



TASER (Conducted Electrical Weapons)

Part of the 'Use of Force' chapter

Policy statement and principles

What

The TASER is a less lethal conducted electrical weapon, using an electrical discharge to cause incapacitation through motor skill dysfunction.

TASER is one of a number of tactical options available for use by police within the Tactical Options Framework.

Why?

A key function of Police is to maintain public safety. At times this requires police to use force, the degree of which is determined depending on the circumstances, from a wide range of tactical options available to them.

New Zealand Police as an employer also has a responsibility to ensure that its employees are safe when they undertake their duties. This requires TASER to be available to and accessible by frontline staff.

How?

Police utilise TASER to maintain public safety and the safety of its employees by requiring Level one responders and approved specialist groups undertaking duties involving personal contact with the public to carry TASER.

Police will:

- show or use TASER in accordance with the law relating to the use of force and in accordance with their perceived cumulative assessment of the circumstances and the subject's behaviour at the time
- use TASER only when necessary, proportionate and reasonable in the circumstances
- after TASER use, provide appropriate aftercare and constantly monitor the subject until examined by a registered medical doctor / ILS qualified ambulance officer
- remove TASER probes from the subject with their consent at the earliest opportunity

- maintain robust security measures for TASER at all times
- investigate any unauthorised and unintentional discharges of TASERs.

Introduction

Purpose

This part of the 'Use of force' chapter details:

- the conducted electrical weapons (CEW) and accessories approved for use by the Police Executive
- in what circumstances they can be utilised, and
- under what conditions and rules.

Approved devices and accessories

- TASER X2, Taser Bolt
- TASER CAM HD
- XP 25' (7.6 metre) smart cartridge for operational use
- Taser Bolt 4.6 metre air cartridge for operational use

What are TASERS?

The TASER is a less lethal conducted electrical weapon (CEW). It uses an electrical discharge, causing incapacitation through motor skill dysfunction.

Operating distance

The optimum operating distance is between 2 – 4.5 metres.

Application and effects

TASER deliver a sequence of high voltage low amperage, short duration pulses over a five-second cycle.

Application can be achieved by:

- discharging an approved cartridge at the subject (the TASER delivers an electrical current to the subject by means of two probes attached to insulated wires)
- direct application of the TASER to the subject (the TASER delivers electrical current to the subject by means of contacts contained on the device).

The application's effects only remain as long as the electrical charge is being activated. There are no known long-term after effects to exposure.

Possession of TASER

The TASER and its associated cartridges are restricted weapons under paragraph 8 of the Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984.

Police employees have statutory authority to be in possession of and carry restricted weapons in the course of their duty, by virtue of section 3 of the Arms Act 1983.

Carrying TASER

TASERs must be available to certain Police employees

District Commanders must make TASERs available and accessible for Level one responders and by such specialist groups as approved by the Executive.

Carriage

A TASER, where available, must be carried:

- by Level one responders, or
- by approved specialist groups.

When carrying a TASER, it must be in the load state within an approved holster.

Discretionary wear

In some situations the operating risk is low and the carrying of TASER may not be necessary or appropriate, e.g. advising of a sudden death, visiting a school, or interviewing a victim or witness.

Before removing the TASER, the constable must conduct a TENR risk analysis and only where that analysis supports low risk, may the TASER be removed.

Custodial areas

TASERs should not be routinely carried in custodial areas (including court cells). Staff entering custodial areas should remove and secure TASERs before doing so.

TASERs should be available in custodial areas should they be needed in response to a particular detainee.

Carrying TASER in a court environment

On occasion, a TASER may be carried in a court environment. This includes staff entering court to conduct business, such as getting a search warrant signed, or staff responding to an event at court.

If, however, a constable is **required to give evidence in court**, and is still wearing operational uniform, the TASER should be left in the vehicle lock box. If this is not possible for whatever reason and:

- the TASER is being carried into the courtroom:
 - the constable must inform the Police prosecutor of this, who will consult with the presiding Judge prior to the constable giving evidence
 - while the safest place for the TASER in this situation is to remain in the secure holster with the constable, any direction from the presiding Judge must be followed.

Pre-carriage check for serviceability

Before carriage, operators must carry out a pre-operational check of the TASER and cartridges for serviceability noting in the associated register (see 'Database, registers, audits, and storage):

- Date
- Time
- QID
- Number of activations

Alcohol and drug consumption

Employees must not carry a TASER if under the influence of:

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- **any prescribed medication that may adversely affect their safety or the safety of others at work.**

Operating with TASER

Tactical Options Framework

TASER is one of a number of tactical options available for use within the Tactical Options Framework.

Prepare, show, use

An operator must prepare, show or use TASER in accordance with:

- these instructions
- approved training.

