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## Operational Manual - Conducted Energy Weapon

### 1. General

1. 1. Only the advanced Taser M26 (model 44000) and Taser X26E (Law Enforcement) (model 26012) conducted energy weapons (CEW) are approved for RCMP operational use as intervention devices to control individuals and avert injury to members and the public.

NOTE: As any Taser M26 reaches its life expectancy, it will be replaced by a Taser X26E. No new Taser M26 will be purchased.

1. 2. The fluorescent yellow stickers on the CEW are intended to differentiate it from the pistol and must not be removed or altered under any circumstance.

1. 3. Only trained members and certified instructors who have successfully completed the CEW User Course or the CEW Instructor Course are permitted to use the CEW.

1. 4. Members certified to operate the CEW must re-qualify every three years.

1. 5. CEW training and member re-certification must be documented on HRMIS.

### 2. Definitions

2. 1. **CEW Challenge** means the declaration issued by a member before using the CEW: "Police, stop or you will be hit with 50,000 volts of electricity!"

2. 2. **push stun mode** means pressing or pushing an activated CEW onto designated push/stun locations on an individual, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that individual.

2. 3. **probe mode** means deploying an activated CEW by propelling and discharging two electrical probes, equipped with small barbs that hook onto a person's clothing or skin, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that person.

2. 4. **use of the CEW** means:

2. 4. 1. the CEW Challenge (see sec. 2.1.) has been issued to a person whether or not the CEW is activated;

#### see also:

[Chapter 17.7.1 - Approved Holsters](#)  
[Chapter 17.7.2 -- Taser Model M26 Battery-Charging Method](#)  
[Operational Manual Bulletin : Conducted Energy Weapon \(CEW\) Deployment](#)

2. 4. 2. the CEW is activated without a CEW Challenge; or

2. 4. 3. the CEW is drawn from its holster and used in controlling a situation, whether or not the CEW Challenge is given.

2. 5. **operational cartridge** means an RCMP-approved cartridge for operational use and training, except scenario-based training.

2. 6. **training cartridge** means the RCMP-approved blue simulation air cartridge for scenario-based training.

2. 7. **excited delirium** means "a state of extreme mental and physiological excitement, characterized by extreme agitation, hyperthermia, hostility, exceptional strength and endurance without apparent fatigue" (Morrison and Sadler, 2001).

2. 7. 1. Excited delirium is a medical emergency which may be brought on by stimulant use, psychiatric illness or a combination of both. Subjects may exhibit the following symptoms or behaviour:

2. 7. 1. 1. removal of clothing;

2. 7. 1. 2. bizarre and violent behavior;

2. 7. 1. 3. running in heavy street traffic;

2. 7. 1. 4. hyperactivity;

2. 7. 1. 5. aggression;

2. 7. 1. 6. smashing objects, particularly windows and glass;

2. 7. 1. 7. non-responsive to police presence or verbal intervention;

2. 7. 1. 8. extreme paranoia;

2. 7. 1. 9. incoherent shouting, unintelligible speech, animal sounds;

2. 7. 1. 10. flight behavior;

2. 7. 1. 11. lid lift (eyes opening so wide the whites of the eyes are completely visible);

2. 7. 1. 12. unusual strength;

2. 7. 1. 13. impervious to pain;

2. 7. 1. 14. ability to resist numerous police officers over an extended period of time;

2. 7. 1. 15. overheating (hyperthermia); or

2. 7. 1. 16. profuse sweating or no sweating at all.

2. 8. **data download** means retrieving information, recorded and stored in the Taser M26 or

Taser X26E about its deployment, through the data port-function by connecting the data port to a computer. By conducting a data download, information is provided about CEW usage which provides accountability and which can be valuable to an investigation.

### 3. Deployment

#### 3. 1. General

3. 1. 1. The CEW must be used in accordance with CEW training and the principles of the Incident Management/Intervention Model (IM/IM). See also ch. 17.1.

3. 1. 2. Before using the CEW, when tactically feasible, give the CEW Challenge. See sec. 2.1.

3. 1. 3. Multiple deployment or continuous cycling of the CEW may be hazardous to a subject. Unless situational factors dictate otherwise (see IM/IM), do not cycle the CEW repeatedly, nor more than 15-20 seconds at a time against a subject.

