

Suspension/Revocation of Qualification

The Officer in Charge (OIC) of OSTTU has the discretion to revoke or temporarily suspend a members Critical Skills 2/Instructor qualification where a deployment is subsequently found to be unauthorised or identifies a training need for operational safety purposes.

FR-1.6.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

Statute Law

- *Weapons Act and Regulations 1999*

Refer:

- FR – 1.1.1 Reporting Use of Force – Guidelines and Procedures
- FR – 1.2.5 Critical Skills (Weapons) Training and Re-qualification
- FR – 1.6.10 Security, Storage and Transport of Taser and Associated Equipment
- FR – 1.6.12 Taser Data Port Downloads
- AD – 57 Critical Skills (Police Life Support) Training and Re-qualification
- Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register
 - Taser Serviceability

Responsibilities of Members

A member issued with a Taser is accountable for that tactical force option at all times and will ensure that

- They are fully acquainted with the relevant provisions of the Weapons Act 1999 and Regulations, related policy and other Statute Law relevant to the Use of Force
- The weapon and its associated attachments are stored in accordance with FR-1.6.10 Security, Storage and Transport of Taser and Associated Equipment
- The required entries are made in the Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register at the commencement and completion of duty
- It is essential a member records the time the spark test was conducted, comprising one automated cycle conducted during Taser Serviceability at the time of issue in the Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register
- Spark Tests should only be conducted at the time of issue of a Taser. All other un-accounted firings will instigate further investigations to justify the Taser use
- When a Taser is deployed operationally, a Use of Force Report shall be submitted in accordance with FR-1.1.1 Reporting Use of Force - Guidelines and Procedures
- The Taser and associated equipment is used in a manner consistent with the approved training and policy in relation to the use of force
- They have current Critical Skills 2 (CS2) qualification for the carriage and use of the Taser
- They attend all training as directed

Responsibilities of Officers in Charge (OIC's), Managers and Supervisors

OIC's, Managers and Supervisors of members carrying the Taser will ensure that

- They are fully acquainted with the relevant provisions of the Weapons Act 1999 and Regulations, related policy and other Statute Law relevant to the use of force
- The member's Critical Skills (Weapons) and Critical Skills (Police Life Support) qualifications are current at the time of the issue of a Taser
- The Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register is accurate and maintained in accordance with policy requirements
- BAMR Taser Data Port Downloads (TDPDs) are conducted in accordance with FR-1.6.12 – Taser Data Port Downloads
- Subsequent to the reported use of a Taser, conduct an evidentiary TDPD in accordance with FR-1.6.12 – Taser Data Port Downloads

Responsibilities of District/Divisional Superintendents

District/Divisional Superintendents will ensure

- There are sufficient approved facilities to store the Taser and associated equipment
- Appropriate audit procedures are carried out on a regular basis (Refer- 1.6.12 – Taser Data Port Downloads)

Responsibilities of Taser Technicians

Taser Technicians shall

- Perform a maintenance role to Tasers and holsters
- Conduct Taser Data Port Downloads as and when required

Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register

An approved Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register shall be kept to record the movement of Western Australia Police (WAPOL) issue Taser and form part of the business area records. It is to be audited by the OIC on a regular basis and by District/Divisional Commissioned Officers as part of the Business Area Management Review (BAMR) program.

When a WAPOL Taser and cartridge is removed/returned to or from an approved storage facility, an entry must be made by the member in an approved Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register. Where the Taser and cartridge/s are removed/returned by a member on more than one occasion during a shift, one entry is required at the commencement and one entry at completion of duty. Regular inspections by Supervisors are also recorded on this document.

The Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register shall include the following information

Details of the Taser and number of the cartridge together with the name of the member, and the time and date of such issue

The time of the five (5) second spark test conducted during Taser serviceability

Detail of any 'Taser Use' or 'Taser Control' indicating if such use or control occurred in either:

- Operational
- Training
- Demonstration or
- Maintenance
- If a Use of Force report was submitted

Signature of member at the time of issue and the time of return

When applicable, Taser movements recorded in the Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register are to be countersigned by a witnessing member

Details of inspections and audits

FR-1.6.3 CARRIAGE OF TASER

Refer:

- FR-1.2.14 Carriage of Firearms and other Tactical Force Options

Members must carry the Taser in accordance with both FR-1.2.14 Carriage of Firearms and other Tactical Force Options and in the manner prescribed in the Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU) manuals, ensure they are current in their Critical Skills 2 (CS2) Re-qualification and have a current Critical Skills (Police Life Support) certificate.