This table outlines how TASER can be utilised within the Tactical Options Framework.

| Term | Definition | Applying the Tactical Options Framework |
|---------------------|---|---|
| To "prepare" | Means carriage. | A TASER must be carried by Level one responders and by approved specialist groups. |
| To "show" | Presentation, laser painting or arcing. | An operator may show a TASER as a deterrent in situations below the assaultive range on occasions where their perceived cumulative assessment (PCA) is that it is necessary because the situation has the potential to escalate to within or beyond the assaultive range. |
| To "use" | Means application by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharging an approved cartridge at the subject • direct application of the TASER to the subject (contact stun, follow-up contact stun) | An operator may use the TASER when their PCA gives rise to an honest belief that a subject(s) poses an imminent threat of physical harm to any person. |

Examples of TASER use within policy

- A subject has assaulted a member of the public, and when confronted by police, stands in an aggressive stance with fists clenched. If your PCA leads you to form an honest belief that the subject poses an imminent threat of physical harm to you or anyone else, then use of TASER would be justified.
- You attend a 1X event where a subject is threatening to stab themselves with a knife. If your PCA leads you to form an honest belief that the subject poses an imminent threat of physical harm to themselves, then TASER use would be justified.

- You have arrested a subject and they are fleeing to escape arrest, or you have attempted to arrest a subject and they are fleeing to avoid arrest. If your PCA leads you to form an honest belief that the subject poses an imminent threat of physical harm to any person if they escape, then use of TASER against the fleeing subject would be justified.

Examples of TASER use that would not meet the policy threshold

- You have attempted to arrest a subject for theft and they are fleeing to avoid arrest and you do not have a belief that they pose an imminent threat of physical harm. If they escape, then you would not be justified in using TASER.
- A subject has been tasered and arrested, but is actively resisting being handcuffed (active resistance) or is not complying with officer instruction while being taken into custody. You would not be justified using TASER again, unless the actions of the subject escalate to the point that they pose an imminent threat of physical harm.
- You locate an offender sometime after an assault and attempt to arrest them. They are not complying with your instructions but do not pose an imminent threat of physical harm at the time of arrest. Use of TASER would not be justified against a non-compliant person based on their previous assaultive behaviour.

Use of force - legal implications of TASER use

The deployment of a TASER is a use of force and as such, its use must be necessary, proportionate and therefore reasonable in the circumstances.

You may use TASER to effect lawful purpose in situations where you fear imminent physical harm to yourself or some other person. Therefore, if you use TASER, you will need to show that there was a risk of physical harm likely to occur at any moment. Once the likelihood of physical harm is no longer present, the use of TASER will no longer be necessary, and therefore, no longer be reasonable.

The Use of Force overview details:

- when police have lawful authority under the Crimes Act 1961 or other legislation to use force
- limitations on the use of force
- liability for use of excess force.

(See 'Legal authority to use force' and 'Limitations on the use of force' in the Use of Force overview).

Warnings

To encourage de-escalation and to warn others nearby, unless impractical or unsafe to do so, you should give a verbal warning in conjunction with the show or use of a TASER.

| In conjunction with: | | Verbal warnings |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Show | presentation, laser painting, and arcing | "TASER" (with a verbal warning.) |
| Use | discharge or contact stun | "TASER, TASER, TASER!" |

Showing and using the TASER

A TASER may be shown or used operationally to effect the required purpose in these ways.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Show Force | Presentation | Drawing and presenting the device at a subject as a visual deterrent, in conjunction with a verbal warning. |
| | Laser painting | Turning the device on and overlaying the laser sighting system of the TASER on a subject as a visual deterrent, in conjunction with a verbal warning. |
| | Arcing | Activating the device as a visual deterrent, in conjunction with a verbal warning. |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Contact stun | <p>Activating the TASER while the device is directly applied to the body of the subject. (Arc)</p> <p>Note: Contact stuns should only be applied in situations where the operator finds themselves in close proximity to the subject and it is necessary to use force to create distance in order to discharge or apply alternative tactical options and/or considerations.</p> |
| Discharge | <p>Application by firing two probes over a distance from a cartridge attached to the TASER, or subsequent applications of electrical current via the probes (Trigger or Arc) which are in contact with the subject after firing, in conjunction with a verbal warning.</p> <p>Important: Both probes must hit the target. This makes distance, correct aiming and target selection critically important.</p> |
| Follow up contact stun | <p>Activating the TASER, immediately following a probe discharge by directly applying the device to the body of the subject.</p> <p>This method increases the area of the body affected by electrical current and is used where a discharge fails to create neuro-muscular incapacitation (NMI) due to limited probe spread or a miss/disconnect of a probe.</p> |

Restrictions on TASER use

Targeting

The large muscle groups within the body should be the target area when discharging the TASER, particularly the large muscles in the back. In the case of the front, if possible, aim one probe either side of the belt line involving the large muscles of the pelvic triangle, or legs (avoiding the groin).