3. 1. 4. Unless situational factors dictate otherwise (see IM/IM), make every effort to take control of the subject as soon as possible during a CEW probe-mode deployment.

3. 1. 5. For cold-weather limitations for model M26, see sec. 7.3.

#### 3. 2. Excited Delirium

3. 2. 1. All members must familiarize themselves with the common signs of excited delirium outlined in sec. 2.7.

3. 2. 2. Individuals experiencing excited delirium require medical treatment which first requires that they be restrained.

3. 2. 3. In considering intervention options for excited delirium cases, the use of the CEW in a probe-mode deployment may be the most effective response to establish control.

NOTE: The CEW in push stun mode is primarily pain compliance.

3. 2. 4. If you suspect that an individual is experiencing an excited delirium medical emergency, when possible create a response strategy before deploying the CEW and include Emergency Medical Services (EMS) attendance in your strategy.

3. 2. 4. 1. An optimal response strategy should include the following:

3. 2. 4. 1. 1. EMS to attend with members;

3. 2. 4. 1. 2. ensure there are enough members on the scene for a quick and effective "hands on" (control) in an effort to minimize the incidence of physical confrontation;

NOTE: On its own, the CEW is not intended as a restraint device.

3. 2. 4. 1. 3. one member on CEW;

3. 2. 4. 1. 4. effective control of arms and legs during CEW deployment cycle;

3. 2. 4. 1. 5. apply approved restraints;

3. 2. 4. 1. 6. when safe to do so, remove the subject from the prone position as soon as possible after control is established;

3. 2. 4. 1. 7. if no EMS is present at the scene and the subject suddenly becomes quiet and stops resisting, EMS should be summoned and preparation be made for CPR; and

3. 2. 4. 1. 8. as excited delirium is a medical emergency, all subjects should be transported via EMS, where possible, and placed in Health Services care as soon as possible.

3. 2. 5. If possible promptly go to the hospital to relay your observations to health care personnel to ensure information is properly relayed.

3. 2. 6. If there is evidence of substance abuse, seize as an exhibit.

#### **4. Voluntary Exposure**

4. 1. Only candidates taking the CEW User Course or the CEW Instructor Course are permitted to participate in the CEW Voluntary Exposure Exercise, conducted by a CEW Instructor.

NOTE: Do not permit any member of the public to participate in a CEW voluntary exposure exercise.

#### **5. Deployment Aftercare**

5. 1. Advise the individual that he/she has been subjected to a CEW deployment and that the effects will be short term.

5. 2. Ensure the individual receives medical attention if any unusual reactions occur or if you think that he or she is in distress.

5. 3. If the CEW was used in probe mode, a member currently certified in first aid may remove the probes. It is not necessary to have a medically trained person examine the individual, unless a probe is lodged in a sensitive part of the body, such as the eye or the groin, or the individual's physical condition warrants medical attention.

5. 4. Remove the probe from an individual in a manner that least interferes with the privacy and dignity of that individual, ensuring the safety of the member and the individual.

5. 5. If a medical or physical affliction is claimed or observed, to the best of your ability:

5. 5. 1. Make note of the actual or alleged affliction/injury.

5. 5. 2. Photograph the actual or alleged affliction/injury.

5. 5. 3. Obtain a statement.

#### **6. Reporting**

##### **6. 1. General**

6. 1. 1. As soon as practicable each time the CEW is used, notify your supervisor.
6. 1. 2. Record on the investigative file any apparent or alleged affliction/injury caused by the CEW.
6. 1. 3. Complete form 3996 before the end of a shift every time the CEW is used, and place a completed copy on the operational file.
6. 1. 4. Where applicable, follow division reporting directives.
6. 1. 5. For occupational health and safety reporting requirements, see OSM ch. 3.

## 6. 2. **Supervisor**

6. 2. 1. Ensure members submit form 3996. Review forms for quality assurance.
6. 2. 2. To make changes or additions after submission of form 3996, resubmit the form in its entirety. The system will automatically purge the old form and replace it with the new one. Place a copy of the revised form on the operational file.