All holsters and accessories utilised in conjunction with the Taser must be approved by OSTTU.

OIC's have the responsibility of ensuring that Taser is only carried by members who have passed the Western Australia Police (WAPOL), OSTTU, Taser training program, are current in their Critical Skills 2 (CS2) Re-qualification and have a current Critical Skills (Police Life Support) certificate.

In the case of Tactical Response Group (TRG), Taser must be carried in accordance with their Standard Operating Procedures.

Unless lawfully directed by the Officer in Charge (OIC), Manager or Supervisor acting as the Operational Commander of an event, qualified members must carry loaded firearms and all other tactical force options i.e. handcuffs, extendable baton and where available OC Spray and Taser.

FR-1.6.4 TRAINING

Refer:

- FR-1.2.5 Critical Skills (Weapons) Training and Re-qualification

Training

The Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU) has overall responsibility for the training of all Taser Master Instructors, Taser Instructors, Critical Skills 2 Instructors and Taser Technicians. All Taser training shall then be conducted in accordance with OSTTU guidelines and training manuals.

Taser Master Instructor

Taser Master Instructors can maintain their status by recertification at the discretion of the Officer in Charge OSTTU. Certification lasts two (2) years.

Taser Instructors and Critical Skills 2 Instructors

Taser Instructors and Critical Skills 2 Instructors maintain their User / Instructor status provided they conduct training at least twice within a twelve month period and be subject to audit by OSTTU every two years.

Taser Technicians

Taser Technicians will maintain their qualification by submitting to OSTTU evidence of having conducted two evidentiary TDPD within a twelve month period. This evidence **MUST** be supported by provision of the prescribed TDPD Analysis Report

Training – Members

Refer FR-1.2.5 Critical Skills (Weapons) Training and Re-qualification.

Note: Other than members attached to the TRG who are subject to training management and methodologies specific to their needs, under no circumstances will other members deploy a Taser against any person for training purposes unless specifically authorised by the Commissioner of Police.

FR-1.6.5 WARNING PRIOR TO USE

Unless it is impractical to do so in the circumstances, members are to issue a verbal warning, 'Taser, Taser' prior to using the Taser against a subject. This warning is to be issued where the Taser is used in both 'Probe Deployment' and/or 'Drive Stun' mode.

FR-1.6.6 CAUTIONS

When the use of Taser results in an arrest, members must ensure that a formal caution is given immediately and repeated when the subject has had time to sufficiently recover from the effects of the Taser and is capable of understanding.

Note: Any admission made while under the effect of the Taser may result in the confessional evidence being excluded by any judicial proceedings.

FR-1.6.7 AFTERCARE

Refer:

- PDWiki - Taser Aftercare Kit
- FR-1.6.15 - Post Incident Procedures

Aftercare should be administered to the subject as soon as practicable after the Taser has been deployed. The aftercare treatment of subjects should be in accordance with the Western Australia Police (WAPOL), Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU), Taser training program.

Members authorized to carry a Taser must have reasonable and expedient access to a Taser Aftercare Kit.

Should a member use a Taser against a subject who

- Is known/suspected or claimed to have a heart condition
- Is displaying signs of positional asphyxia
- Is displaying signs of excited delirium
- Has subsequently fallen to the ground in an uncontrolled manner and sustained significant forceful contact of the head with a hard surface

the member must treat the incident as a **MEDICAL EMERGENCY** and shall require an ambulance to attend as a matter of urgency (priority one).

Should a member use a Taser against a subject who is known, suspected or claims to be

- Pregnant
- Suffering mental health issues

the member must seek medical care for the subject.

Medical care must be provided immediately if the subject

- Does not recover within a reasonable time
- Asks for medical care
- Is reasonably suspected of suffering from a medical condition
- Has the probes embedded in their genitals, breasts, eyes, ears, tongue, lips or any other sensitive body part

Removal of the probes by members is only permitted in those circumstances where the probes have not embedded themselves in the areas of the body described above. Where removal is appropriate and it is practicable to do so, the wounds should be treated at the scene with a sterile wipe and a small 'band aid' from the Taser Aftercare Kit. If not practicable at the time, then such treatment is to be administered as soon as possible and prior to release from custody.