Caution: The head, face, neck, chest and groin areas should not be deliberately targeted unless the appropriate level of force can be justified.

The lasers must not intentionally be aimed at the subject's eyes.

Within the Tactical Options Framework

Always use a TASER in a manner consistent with the 'Tactical Options Framework' and never 'use' in situations below the assaultive range, e.g. active or passive resistant.

Use against armed subjects

Exercise caution when you use a TASER against a subject armed with a weapon or knife in close proximity to you. Ensure you maintain a safe reactionary distance.

NB: If deploying with firearms you must also take a TASER where available. Police firearms remain the most appropriate tactical response for situations where a **subject is armed with a firearm**. However, circumstances may exist where the use of a TASER may be appropriate when deployed **with or in support** of firearms.

Public order policing

TASER is best suited for application against individuals. This means that in crowd situations (e.g. demonstrations, protests) you must consider the potential to inflame the situation before you show or use a TASER. There is an additional risk of a TASER being taken from a constable during a 'close quarter' demonstration or skirmish line scenario. Therefore the Operation Commander or Incident Controller of a public order policing event, must assess the suitability to carry TASER at the event.

Pregnant females

Other than in exceptional circumstances you must **not use** a TASER on females who are known to be, or believed to be, pregnant.

Flammability

Due to its design, a TASER could provide a source of ignition, and you must **not**, other than in exceptional circumstances, use it in situations where:

- a subject has, or is believed to have, doused themselves with any accelerant
- the proximity of accelerants or flammable liquids or vapours may present a risk of ignition (e.g. clandestine labs, petrol stations, airport tarmacs)
- it is believed that the subject is in physical possession of explosives.

Elevated positions

The TASER must not be used where a subsequent fall may result in a risk of serious injury or death to the subject.

Fleeing subjects are at greater risk of an uncontrolled fall

When the use of TASER against a fleeing subject is justified, consider the additional risk of injury to the subject following an uncontrolled fall. This additional risk should form part of your decision making when deciding to use TASER against a fleeing subject.

Water

Do **not use** the TASER on subjects in or near water if there is a risk of them drowning.

Vehicles and machinery

Do **not** use the TASER on a subject in a vehicle or in control of machinery if there is a risk of the vehicle or machinery going out of control and injuring the subject, occupants or other persons.

Animals and wildlife

A TASER can be used to deter an attacking animal, but not to capture an animal that is otherwise not attacking.

Multiple and/or extended applications

Multiple and/ or extended applications of the TASER against a subject should be avoided wherever possible. If unavoidable, each use must be necessary, proportionate and therefore reasonable in the circumstances.

Note: The internationally recommended **maximum application** is three 5 second cycles.

Every effort must be made, where practicable and safe to do so, to gain control of the subject whilst they are incapacitated by the initial application(s) of the device. Subjects must be given a reasonable opportunity to comply with instructions after every use. Where a TASER has been applied and the initial application(s) fails to incapacitate the subject, operators **must** consider alternative tactical options and considerations.

Recording

The TASER must not be utilised in situations where the sole purpose is the gathering of digital video and audio evidence.

Demonstrating the effects of TASER

Do not subject any person to the application or discharge effects of the TASER for demonstration purposes without first obtaining the authority of the National Manager: Response and Operations.

Aftercare and custodial requirements

After care and monitoring

Where a person is exposed to the application of a TASER in the operational environment, the deploying operator must ensure the person is provided with the appropriate level of aftercare and is constantly monitored until examined by a registered medical doctor or where not available, an Intermediate Life Support (ILS) qualified ambulance officer.

First aid

Follow normal first aid procedures, and as per your training, look for injuries and assess and deal with them appropriately until the person can be examined by a registered medical doctor. Seek immediate medical assistance if the subject's health appears to be at risk at any stage.

Medical attention

A registered medical doctor must examine and complete a POL 42 examination form on anyone who is exposed to the application of a TASER as soon as is reasonably practicable. However, it is accepted that there will be occasions where a registered medical doctor is not available or on call. In this situation, it is acceptable for an Intermediate Life Support (ILS) qualified ambulance officer to conduct the assessment and complete a POL 42 examination form.

Research suggests that persons most likely to be at greatest risk when exposed to the application of the TASER are:

- drug or alcohol intoxicated subjects
- mental health patients
- subjects with pre-existing cardio vascular disease, a pacemaker or implanted medical device
- subjects who have received multiple and/or extended applications
- subjects with low BMI
- subjects who are pregnant
- subjects who have been struggling violently or exhibiting bizarre behaviour (e.g. 'excited delirium' – see 'Definitions' in the [Use of Force overview](#) for more information).

