

PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

 COLONEL
 HEADQUARTERS
 COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ
 CHIEF OF POLICE
 PROVIDENCE POLICE

TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	310.04	1/3/2024	1/5/2024
SUBJECT TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Conducted Electrical Weapons		3/29/2023; 2/2/2021; 9/16/2019; 9/7/2018; 12/18/2017; 2/6/2017; 4/7/2015; 1/21/2015; 11/15/2013; 1/31/2013; Supersedes: G.O. #25 Series 2004; G.O. #36 Series 2004; G.O. #41 Series 2004	
REFERENCE		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
CALEA Standards 4.1.4; 4.1.5; 4.2.1; 4.3.1 – 4.3.4		3/28/2025	
SUBJECT AREA		DISTRIBUTION	
Law Enforcement Operations		All Sworn Personnel	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide Officers with procedures regarding the issuance, deployment, transport, and storage of Department-issued Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs).

POLICY

The Providence Police Department issues Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs) to specially selected and trained officers as a less-lethal force option for use in the field.

These less-lethal weapons are not intended to replace verbal problem-solving skills, self-defense techniques, firearms, or any other force options as outlined in the Providence Police Department Use of Force Continuum.

These weapons shall only be utilized in order to assist officers in bringing certain incidents under control, while protecting the safety of the officers and others, and when deployment is deemed reasonable according to Department training. Under no circumstances shall these weapons, or any use of force option, be used as a means of interrogation, coercion, or punishment.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this General order, the following definitions shall apply:

CEW Equipment: The Department-issued X-7 TASER weapons, holsters, cartridges, and extended battery pack.

CEW Officers: Sworn Officers of the Providence Police Department who are in good standing with the Department; who have successfully passed all required training; and who have been selected and authorized by the Department to carry and use CEW equipment in the line of duty.

Drive-Stun Mode: After a cartridge has been discharged without achieving full NMI due to either a close probe spread or one probe missing the target, a procedure by which the TASER is discharged against the body of a subject may be utilized.

Probe Mode: The CEW's primary setting option/method of CEW deployment, by which probes conducting electrical impulses are discharged from a cartridge that has been installed onto the TASER.

This directive is an adjunct to, and shall be considered within the context of, General Order 300.01 *Use of Force*.

PROCEDURE

I. TRAINING

- A. Only Department certified CEW instructors shall provide training for CEW Officers.
- B. No members of this Department may carry or discharge a CEW unless they have successfully passed all required CEW training courses.
- C. In-service training covering CEW usage/proficiency, and a thorough review of the Department's Use of Force and CEW policies, shall be conducted and completed annually by all CEW Officers.
 1. Training records shall be well documented, providing the date of attendance, persons in attendance, identity of instructor(s), pass/fail scores of all CEW Officers, and a copy of the lesson plan.
 2. CEW Officers who fail to meet the training requirements will be prohibited from carrying the TASER unless and until a remedial training course is successfully completed.
 3. Training records shall be maintained by the Weapons Bureau, and shall be made available to the Chief of Police or his designee(s), and to the Accreditation Unit.

- D. The Weapons Bureau Commanding Officer (WBCO) is responsible for ensuring that all CEW officers meet all stipulated requirements in order to carry, deploy, and/or use CEW equipment.

II. CEW EQUIPMENT

- A. The following Department-issued CEW equipment are the only such equipment authorized for field deployment and use:
 - 1. The Model X7 TASER, manufactured by TASER International, Inc.
 - 2. Standoff cartridges.
 - 3. The Black Hawk™ holster.
 - 4. The extended battery pack.
- B. Each CEW Officer will be issued one (1) Model X7 TASER, one (1) Black Hawk™ holster, one (1) extended battery, and two (2) cartridges.
- C. CEW Officers are responsible for the upkeep and security of the CEW equipment issued to them.
 - 1. Officers are not allowed to swap, borrow, mix or trade any cartridge with any other CEW Officer, unless exigent circumstances exist.
 - 2. No cartridge will be replaced before proper documentation explaining a valid reason for replacement is submitted to the Department Armorer.
 - 3. Only under exigent circumstances in the field may CEW Officers deploy a CEW other than the one that has been issued to them.
- D. Prior to each instance of putting a CEW in service (i.e., at the beginning of a tour of duty):
 - 1. The CEW Officer shall ensure that the CEW equipment is in a state of operational readiness.
 - 2. The CEW Officer will turn on the CEW and perform a battery check.
 - 3. The CEW Officer shall conduct a spark test in accordance with ISOP-001 *CEW Spark Test Procedure*.
 - 4. The CEW will then be loaded with two (2) cartridges and secured in the Department-approved holster.

