



TASER
INTERNATIONAL®

IN-CUSTODY DEATH QUESTIONS

- Obtain as much info as possible from the actual operators regarding the incident
- Immediately contact TASER Int'l for guidance and assistance: Mark Johnson, Director of Technical Programs at 800-978-2737 x 2003 & Mark@TASER.com.
- Time between TASER device application and pronouncement of death is critical
- Circumstances regarding arrest
- Distance fired, probe spread, location and duration of cycles
- TASER device effects (any change in behavior?)
- Subject's influence (drugs, alcohol, EDP)
- Any other use of force used?
- Medical Examiner's contact info or supporting info from medical attendants/ER.
- Hospital exam information (if conducted)
- Don't overreact. Take time to analyze the situation and the potential causes of death prior to drawing any conclusions.
- Prepare media statement and provide media with as much info about TASER non-lethal devices

After an in-custody death occurs, the following should be answered:

- What was the subject behavior and demeanor prior to use of force?
- Distance from the TASER operator to subject?
- Location of probes on the body?
- What was the time between TASER device application and pronouncement of death?
- Did the probes penetrate skin?
- Was a drive stun application attempted? If yes, what area of the body was this applied?
- What type of clothing was on the subject?
- Distance between probes?
- Did the TASER device change the subject's behavior?
 - How?
- Was the subject incapacitated?
- Did the operator hear the TASER fire? Was it loud or quiet?
- What was the subject's reaction after the TASER deployment?
- Were attempts made to apprehend subject during TASER cycle?
 - If not, why?
- Were other control techniques used such as hands on, pepper, baton, K-9, etc?
 - If yes, what was the subject's reaction to these techniques?
- Was a second cycle applied to the same Air Cartridge probes or was a second Air Cartridge fired?
- Was there an Air Cartridge loaded in the secondary cartridge carrier?
- Was a separate TASER device fired?
- Did the subject pull the probes out?
 - If yes, after the cycle?
 - If no, did the subject break the wires or were the stepped on or tangled up on the subject?
- Was the Air Cartridge taken as evidence?
- What was the pulse rate of the TASER device used (strong and fast, slow and dying?)
- Was the TASER device cycle loud during the shot?
- What type of batteries were used? (NiMH or alkaline if M26)
- Was a dataport download conducted and saved?

MEDIA INFO:

- Provide media the following contact info: www.TASER.com
- Primary Contact is: Steve Tuttle, TASER International's VP of Communications at 800-978-2737 x 2006 & Steve@TASER.com
- PIO should have a crisis plan to handle an in-custody death and should remind media:
 - “Electricity does not linger in the body”
 - “The electrical output is several magnitudes less than that of a cardiac defibrillator and even these won't damage cardiac tissue even in the presence of strong narcotics”
 - “Defibrillators are at 300 Joules per pulse vs. 1.76 Joules per pulse of the ADVANCED TASER M26 and 0.36 Joules per pulse for the TASER X26 ”
- There are a lot of medical documents that should be distributed to the reporters. Have the reporters download these from the following web site: <http://www.taser.com/facts/index.htm>