If you use TASER on a subject, and are aware of any health issues relating to the subject and/or the use of TASER, it is important that these concerns are passed on to custody staff, and recorded in the custody module.

When is immediate medical attention necessary?

Recovery from the effects after TASER use should be almost instantaneous. Medical attention must be provided immediately if:

- the subject does not recover within a reasonable time
- the subject complains of a medical condition
- the subject asks for medical attention
- the operator is informed, or believes, that the subject has a cardiac pacemaker or other implanted medical device such as a cochlear implant
- in the operator's opinion, the subject appears to be suffering from a medical condition pre-existing or otherwise (e.g. exhibiting symptoms associated with excited delirium, or symptoms associated with a mental health issue).

Records of medical examination POL 42

Records of the medical examination of subjects exposed to the application of TASER must be provided by the examining registered medical doctor (or the Intermediate Life Support (ILS) qualified ambulance officer) and recorded on a POL 42 - Post TASER Exposure Medical Examination Form.

All records of examination must be collated and maintained within districts (consider up-loading as an attachment to the custody record or attaching to the Tactical Options Report).

Reassurance

When the subject has been restrained after the application of a TASER, it is important that you:

- verbally reassure them as to the temporary effect of the TASER
- encourage them to breathe normally to aid recovery.

Probe removal

The TASER operator should remove the TASER probes with the subject's consent at the earliest opportunity. However, if a subject insists that the TASER probes attached to their body be removed by a medical professional, then:

- leave the probes in place
- take care to minimise discomfort to the subject
- have them seen by a medical professional at the earliest opportunity.

Restrictions and recommendations for probe removal

Probes should only be removed by TASER qualified employees or medical professionals in accordance with these restrictions and recommendations:

- Only a medical professional should remove probes:
 - lodged in bone tissue

- located in sensitive areas such as the head, face, neck, groin, or in the case of female subjects, in the breast area.
- that are difficult to remove
- If the subject is female, only medical professionals or female TASER qualified employees can remove probes (unless clearly only stuck in clothing), and take necessary evidential photographs of the injuries caused by the probes.
- Wear gloves during probe removal keeping in mind blood borne pathogen concerns.
- Before removing probes, break or cut the attached wires. Take care during this process to avoid discomfort to the subject.
- After removal, the probes must be inspected to ensure the entire probe (including barb) have been removed. If a probe barb is not intact or is missing, provide the subject with the appropriate medical attention to remove the object.
- Initial first aid must be provided following probe removal in the form of an antiseptic wipe and an appropriate dressing being applied to the affected site.
- Removed probes must be secured as evidence within the applicable containers and stored in a sealed biohazard bag. These should be disposed of as a biohazard on file closure.
- Seek the subject's consent to photograph probe impact sites, and any other related injuries, for evidential purposes. If the subject refuses to allow photographs, you should note this in your records of the incident.

Custody

Where a person is detained in custody after being exposed to the application of a TASER, endorse the relevant custody record (ECM/charge sheet) to indicate that the detainee must be:

- constantly monitored until examined by a registered medical doctor or where not available, an Intermediate Life Support (ILS) qualified ambulance officer
- monitored according to the registered medical doctor's or qualified ambulance officer's advice, the detail of which must be entered into the ECM/charge sheet
- issued with an information leaflet from the TASER aftercare kit.

Rights and caution

Any admission made while under the effects of a TASER application may result in the court determining such an admission to be unfair and inadmissible.

The rights caution given immediately following an arrest must be repeated after the person has been given sufficient time to recover from the effects of the TASER.

Operational post-incident procedures

Notifying supervisor

Whenever a TASER is shown or used, the operator must notify a supervisor as soon as practicable. In the case of employees in rural or remote locations, notify the nearest on duty supervisor.

Supervisor's action after an operational TASER use

When notified of an **operational use** of the TASER, the supervisor should follow these steps.

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Consult with the operator involved as to whether your physical attendance is necessary at the scene (consider using mobility, e.g. Facetime). |
| 2 | Ensure that proper <u>aftercare</u> and appropriate medical attention where necessary is provided. |
| 3 | Ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scene is preserved and photographed where it is believed this may be necessary or relevant for subsequent enquiries • all evidence, including discharged cartridges, wires, probes and sufficient (4-5) cartridge identification tags (CIT), are recovered from the scene and secured. |
| 4 | Ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subjects exposed to the application of TASER are examined by a registered medical doctor (or where not available, an Intermediate Life Support (ILS) qualified ambulance officer), and • the examination is recorded on a POL 42 - Post TASER Exposure Medical Examination Form. |
| 5 | Ensure the operator completes the details of all instances of use in the TASER register. |

| | |
|---|--|
| 6 | Ensure the operator, or individuals involved submit a tactical options report (standard TOR, or TOR used on an animal) in compliance with reporting requirements in the <u>Use of Force overview</u> . Note the process to follow if the incident in which TASER was used resulted in the subject's death. |
| 7 | <p>Ensure the operator(s) involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uploads the incident into Evidence.Com via Evidence Sync • categorises the uploaded data including the TOR and event details • shares the event in Evidence.com with their supervisor. |
| 8 | Review the TASER footage and TOR, determining whether the use of the TASER was in accordance with these instructions noting on the TOR form a summary of the outcome of the review. |