## 6. 3. **Commander**

6. 3. 1. Ensure that members under your command are aware of the directives in this chapter.
6. 3. 2. Ensure the original CEW package received contains one CEW, four operational cartridges, two fully charged battery packs, one instruction book, one black carrying case, and one holster.
6. 3. 3. Maintain a control log for each CEW assigned to the unit by recording the time, date and name of each member who has a CEW.
6. 3. 4. Keep an adequate supply of CEWs, RCMP-approved holsters, CEW operational cartridges and replacement batteries on hand.

## 7. **Maintenance and Control**

### 7. 1. **General**

7. 1. 1. The CEW is a prohibited firearm. The CEW and its cartridges must be secured in accordance with the [Public Agents Firearms Regulations](#) .
7. 1. 2. A member operating a CEW must safely dispose of spent cartridges.
7. 1. 3. Spent probes will be placed in a biomedical waste container.
7. 1. 4. The CEW must be carried in an RCMP-approved holster (see App. 17-7-1) on the member's non-dominant side, e.g. opposite the sidearm.
7. 1. 5. For use of the M26 in -20°C, see sec. 7.2.3.3.

### 7. 2. **Batteries**

### 7. 2. 1. **Model X26E**

7. 2. 1. 1. The X26E uses a model-specific, digital power magazine (DPM).

7. 2. 1. 2. Replace the DPM when the percentage life reads below 20% on the digital display.

7. 2. 1. 3. DPMs below 20% may be used for training.

7. 2. 1. 4. Dispose of the DPM when it drops to 1%.

CAUTION: Continued use at 0% may damage the CEW.

### 7. 2. 2. **Model M26**

7. 2. 2. 1. Given the specialized and particular power supply requirements for the M26, only RCMP-approved batteries must be used. See sec. 7.2.4.2. See also App. 17-7-2 for battery-charging method.

7. 2. 2. 2. The M26 battery indicator is a simple "power indicator" light when used with NiMH batteries. A spark test is the only approved and reliable method to assess the state of the NiMH batteries and the functionality of the CEW.

### 7. 2. 3. **Model M26 Precautions**

7. 2. 3. 1. Ensure batteries are properly charged at all times, particularly during severely cold temperatures.

7. 2. 3. 2. Avoid exposing the M26 to temperatures below -10°C for extended periods.

7. 2. 3. 3. At -20°C or below, when practicable, carry the CEW and cartridges in a warm area or under your storm coat.

### 7. 2. 4. **Model M26 Battery Cooling Period**

7. 2. 4. 1. Do not cycle the CEW more than 10 times consecutively. When the CEW is continuously re-cycled, a cooling-off period of 10 minutes must be allowed to prevent internal damage.

7. 2. 4. 2. These batteries can only be purchased through M.D. Charlton. See App. 17-7-2.

### 7. 2. 5. **Model M26 Battery Care**

7. 2. 5. 1. You can only use the following authorized AA batteries listed in order of preference: Taser International (Rechargeable NiMH 44700); and Eveready Energizer ACCU (Rechargeable NiMH in 2100 mA or more).

7. 2. 5. 2. Recharge CEW NiMH batteries every two weeks. The NiMH batteries do not retain a full charge over time. When not used, NiMH batteries lose 1% or more of their charge each day at room temperature.

7. 2. 5. 3. Do not charge both the CEW and a separate battery pack at the same time on the same charger.

7. 2. 5. 4. To ensure that the CEW NiMH batteries are capable of accepting a full charge, CEW NiMH batteries must be conditioned when received and drained semiannually according to the manufacturer's instructions.

7. 2. 5. 5. Purchase these batteries through the authorized distributor of Taser, M.D. Charlton, because of the unique construction of the battery and to meet the demands of the Taser.

7. 2. 5. 6. Upon receipt of a new CEW and every six months thereafter, recharge the batteries three times consecutively. Remove the batteries or CEW from the charger when the green light indicates that the batteries are fully charged. Wait five seconds, then reinsert the batteries or CEW into the charger, and repeat a third time. Repeat these steps when the CEW batteries are drained or battery problems are experienced. See App. 17-7-2.

7. 2. 5. 7. If battery problems persist after the batteries have been conditioned, return the CEW, the batteries and the charger to the Armourer for inspection/repairs.

### 7. 3. **Model M26 and Cartridges Cold-weather Limitations**

7. 3. 1. At -10° C or colder, the M26 may deploy improperly or not at all.