FR-1.6.8 REPORTING THE USE OF TASER INCLUDING UNAUTHORISED DISCHARGE AND USE ON ANIMALS

Refer:

- FR-1.1.1 Reporting Use of Force – Guidelines and Procedures
- FR-1.2.5 Critical Skills (Weapons) Training and Re-qualification
- FR-1.6 Taser
- FR-1.6.12 Taser Data Port Downloads

When a member draws and deploys a Taser for 'Taser Control' or 'Taser Use', the member must

- Ensure that a Supervisor is advised as soon as possible
- Complete and submit a 'Use of Force Report' in the prescribed manner
- A member must notify their OIC, Manager and/or Supervisor following the use of a Taser in the 'probe deployment' or 'drive stun' mode. This will initiate the 72 hour evidentiary download requirement of the 'Use of Force' report (Refer FR-1.6.12 Taser Data Port Downloads)

Unauthorised Discharge (Refer FR-1.6 Taser)

Additionally, in the case of an unauthorised discharge the supervisor concerned must assess the circumstances and submit their comments with regard to remedial issues on the 'Use of Force Report'. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the member's Critical Skills 2 (CS2) qualification shall be immediately suspended.

The responsibility for recording the member's non competency on RMIS will be that of the District Training Office (DTO) for Regional areas and the Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU) for Metropolitan areas.

Where a Taser unauthorised discharge occurs and a contributing factor is that the previous member stored the Taser in a 'loaded' condition, then both members shall have their CS2 qualification immediately suspended.

The member/s concerned shall then be required to attend remedial CS2 re-qualification training as soon as practicable. When assessed as competent their qualification will be reinstated on RMIS. The responsibility for recording the reinstated competency will be that of the DTO and/or OSTTU as above.

DTO's will then be required to update OSTTU of their recorded actions in respect of the member's unauthorised discharge.

Use of Taser against an animal

When Taser is used against an animal, the member involved must

- ensure that a Supervisor is notified as soon as possible
- complete and submit a 'Use of Force' Report in the prescribed manner

FR-1.6.9 Safety of Taser

Refer:

- Taser Serviceability and Load Procedure
- Taser Unload Procedure
- Taser Designated Loading Bay and Safe Direction

Unless exceptional circumstances exist, Western Australia Police (WAPOL) Tasers shall only be loaded or unloaded in a 'Designated Loading/Unloading Bay' or pointed in a 'safe direction'.

Definitions in relation to Taser:

'Designated Loading/Unloading Bay' - means a rubber mat attached to a hard backing surface with safety tape which will readily contain the probes and prevent ricochet in the event of an unauthorised discharge. It is recommended the Designated Loading/Unloading Bay be affixed to the wall adjacent to the WAPOL approved firearm unloading facility. A WAPOL designated loading/unloading bay is available through RMIS.

'Safe Direction' - means in the event of an unauthorised discharge, only minimal property damage will occur and no human injury is likely to result.

FR-1.6.10 SECURITY, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF TASER AND CONSUMABLES

Refer:

- FR – 1.2.6 Taking Home Western Australia Police Issue Firearms or Ammunition

Security and Storage

A member shall not keep a Western Australia Police (WAPOL) issue Taser or consumables at a private residence, unless approved to do so by the members Officer in Charge for an 'authorised purpose'.

The Taser must be stored in the unloaded condition with no cartridge attached to the firing bay or XDPM.

The Taser can be stored in any of the following locations within alarmed WAPOL premises

- In a designated standard Taser storage unit in an armoury (ordered through RMIS)
- In an armoury
- In an approved firearms cabinet (but not placed on to the pegs of the cabinet)
- In a secured, lockable cabinet

When accessing a gun safe or other approved safe provided by WAPOL to store or retrieve a Taser, the member is not to leave the safe unattended when unlocked and is to securely lock the safe immediately after use.