Supervisor's action after an operational TASER show

When notified of an **operational show** the supervisor should follow these steps.

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Ensure the operator or individuals involved submit a tactical options report (TOR). |
| 2 | Ensure the operator completes the details of all instances of arcing in the TASER register. |
| 3 | <p>Ensure the operator(s) involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uploads the incident into Evidence.Com via Evidence Sync • categorises the uploaded data including the TOR and event details • shares the event in Evidence.com with their supervisor. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | <p>Debrief the officer involved on the incident and review the TASER footage along with the TOR.</p> <p>Determine whether the show of the TASER was in accordance with these instructions, noting on the TOR form a summary of the outcome of the review.</p> |
|---|---|

Reviewing Inspector's action after an operational TASER show or use

When receiving a TOR for operational show or use, the reviewing Inspector should follow these steps.

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Review the TASER footage and TOR, determining whether the <u>use</u> of the TASER was in accordance with these instructions noting on the TOR form a summary of the outcome of the review. |
| 2 | Review the TOR utilising the supervisors debrief and comments to determine, whether the <u>show</u> of the TASER was in accordance with these instructions, noting on the TOR form the outcome of the process. |
| 3 | Follow the process under ' <u>How does the Inspector's review and sign-off process work?</u> ' in the <u>Use of Force overview</u> chapter. |

TASER evidential disclosures

Disclosure is the responsibility of the officer in charge (OC) of a file.

See 'Disclosure of video interviews, transcripts and TASER data' in the Criminal disclosure chapter for information about when and how TASER evidence should be made available.

The Police Prosecution Service may assist in assessing disclosure if requested by the OC, or an application for disclosure under section 30 of the Criminal Disclosure Act 2008 is made.

When required for disclosure, the OC must liaise with the District CJSU.

Privacy Act and Official Information Act requests

If a request for TASER data is made under the Privacy Act 1993 or Official Information Act 1982, forward the request to the National Manager: Response and Operations at PNHQ to be actioned.

Evidential downloads

If required, contact District CJSU to:

| Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1 | Arrange for evidence contained on the Evidence.Com database to be written to disc. |
| 2 | Produce, label, seal and secure an evidential copy of the disc as an exhibit by way of a Police exhibit form (POL 268). |
| 3 | Include a PDF copy of the relevant weapon firing record for the incident. |

TASER evidential download kits

Police TASER evidential download kits are available through the online ordering system.

TASER aftercare kits

TASER aftercare kits are available through the online ordering system and should be carried in all front line first aid kits.

Death or serious injury

An investigation must be commenced in situations where serious injury or death occurs following the use of a TASER, in compliance with the Investigation of critical incidents chapter.

In either case, the TASER must be immediately removed from service and secured as evidence. The investigator must seek advice from the National Manager: Response and Operations at PNHQ as to how and when the TASER and evidence contained within it should be forensically examined and preserved.

In the case of death, the investigation must include a forensic pathologist capable of carrying out a post mortem according to the latest edition of the 'Complex Cases' section of the 'Code of Practice and Performance Standards for Forensic and Coronial Pathologists'.

Unintentional discharges

An unintentional discharge may occur as a result of operator error or mechanical fault:

- **Operator error:** for example, a failure to follow procedure by ensuring a TASER is in the unload state before conducting a pre-op check, leading to an unintentional discharge.
- **Mechanical fault:** a fault with the device leads to a discharge.

