



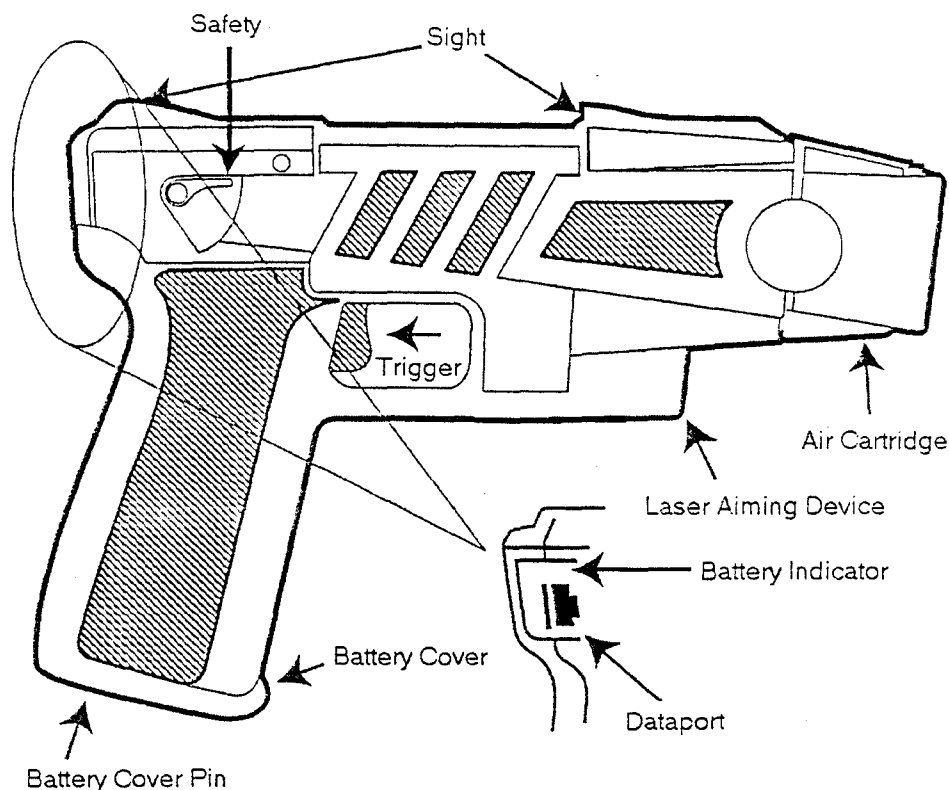
TRAINING BULLETIN

Los Angeles Police Department

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USE OF FORCE TASER M-26

The TASER model M-26 is a less-lethal, conducted energy weapon that can be used to control aggressive/combative suspects, thereby reducing the likelihood of injury to the officers and the suspect. The TASER M-26 uses an Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) system, which overrides the Central Nervous System and takes direct control of the skeletal muscles, usually causing the suspect to fall to the ground. It is important for officers to be thoroughly familiar with the operation of the TASER M-26 for maximum effectiveness in controlling an aggressive/combative suspect. This Training Bulletin will discuss the components, operations and policy pertaining to the TASER M-26.

KEY COMPONENTS

<p>Electro-Muscular Disruption System (EMD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No long term effects on the suspect • Contracts skeletal muscles by overriding the central nervous system • Electrical output is 50,000 volts, with 26-watts (0.162 amps) • Emits TASER waves (T-waves) similar to normal electric signals in the body • Usually causes the suspect to fall to the ground • Suspect can be touched while TASER is activated except between or within 2" of the probes • Effective in water, as long as both probes hit and attach to the suspect
<p>Features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaped like a firearm • Safety in similar location as the de-cocker in the Department issued handgun • Placing the safety up activates the laser sights • Multiple sighting systems (laser and fin/blade sights) • Laser shows the path of the top probe • Activated for 5-seconds (automatic pulse regulation) by pressing trigger • Automatic pulse regulation can be overridden by placing the safety down
<p>Cartridge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen filled air cartridge • Inserted with either end up • Solid yellow face for training (15-foot range) • Yellow/black striped face for field use only (21-foot range)
<p>Anti-Felon Identification (AFID) Tags</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabs are marked with the cartridge serial number • Releases 40 small tabs each time the TASER is fired • Gives general location of where the device was fired
<p>Digital Micro-Processor and Data Port</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stores the date and time of each activation • Information accessed via the dataport on rear of device • If the dataport's rubber cover is missing, the TASER should be taken out of service
<p>Batteries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses 8-AA rechargeable batteries • Batteries located in the grip of device • Accessed through bottom of grip by depressing pin and sliding base forward • Charge LED light is not accurate due to use of rechargeable batteries • Officers must conduct an operational spark test at start of watch to determine if there is sufficient charge in the batteries • Kit room responsible for charging the batteries at least once every 2-weeks