The Taser cartridges must be stored separately from the Taser. The cartridges can be stored in any of the following locations within alarmed WAPOL premises

- In a designated standard Taser storage unit in an armoury (ordered through RMIS)
- In an armoury
- In an approved firearms cabinet
- In a secured, lockable cabinet

Members are not to leave their WAPOL Taser

- Unattended in a vehicle unless that vehicle has an approved gun safe fitted and the Taser is secured within the vehicle
- In any other place without good reason and taking all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of the Taser

This may include

- Members having to attend a situation where the carriage of a Taser poses a risk to security or safety, e.g. riot, serious street disturbance or an unauthorised assembly
- Where the use of the Taser poses a risk to safety, e.g. service stations and clandestine laboratories
- Where the Taser restricts operational activity, e.g. members being involved in a rescue operation
- Where it is necessary for special operational situations or circumstances, e.g. hostage or suicide negotiations

Wherever possible, attempts should be made to leave the Taser in the control and under the observation of other members.

Security of Taser When Travelling and Involving an Overnight Stay

Members travelling as part of the performance of their duty, and who are required to store their Taser are, where practicable, to store it and the associated equipment in their possession

- In a police station within the armoury, an approved Taser storage unit or an approved firearms cabinet

- Where it is not practicable to store a Taser as outlined above it must be secured utilising one of the following methods
- Lock the Taser in a WAPOL vehicle fitted with an approved storage cabinet, an immobiliser and an alarm
- If not in possession of a WAPOL vehicle fitted with these security devices Lock the Taser in the glove compartment of that vehicle
- In a lockable receptacle (hotel room safe or briefcase), which only the member has access to and which is in a reasonably secure location

Whenever possible, attempts should be made to leave the Taser in the control and under the observation of other member.

Transportation of Taser and Consumables

Transport of Taser and consumables shall be by a member or by a WAPOL approved courier service.

To manage risk to WAPOL, all Taser movements (not consumables) are to be by way of 'TNT Failsafe'. This mode of movement should ensure safe passage from Station/Portfolio to Property Management Division (PMD) thereby reducing and mitigating risk. The following procedures are to be employed for this purpose.

Station OIC

- Forward Taser to their respective District Training Officer within the District by police employees (hand delivery)

District Training Officer

- Monitor all Tasers within respective District to help eliminate any risk factors
- All Taser are to secured in a cardboard box
 - Forward Taser to PMD through local TNT Representative using Failsafe who will collect the Taser and ensure security of movement

Taser Movement Back to District

The reverse applies

The WAPOL internal mail system or Australia Post is not to be used for the transportation of Taser and consumables.

Taser and Taser cartridges are to be transported separately with the Taser in an unloaded condition.

FR-1.6.11 CARRIAGE ON AIRCRAFT

Statute Law

- *Civil Aviation Act 1988 Section 23*

Refer:

- FR – 1.6.3 Carriage of Taser

Carriage on Commercial/Private Aircraft

A member intending to convey a Taser on a commercial/private aircraft, shall

- Advise the airline operator at the time of making the reservation of their intent to transport a Taser and cartridge on the aircraft
- Request that the airline operator advise the member of their policy in respect of the carriage of Taser on their aircraft
- If the airline operator requires that the Taser and cartridges are to be transported in the hold luggage, the member shall comply fully with that procedure

Carriage on Western Australia Police Aircraft

A member intending to convey a Taser on a WAPOL aircraft shall

- Advise the Officer in Charge (OIC), Police Air Wing at the time of making the reservation. Where this is not possible, declare the Taser to the pilot in command prior to boarding the aircraft
- Comply fully with the provisions of the Police Air Wing Operations Manual

FR-1.6.12 TASER DATA PORT DOWNLOADS

Refer:

- FR-1.1.1 Reporting Use of Force – Guidelines and Procedures
- AD – 6.6 Inspection of Business Areas
- BAMR annual test plan – Part 1 Assets – Task 3
- The OIC Taser Data Port Download Guide
- Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register

Purpose

The Taser X26 has an internal recording device that stores the date, time and duration of every occasion the Taser is fired.

The Taser Data Port Download (TDPD) function provides Western Australia Police (WAPOL) with complete and accurate information in respect to the use of the device.

The information will be used to monitor accountability and responsible use of the device.

This data may also be utilised for evidentiary purposes for judicial or internal proceedings.

Responsibilities for Members

It is essential a member records the time the 5 second spark test is conducted during serviceability at the time of issue in the 'Firearm, Taser and Equipment Register'. This will be used when reconciling TDPD data.