Responding to unintentional discharges

In the event of an unintentional discharge (other than in training), the operator involved in the discharge must notify their supervisor as soon as possible. The supervisor will then:

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Preserve and photograph the scene where it is believed this may be necessary or relevant for subsequent enquiries. |
| 2 | Immediately withdraw the TASER from service and consult with the Police national <u>Armoury</u> as to whether or not the particular TASER and associated evidence is forwarded to them for examination and a report. |
| 3 | Ensure that all evidence, including the subject TASER, discharged cartridges, wires, probes and sufficient (4-5) cartridge identification tags (CIT), are recovered from the scene and secured. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | <p>Instigate a review of the facts surrounding the incident.</p> <p>Note: The scope and scale of the review will depend largely on the nature of the discharge and whether there was any injury or potential for injury.</p> |
| 5 | Ensure the operator(s) involved submits a tactical options report for unintentional discharge. |
| 6 | Ensure the operator(s) involved uploads the incident into Evidence.Com via Evidence Sync and categorises the uploaded data including the TOR and event details. |
| 7 | Ensure the operator completes the details of the discharge in the TASER register. |
| 8 | Notify the District Police Professional Conduct Manager. |

District resolution following an operator error

Upon receiving a report from a supervisor the District Police Professional Conduct Manager should:

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Consider whether to temporarily suspend the operator from being issued a TASER. Note that this will affect the employee's deployability. |
| 2 | Categorise the incident in accordance with normal disciplinary matters (see Disciplinary process guidelines). |

Unintentional discharges during training

In the event of an unintentional discharge during training, the individual supervising the training must examine the incident to determine the facts surrounding the discharge.

| Where... | the... |
|---|---|
| it is clearly established the discharge was the result of operator error and no injury is involved... | supervisor may elect to deal with it as a remedial training issue. |
| the discharge is the result of a mechanical fault and no injury is involved... | supervisor must withdraw the device from service and contact the Armoury. |
| the discharge involves injury... | procedure for <u>responding to unintentional discharges</u> must be followed. |

Managing TASER digital evidence

Evidence.Com

Evidence.Com is a digital evidence management programme accessible via the New Zealand Police enterprise network. The programme comprises a database representative of a virtual exhibit room apportioning unique identifiers to all data contained within and maintaining audit records in respect to all activity within the database.

Access to Evidence.Com

As a virtual exhibit room, access to the contents of the database for reasons of security and evidential integrity is maintained through assigned roles and their respective permissions.

Roles and permissions

| Role | Purpose of access | Attained |
|--|--|--|
| NZ Operator (TASER trained staff) | View own entries / exhibits and shared data | By default from logging on to E.Sync |
| NZ District Administrator (District TASER Coordinator) | Audit / user & equipment administration | Role and permission upgrade by NZ National Administrator |
| CJSU | Disclosure and download | |
| NZ Technical Administrator (Armourer) | Equipment administration / download | |
| NZ National Administrator (RORE and Deployable Assets Coordinator, Response and Operations Group, PNHQ) | User and equipment administration, roles and permissions | |

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Database, registers, audits, and storage

Database

The Operational Asset Management System (OAMS) will be maintained to identify the type and locality of each TASER down to individual group and station level.

Registers

This table details the requirements for manual recording of the issue, use and return of a TASER.

| Stage | Description |
|-------|--|
| 1 | An individual register, which is identified by the serial number of the TASER concerned, must be maintained for each TASER. |
| 2 | Each time a TASER is issued or returned , the details of date, time, and operator must be noted in the register. |
| 3 | Each time TASER pre-operational testing is conducted, (other than in training) it must be noted in the register. |

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Each time a TASER is deployed as a ' Show Force ', (e.g. Presentation, Warning Arc, Laser Painting (other than in training) it must be noted in the register. |
| 5 | <p>Each time a TASER is deployed as a 'Use Force' (e.g. Contact stun, Cartridge discharge, Follow-up contact stun, (other than in training), details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the use • used cartridge serial number/s • upload and categorisation of footage <p>must be noted in the register.</p> |

Return of damaged, faulty or corrupted TASER

If a TASER is returned damaged, faulty or corrupted, the operator must, before completing duty, advise their supervisor who must ensure:

- the TASER is removed from service, and
- the District TASER Administrator is notified for determining a course of action.

Audit of operational TASER and TASER registers

Districts must appoint suitably qualified staff to undertake monthly TASER and TASER register audits to confirm the presence, records and serviceability of the TASER and associated equipment.

These tables detail the requirements for auditing operational TASER registers.

Onsite audit

| Stage | Description |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Pre-Operational check and enter details in the register. |

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| 2 | In Sync, view pre-operational footage for picture and sound quality and function. |
| 3 | In Sync, undertake random checks of event log (trigger/ARC) against TASER register for period being audited. |
| 4 | If any inconsistencies are discovered, carry out an audit of all entries in the event log against the register for the period being audited. |
| 5 | Notify the District Manager Police Professional Conduct and commence an investigation into the inconsistencies. |

Remote audit

| Stage | Description |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Operator conducts Pre-Operational check, entering details in the register |
| 2 | Operator connects device to Sync and assigns to themselves – then: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reviews the pre-operational footage confirming video and sound function 2. creates a PDF of the event log for trigger and arcs for the period of the audit 3. scans the TASER register for the audit period and along with the PDF of the event log forwards to the auditing officer. |
| 3 | Auditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertakes random checks of event log (trigger/ARC) against TASER register for period being audited. • where any inconsistencies are discovered, carries out an audit of all entries in the event log against the register for the period being audited. |

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| 4 | Notify the District Police Professional Conduct Manager and commence an investigation into the inconsistencies. |
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Security, storage or loss of TASER

TASER and associated equipment must be stored in firearms and TASER security cabinets or in a secure area within the confines of Police premises, or other secure places, as approved by the District TASER Administrator.

