

# Tasers<sup>®</sup>

OH030

Effective Date: May 7, 2007

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## POLICY

1. The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service (GVTAPS) authorizes deployment of the Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) device, the TASER Model X26 (Taser), as an additional intermediate weapon. It is not intended to replace firearms or other currently adopted use of force techniques.
2. A Taser may be deployed by a qualified GVTAPS police officer (Member) to gain physical control of a non-compliant, suicidal, potentially violent, or violent subject, when lower levels of force (including other specific intermediate weapons) have been ineffective, or are inappropriate, and the use of higher levels of force (including other specific intermediate weapons) may not be justified or appropriate.

[See also: OH020 – Use of Force]

## REASON FOR POLICY

3. To provide guidelines to GVTAPS personnel for the proper deployment, maintenance and documentation of use of the Taser.

## PROCEDURE

### Training and Qualification

4. Only Members trained and qualified in the use of Tasers will be permitted to carry and use the Taser.
5. A Member will be required to qualify in the use of the Taser at least every two years.

### Issuing of Tasers

6. Qualified Members will be issued Tasers, Taser cartridges, and Taser holsters for the duration of their shift by the patrol Supervisor (patrol Sergeant or Staff Sergeant), and the Members will be responsible for returning the Taser, Taser Cartridges, and Taser holster to the patrol Supervisor at the end of their shift.

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7. The patrol Supervisor will keep a record of the Taser assignment in the Taser logbook, and they ensure that when returned at the end of watch, all Tasers and air cartridges are accounted for.
8. The patrol Supervisor will notify the Operations Communication Centre of which Members are carrying the Tasers during the shift.
9. The Member will be responsible for inspecting the issued Taser to ensure it is prepared and available for immediate use when taken on shift.
10. Only properly functioning Tasers will be carried by Members.

#### **Storage of Tasers**

11. All Tasers and associated equipment will be secured, with the Taser Cartridge removed, in the assigned locker within GVTAPS facilities.

#### **Maintenance of Tasers**

12. The Member will promptly bring to the attention of their Supervisor if the issued Taser is deemed defective.
13. A defective Taser will be turned over directly to the Member's Supervisor, who will then transfer it to the Firearms Training Officer's custody. The Supervisor will note such transfer in the Taser logbook.
14. The Firearms Training Officer, or a certified Taser Armourer, will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of GVTAPS Tasers and associated equipment.

#### **Duty of Member**

15. Every time a Taser has been deployed, the Member responsible for the deployment will:
  1. notify Emergency Health Services (EHS) to attend, if the deployment was successful, and have EHS personnel determine if the subject should be transported to a hospital; if hospitalization is not required, the Member will have EHS personnel remove the probes if the skin has been punctured, and
  2. notify the patrol Supervisor as soon as is practicable, and
  3. complete the appropriate use of force report, and any other reports required or applicable.

#### **Duty of Patrol Supervisor**

16. Upon attendance at a Taser deployment, the Supervisor will:

1. ensure that the subject is examined by EHS as soon as possible,
2. if reasonable, photograph any injuries to the subject,
3. photograph the scene,
4. prepare a sketch of the scene, including any applicable measurements,
5. take possession of the Taser, expended cartridge(s), and probes, if applicable, and place in a temporary exhibit locker (unless it can be immediately be turned over to the Inspector Support Services),
6. request SkyTrain Station CCTV tapes (or other available tapes), if applicable,
7. ensure witnesses are interviewed and written statements obtained,
8. notify the Inspector Support Services that the Taser has been seized and provide number for the temporary exhibit locker where it is stored, and
9. ensure the Member has completed the required reports and that such reports are reviewed by the Supervisor and then forwarded for further review in accordance with use of force policy.