- E. At the end of a tour of duty:
 - 1. The CEW Officer will ensure that the CEW is turned off.
 - 2. The CEW Officer will inspect the CEW equipment, noting any deficiencies and reporting such to the WBCO as soon as practicable.
 - 3. The CEW Officer shall maintain possession of the CEW equipment and shall properly store it in a safe and secure location in accordance with this directive and with General Order 310.01 *Department Issued/Authorized Weapons*.

- F. Any deficiencies relating to CEW equipment are to be reported in writing to the Weapons Bureau as soon as practicable.
 - 1. Any CEW equipment found to be deficient shall be immediately taken out of service by the CEW Officer and shall not be used.
 - 2. The Weapons Bureau shall be responsible for collecting, inspecting, evaluating, repairing, and/or replacing any such deficient equipment.

- G. CEWs will be inspected, function checked, and approved for use by a qualified Weapons Bureau TASER instructor prior to being issued to trained Department personnel. A log listing CEW Officers and the CEW equipment that has been issued to them will be maintained by the Department Armorer within *Evidence.com*.

III. CEW STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

- A. CEW equipment may be transported to and from work and home, and stored at the CEW Officer's home, provided that the following requirements are met:
 - 1. Officers who store CEW equipment at home are required to store all firearms, including all CEW equipment, safely and responsibly. A lockbox or safe designed for the secure storage of firearms, which is bolted down in a stationary and immovable manner within the CEW Officer's home, is required.
 - 2. CEW equipment must be kept out of sight and inaccessible to children or unauthorized persons at all times.
 - 3. When traveling between home and work, CEW equipment shall be carried on the support side of the CEW Officer's duty gear.
 - a. Officers shall not store CEW equipment within the transporting vehicle unless the vehicle is equipped with a non-removeable lock box that has been approved by the WBCO.

- b. When transporting CEW equipment, CEW Officers shall travel directly between home and work.
- B. CEW Officers will relinquish their CEW equipment whenever ordered by proper authority. Situations requiring the immediate relinquishment of CEW equipment include, but may not be limited to:
 - 1. Failure to successfully pass any required training.
 - 2. Suspension.
 - 3. A CEW discharge incident.

IV. CEW DISCHARGE PARAMETERS

- A. Only Department-approved CEW Officers are authorized to carry and discharge the CEW as a less-lethal force option.

The CEW may be used in the following situations, in accordance with Department policy and training, whenever the use of the CEW constitutes a reasonable use of force under the given circumstances AND lethal force is not justified:

- 1. A subject is exhibiting active resistance or active aggression, and any attempts to subdue the subject by lesser force options have been and/or will likely be ineffective in the situation at hand.
 - 2. To prevent an individual from harming themselves or others.
 - 3. The apprehension of a subject for a criminal offense is warranted, and the subject attempts to evade apprehension by flight.
- B. Under no circumstances shall a CEW be displayed, drawn, or used as a dispersal device.
- C. Under no circumstances shall a CEW be displayed, drawn, or used as a means of interrogation, coercion or punishment.
- D. Alternative force techniques shall be considered in lieu of using a CEW when dealing with pregnant women, elderly persons, young children, and visibly frail persons, unless exigent circumstances warrant otherwise.
- E. CEW Officers should always be cognizant of a subject's location when evaluating the consequences of a CEW discharge (i.e. situations where a subject falling may cause substantial risk of injury or death).
- F. The CEW is an electrical device. As such, caution must be exercised so as not to ignite the surrounding area and/or subject(s) when discharge occurs in the proximity of flammable liquids, gases, or any other highly combustible materials.