These additional rules apply to storage:

- TASER and associated equipment must be stored separate from pyrotechnics, and flammable substances.
- Except when stored in firearms and TASER vehicle security cabinets, TASERS should be stored in the unload state.

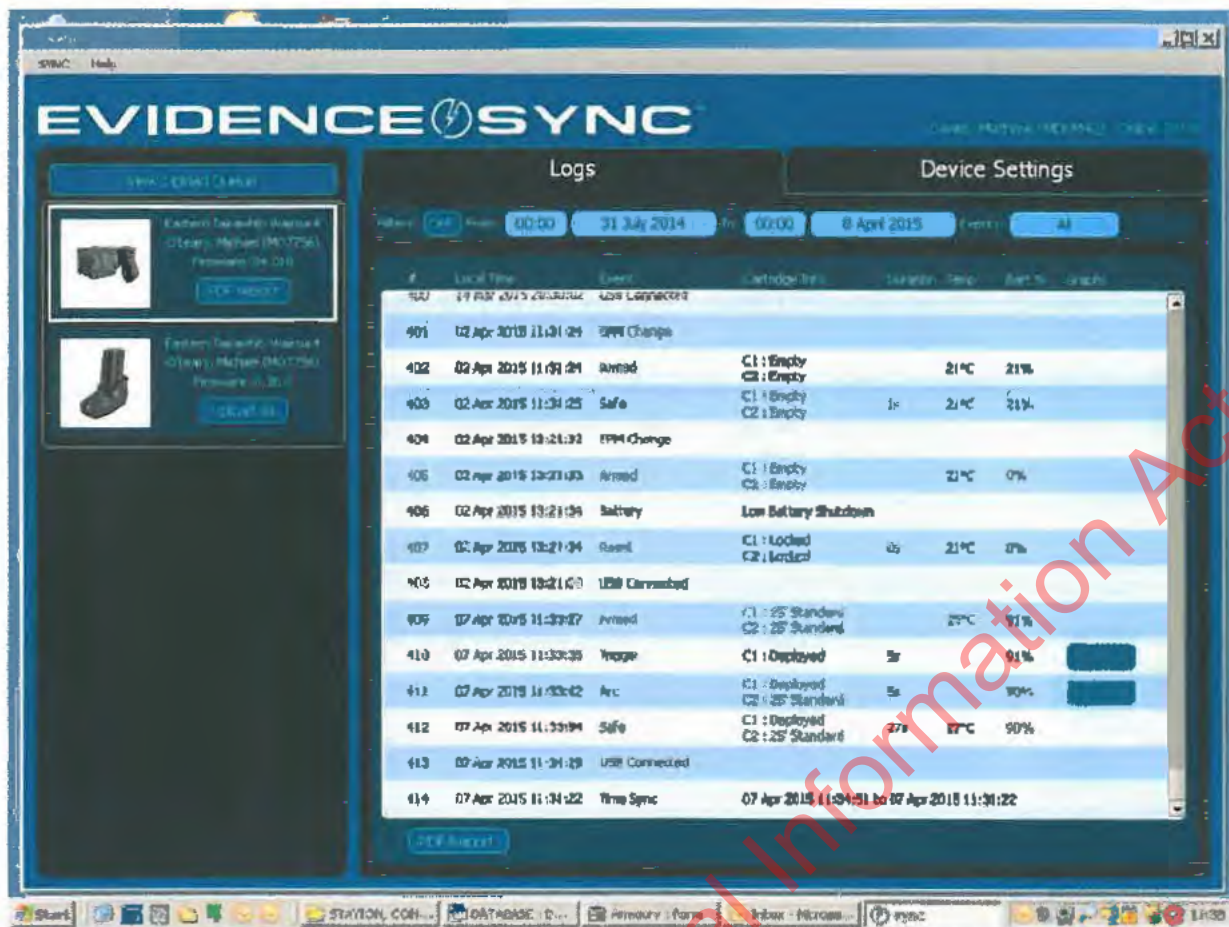
In order to maintain operational capability when not being carried, the TASER should be placed on charge. The X2 TASER should not be used for operations when below 60% or 3 bars are displayed. If there are issues with recharging the TASER, see 'X2 Charging procedure after battery goes flat' in this chapter.