Guidelines and procedures for Officers in Charge (OIC), Managers and Supervisors

Tasers must be downloaded for the following purposes

- Business Area Management Review (BAMR) audit downloads
- Evidentiary purposes

All downloads shall be stored on RMIS against the Taser manufacturer's serial number.

All downloads shall be retained for a period of 4 years.

Guidelines and procedures for Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU), Use of Force Coordinator

The TDPD data is to be included in Taser specific Use of Force Reports submitted subsequent to a use of force incident.

The OSTTU Coordinator will extract the data from the TDPD stored on RMIS and include the data in the submitted Use of Force Report.

BAMR Audit Downloads

A BAMR audit download must be conducted on every Taser within an organisational unit every three months.

The data recorded on the download will be used to reconcile

- 'Use of Force' reports submitted for all Taser 'Use of Force' incidents
- 'Use of Force' reports submitted for unauthorised discharges of Tasers
- Taser serviceability spark tests as recorded in the 'Firearm and Taser Register'

- All other unaccounted firings of the Taser. These firings will instigate further investigation to justify the Taser use

Evidentiary Download

An evidentiary download must be conducted within 72 hours of a Taser being used in the 'probe deployment' or 'drive stun' mode and the 'Use of Force' report for that use being submitted. Information from the TDPD will be entered on the 'Use of Force' report by Operational Safety & Tactics Training Unit, Use of Force Coordinator.

The purpose of this download is to ensure

- Accurate information is immediately available to clarify detail in the 'Use of Force' report as submitted by a member
- Provide Business Information and Statistics and Risk Assessment Unit with quantitative data on Taser use by WAPOL

FR-1.6.13 RELEASE OF TASER INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA

Refer:

- AD-40 Media (News Services)
- Intranet Talking Points

Members involved in incidents involving the use of Taser should refer to WA Police Media Unit Intranet Talking Points for latest information.

Taser Talking Points will be updated biannually by WA Police Master Taser Instructor, Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit (OSTTU).

Business Information and Services will provide appropriate statistical data which will be included in Taser Talking Points.

FR-1.6.14 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO USE OF TASER

Refer:

- AD-31 Freedom of Information

It is the policy of the Western Australia Police to make information relative to Taser use and associated data available as requested within the spirit of, and subject to Freedom of Information legislative protocols.

Access Applications received at Freedom of Information Unit regarding Taser, will be directed to the Officer in Charge, Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit at the earliest opportunity, who will determine release strategies relevant to such information in

consultation with Inspector in Charge, Operational Skills Faculty, Business Information and Statistics, Risk Assessment Unit and Freedom of Information Unit.

FR-1.6.15 POST INCIDENT PROCEDURES INCLUDING RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF CARTRIDGES

Refer :

- FR-1.6.2 Responsibilities
- FR-1.6.7 Aftercare
- FR-1.6.8 Reporting the Use of Taser including Unauthorised Discharge
- FR-1.6.12 Taser Data Port Downloads
- PR-1.1.3 Recording and entering property in Police Possession.
- PR-1.1.4 Management of Property
- PR-1.1.5 Property Disposals
 - Taser Aftercare Kit

Post Incident Procedures

When a Taser has been used against a subject and a cartridge/s deployed, the member involved will

- Remove/retrieve both probes, confirming that the probes are intact
- Place the probes into the cartridge, whilst maintaining the wire integrity
- Place the cartridges inside the 'approved' container (as soon as practicable)
- Loosely gather wires, taking care not to wrap the wires and place in container with cartridge
- Collect sample of Anti Felon Identification Discs (AFIDs)
- Seal container and place in a WA Police P11A Security Movement Envelope
 - Where practicable, photographic evidence of the scene is to be obtained

Procedures for Retention and Disposal of Cartridges

Subsequent to the above Post Incident Procedures, the WA Police P11A Security Movement Envelope is to be

- Entered on IMS as a property item
- IMS instructions are to direct a 12 month retention period, or until the conclusion of any subsequent judicial or internal proceedings
- Property is to be managed in accordance with existing policy
- At the conclusion of the 12 month retention period, and provided the item is not subject to any judicial or internal proceeding, it can be disposed of in accordance with existing policy