- G. Unless exigent circumstances exist, CEW Officers shall refrain from discharging a CEW on subjects who are in physical control of any moving vehicle.
- H. The loaded, holstered CEW shall be carried in a cross-draw configuration on the support side of the CEW Officer's duty gear.
 - a. SRU officers are authorized to carry the CEWs on their tactical vests, as per their Department training.
- I. A CEW Officer shall neither simultaneously draw nor have drawn his/her firearm and their CEW.
 - 1. This does not preclude other officers on scene from drawing a firearm should circumstances require it.
- J. Only One (1) CEW Officer should discharge a CEW upon a subject at any one time.
- K. When tactically feasible, CEW Officers shall:
 - 1. Notify the dispatcher and the officers in the surrounding area that a CEW discharge is imminent. The dispatcher shall then re-broadcast this information.
 - 2. Issue a warning to a subject prior to discharging the CEW, unless doing so would place any person at risk.
- L. Officers (other than the CEW Officer discharging the CEW) should be prepared to handcuff or control the suspect while the suspect is incapacitated by the electrical impulses produced by the CEW.
- M. As dictated by training, the CEW Officer will deploy the CEW for (1) either one standard cycle, or (2) longer than one standard cycle if the situation requires other officers to get into position to affect a physical restraint and handcuffing.
 - 1. Subsequent cycles may be utilized for the sole purpose of gaining control over a subject only when deemed necessary and as dictated by training.
 - 2. Only the minimum number of discharges necessary shall be deployed.
- N. The CEW's "Probe Mode" will be the primary setting option, with the "Drive-Stun Mode" used as a secondary setting option, as dictated by training.

- O. At the discretion of the CEW Officer, the CEW may be discharged to control animals, such as vicious dogs, when circumstances warrant such usage.

V. PRONG REMOVAL

- A. Prongs that have impacted a body will be treated as biohazards.
- B. No officer shall remove the prongs of a deployed CEW cartridge when the prongs have been embedded into the skin.
- C. To avoid further penetration into the skin, only the CEW Officer may remove any prongs stuck on or clinging to the suspect's clothing.
- D. Only medical or rescue personnel shall remove embedded prongs.

VI. MEDICAL ATTENTION

- A. Any individual who has been subjected to a CEW discharge will be evaluated by EMS as soon as possible and transported to a medical facility if deemed necessary by EMS personnel.
- B. Detention personnel will be notified by the transporting officer whenever a detainee has sustained a CEW discharge, and shall increase physical observations of the detainee while the detainee is in custody.

VII. POST INCIDENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. A supervisor not involved in the CEW discharge incident shall be notified of and shall respond to the scene of the discharge as soon as practicable. This includes responding to accidental discharges of any nature.
- B. The on-duty Patrol Bureau Shift Commander (OIC) shall also be notified of, and respond to the scene of, the CEW discharge incident. The OIC shall have the discretion to determine whether or not the circumstances pertaining to the incident require the activation of the Force Investigation Team (FIT). Circumstances to be considered when making a determination pertaining to FIT activation shall include but not be limited to:
 - 1. The nature of the incident in which the CEW was used.
 - 2. An evaluation of the objective reasonableness of the use of the CEW.
 - 3. The on-scene statements of the CEW Officer and any other officers who were on-scene at the time of the discharge

incident, as well as any statements made by any suspects and/or any witnesses.

4. The nature of any injuries sustained.
- C. When activated, the FIT shall respond to the scene of CEW discharges in accordance with General Order 310.02 *Investigations of Serious Use of Force Incidents*.
1. The WBCO or his/her designee (usually the FIT's Weapons Bureau representative) shall respond to the scene and shall seize the CEW and any discharged cartridges.
 - a. The WBCO or his/her designee, as soon as practicable, shall ensure that the CEW data pertaining to the incident is uploaded via an AXON docking station to be analyzed by the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) and inclusion in the FIT investigative report.
- D. Whenever the OIC does not notify the FIT to respond to a CEW discharge incident:
1. The OIC shall collect any discharged cartridge(s) from the CEW Officer who discharged the CEW, place the discharged cartridge(s) in the locker provided for this purpose, and shall issue replacement CEW cartridge(s) to that officer.
 2. The CEW Officer shall upload the taser discharge information into AXON Evidence for use of force analysis by placing extended battery pack into the AXON docking station. CEW officer will then replace the extended battery pack and cartridges.
- E. Documentation and further investigative actions, including the handling of CEW incidents when the FIT is not activated, shall be completed in accordance with the following written directives, as applicable:
1. General Order 300.01 *Use of Force*.

Note: Drawing and pointing a CEW at, or in the direction of, another person shall be documented via Blue Team Software.
 2. General Order 310.02 *Investigations of Serious Use of Force Incidents*.

VIII. AUDITS

- A. An audit of all CEW equipment, including but not limited to an accounting of all assigned cartridges and the downloading and analysis of port data from all CEWs, shall be conducted annually by the WBCO or his/her designee. Audit results shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oscar L. Perez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ
CHIEF OF POLICE