Any loss or theft of a TASER must be recorded in the Security and Privacy Incident Reporting Database (SPIRD) located through the Ten One Notifications page. See 'Loss or theft of tactical equipment' in the 'Approved tactical equipment and carriage for constables and Authorised Officers (non specialist)' chapter.

X2 Charging procedure after battery goes flat

It is recommended that the X2 is not used for operations when below 60% or 3 bars are displayed and that it is charged fully before its next use.

From their experience with the TASER X2s, the Armoury has found that there is a built in safety that protects it from internal damage when the battery power is too low. It effectively locks the battery from being charged. You can see this has happened when you connect into Ev. Sync and check the X2 firing logs. You can also see it on the screenshot below, line 406 - Battery - Low Battery Shutdown.



Unlocking and recharging batteries

If your batteries get too low and appear not to charge, perform the following steps to 'unlock' and get them to charge again:

| Step | Action |
|------|--|
| 1 | Ensure the device is unloaded and switched off (set to safe). |
| 2 | Remove the camera (black bit) from the X2 (yellow bit). |
| 3 | Plug the camera, on its own, into the charger. |
| 4 | Observe the LED on the front of the camera, it should be flashing green – continue charging until it goes solid green and then continue to Step 5. If solid red or no light – Send complete device, with register, to the Armoury. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Refit camera to the X2 ensuring that the correct serial number pair for camera and X2 match up - - this is on the front of the Taser register (blue book). |
| 6 | Turn the device on for 4-5 few seconds and then turn it off. |
| 7 | Reconnect the complete device to the charger and check to confirm the LED is flashing green on the front of the camera. Continue charging until the light goes solid green or confirm on the CID that the battery condition bars are filling or showing 5 solid bars. If CID is blank or showing "Recharge Battery"- Return to Step 2. If after a further attempt it is still not successful send the device complete to the Armoury. See <u>'Movement of firearms, TASER, HAP, and ammunition'</u> in <u>'Approved tactical equipment and carriage for constables and Authorised Officers (non specialist)'</u> . |
| 8 | Once charged, your device is now ready for use. Do not let it drop below 60% or 3 bars to prevent a reoccurrence of this issue! |

Additional advice for X2 re-charging issues

If you have access to a second wall charger unit, try it on a different charger. The Armoury advises that some of the connections between the charger and the camera do not mate very well.

If you have the multi-part wall chargers, check all the connections are connected correctly.

Charging frequency

The devices will drain the batteries about 1% for every 5 second activation. They will also drain a further 1% every 24 hr period, even when left switched off. This means they will need to be charged often, even though they may not be in frequent use.

Need help?

Any questions call the National Armoury on 027 4810239, 47423 or alternatively 47432, or email them at national.armoury@police.govt.nz

Training

The General Manager: Training is responsible for ensuring organisational TASER capability through the development of a TASER training programme that includes:

- certification and re-certification of TASER operators
- certification and re-certification of TASER instructors
- introduction and familiarisation with the digital evidence database
- establishing procedures for the monthly audits of training TASER to confirm the presence of allocated training TASER and associated equipment along with the numbers and types of cartridges held

TASER Assurance Forum (TAF)

On completion of an operational TASER discharge review by the district, the event is further reviewed by the TASER Assurance Forum based at Police National Headquarters. An initial categorisation process will be completed with all discharges, and only those discharges that raise concerns will be forwarded to the full TAF.

Purpose

The purpose of the TASER Assurance Forum (TAF) is to:

1. Provide organisational assurance for all TASER discharges through the moderation and review of discharge events.
2. Scrutinise all discharge events according to reporting accuracy, policy adherence, and training/best practice.
3. Where necessary, report to Police districts and/or the RNZPC outlining any TAF findings and/or recommendations.
4. Use evidence-based knowledge to enhance Police TASER training, policy and practice.
5. Act as an advisor to Operational Advisory Committee (OAC) on the use of TASER by NZ Police.

Membership

To ensure that all aspects of TASER discharges are appropriately reviewed, TAF membership must include representatives from the following groups:

- Response and Operations: Capability (Chair)
- Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation (Secretariat)

- Royal New Zealand Police College (RNZPC)
- District
- Police Professional Conduct
- New Zealand Police Association
- Lessons Learned

Schedule

The TAF convenes monthly, or more frequently as required.

Reporting

District Reporting:

Where necessary, the TAF chair will report to districts outlining findings or recommendations where there has been a particularly commendable use of TASER, or where an issue has been identified that requires further examination and/or remedial training at district level.

OAC Reporting:

Bi Annual TAF updates will be provided to OAC, including:

- the number of TASER discharges reviewed
- any trends or issues observed
- any findings and/or recommendations made to districts or the RNZPC.