OPERATION AND DEPLOYMENT

<p>Spark Check (Weapon Inspection)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never place your hand in front of or inside the cartridge chamber • Visually check to ensure there is not a cartridge in the chamber • Point at a wall or other object away from other people • Place the safety up, activating the laser sight, ensuring the laser sight is functioning properly (one dot representing the path of the top probe) • Press the trigger and listen for rapid sparking • A one or two second test indicates that there is adequate battery power • Put the safety in the safe (down) position and load • Each time the spark check is conducted it should be recorded on the DFAR
<p>Loading</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the yellow/black striped faced cartridges should be used in the field • Verify the cartridge is not expended and the expiration date has not past • Ensure the safety is in the safe (down) position • Hold with your primary hand, while with your support hand place the cartridge in the receiver • Do not allow your hand to pass in front of the cartridge face • Squeeze the buttons so the cartridge slides into the receiver (cartridge will snap in place) and place in holster for storage • Holster shall only be worn on the support side (opposite side of the gun)
<p>Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place the safety in the up position, which will activate the laser sight. Aim at the suspect using either the laser sight or the fin and blade sights • The primary target area is center body mass. The operator shall be within 21-feet of the suspect (ideally from 12-18 feet) • Press the trigger to deploy the probes; there is an automatic 5-second electric charge sent to the probes • If the suspect's aggressive/combatative behavior continues, the trigger can be pressed more than once to gain compliance • The automatic charge is overridden by putting the safety in the down position
<p>Unloading</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place the safety in the safe (down) position when no longer needed • Point towards a wall or safe direction • Grip the cartridge making sure your hand is not in front of the cartridge face • Depress the buttons on either side of the cartridge and pull it out
<p>Direct Stun Feature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For use on aggressive/combatative suspects • Not as effective as deploying probes, no EMD, stuns only • Use as a last resort to create separation between the officer and suspect • Activated by pressing trigger with or without cartridge in place • If cartridge is in place and has not been deployed, the probes will be deployed when the trigger is depressed • Recommended locations for direct contact stun feature are: sternum (breastbone), outside of thigh, side of chest (below the armpit)

DEPARTMENT POLICY

Use of Force Policy (1/573)

Only officers trained in the use of the TASER model M-26 shall deploy it. The M-26 may be deployed on an aggressive/combative suspect, when the officer believes:

- Deadly force does not appear to be justifiable and/or necessary; and
- Attempts to subdue the suspect with other less-lethal tactics have been or will likely be ineffective in the situation; or
- There is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the suspect.

Officers are reminded that a mere verbal threat of violence by a suspect does not in itself justify the use of a TASER.

It is important for officers to verbalize with the suspect. Continuous verbalization can lead to the de-escalation of the situation, thus reducing the chance of injury to the suspect or the officers. Remember, the use of the laser sight as a deterrent is not a reportable use of force.

Special Considerations

Officers **should avoid deploying** the TASER when the suspect is:

- In control of a motor vehicle;
- In danger of falling, or could be caught in machinery or heavy equipment which could result in death or serious bodily injury;
- Near flammable or combustible fumes;
- Near a pool, lake or similar body of water;
- Known to have a pacemaker, or is known to be pregnant.

Deployment

When an officer believes a situation requires a TASER, a TASER-equipped unit should be requested by asking for a "Code Tom" over the radio. If possible, officers should have a second TASER as a back-up in case the first one fails to operate. As in any volatile situation, the suspect should be contained as soon as tactically possible. When sufficient officers are present they should form a **Combative Suspect Control Team** and devise a tactical plan. To reduce the chances of officers being struck by the probes, they should avoid standing within range of the device.

Verbal Warning (HRB Notice 9-28-01)

A verbal warning shall be given, when feasible, to a suspect before any device that poses a "significant risk of serious injury" is utilized. The warning is not required when an officer is attacked and must respond to the suspect's actions. Additionally, if a tactical plan requires the element of surprise in order to stabilize the situation, a warning will not be given. The verbal warning and who gave it or the reason it was not given shall be documented on the appropriate reports.

Medical Treatment (4/648.11)

Whenever the TASER is used and the probes or "stun gun" make contact with the suspect's skin or clothes, the suspect shall be immediately examined by a doctor or a nurse at a contract hospital or a jail dispensary, or by a paramedic. Only medical personnel shall remove the probes from the suspect's skin. If the suspect loses consciousness, a rescue ambulance shall be requested immediately. Photos documenting injuries or the lack of injuries shall be taken.

CONCLUSION

The TASER model M-26 offers many features to make it an effective weapon for subduing an aggressive/combative suspect. The pistol-like shape, multiple sighting systems, increased power, expanded range and tracking system improve the overall effectiveness of the M-26. To take full advantage of these features, it is important for officers to be thoroughly familiar with the operation of the TASER and its effectiveness in controlling aggressive/combative suspects. Proper use of the TASER will greatly reduce the likelihood of injury to both the officer and the suspect.