7. 3. 2. At or near -20° C, the following limitations have been observed:

7. 3. 2. 1. trigger is stiff and requires excessively hard pull to activate,

7. 3. 2. 2. reduced cycle rate,

7. 3. 2. 3. deployment range limited to 15' or 4.5 m maximum,

7. 3. 2. 4. one to two seconds delay in cartridge firing, and

7. 3. 2. 5. rapid transition from cold to warm areas may cause laser sight to frost.

7. 3. 3. The X26E does not have the same limitations as the M26.

### 7. 4. **Operational/Training Cartridges**

7. 4. 1. Operational Cartridges: TASER Standard Air Cartridge model 44200 with 21-foot filament - for operational use with both the M26 and X26E.

NOTE: This is a newer version of the currently approved TASER Standard Air Cartridge model 34222 which is no longer available for purchase. Model 34222 is still approved and will be phased out through attrition.

7. 4. 2. Training Cartridges: blue TASER simulation Air Cartridge model 44205 with a 21-foot, non-conductive nylon wire for use in RCMP scenario-based training. This training cartridge is intended to be purchased only by CEW instructors or Division Training Coordinators.

7. 4. 3. Monitor operational cartridges. They are marked with a five-year expiration date.

7. 4. 4. If the operational cartridge has not been deployed in five years, immediately replace it with a new operational cartridge.

7. 4. 5. You may use expired operational cartridges for training purposes, except for scenario-based training.

7. 4. 6. An operational cartridge should not be stored for a long term and carried in the extended DPM of the Taser Model X26E. Cartridges are to be stored in the cartridge carrier/holder provided on the holster.

### 7. 5. **Repair/Replacement**

7. 5. 1. In compliance with the *Canada Labour Code*, malfunctioning CEWs must be marked or tagged to indicate that they are faulty and to be removed from service.

7. 5. 2. The supervisor will:

7. 5. 2. 1. ensure faulty or malfunctioning CEWs are removed from service, are properly tagged and immediately sent to a qualified person designated by the Cr. Ops. Officer to conduct CEW data downloading. See shipping procedures in FM ch. 6.4.4.

7. 5. 2. 2. after the download is complete, ensure the CEW is returned to the Senior Armourer, "Depot" Division for repair or replacement. See FM ch. 6.4.

7. 5. 3. If the CEW is being shipped for independent testing as part of an investigation, follow the same shipping procedures. See FM ch. 6.4.4.

## 8. **Data Downloads**

### 8. 1. **General**

8. 1. 1. The following individuals are qualified to conduct CEW downloads: CEW Instructor Trainers, the RCMP Armourer, and any other qualified person designated by the Cr. Ops. Officer.

8. 1. 2. Follow the same shipping process (see FM ch. 6.4.4.) if the CEW is being shipped specifically for a data download for an investigation about CEW usage or yearly storage of data and resetting of the internal clock to Greenwich Mean Time.

### 8. 2. **Division**

8. 2. 1. Develop a system for downloading and storing the data from all CEWs in your division a minimum of once a year.

8. 2. 2. Ensure the CEW's internal clock is reset to the correct Greenwich Mean Time a minimum of once a year.

## 9. **Independent CEW Testing**

9. 1. The Canadian Police Research Center (CPRC) will conduct independent testing of a CEW when:

9. 1. 1. someone is seriously injured or dies when a member resorts to lethal force because a CEW was ineffective or malfunctioned;

9. 1. 2. a member is seriously injured or dies as a direct or indirect result of a CEW

malfunction; or

9. 1. 3. any incident in which it is in the public interest or the member's interest to determine the working state of a CEW.

9. 2. Testing will be conducted at division expense.

9. 3. The CEW must be packaged and shipped in accordance with FM ch. 6.4.4. to the following address:

Canadian Police Research Centre  
National Research Council  
Building M-55  
1200 Montreal Rd.  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R6

## References

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- British Columbia: Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner, TASER Technology Review - Final Report, File number 2474, April 2005.
- Manojlovic et al (for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police - August 22, 2005). Review of Conducted Energy Devices - Canadian Police Research Center, Technical Report, TR-01-2006.
- [Criminal Code](#)

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