



CITY OF AKRON, OHIO
POLICE DIVISION
STEPHEN L. MYLETT, CHIEF OF POLICE

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| NUMBER P-2023-057 | EFFECTIVE DATE February 22, 2023 | RESCINDS P-19-057 Issued 11-13-19 |
| SUBJECT Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Procedure | | ISSUING AUTHORITY Chief Stephen L. Mylett |

I. POLICY

Conducted energy weapons are excellent tools to assist in controlling combative, violent, or potentially violent individuals. Only authorized personnel may carry and utilize such equipment and must do so in conformance with departmental training, procedures, and any applicable laws. Each application of a CEW is considered a use of force.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Less Lethal Force– Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force that involves physical effort to control, restrain, or overcome the resistance of another.
- B. Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) – Less lethal devices designed to affect a subject’s motor and sensory nervous system by means of deploying battery powered electrical energy intended to cause involuntary muscle contractions and override an individual’s voluntary motor responses. The device may also be used in a drive stun mode, whereas the energy is localized and only affects the sensory nervous system.

III. PROCEDURE

A. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- 1. Only officers who have satisfactorily completed the approved training course shall be authorized to carry a CEW. This includes annual recertification training.
- 2. Officers will carry the CEW in a department approved holster and consistent with department training.
- 3. Officers will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their issued equipment is functional and in good working order. This includes protecting the CEW from exposure to moisture, dirt, and unreasonable risk of theft.
- 4. To ensure the device is working properly, the CEW shall be subjected to a pre-shift function test consisting of a full, five-second cycle.

5. Officers shall change out the taser battery every 25-30 days with a green lit battery from the T7 dock.

B. DEPLOYMENT

1. The CEW can be used in conjunction with department approved chemical defense sprays.
2. The probes, wires and the individual's body that is between the probes should be avoided during the cycle as the officer may receive some of the same energy as the individual.
3. CEWs may be used:
 - a. When it is in compliance with the Akron Police Department's use of force procedure.¹
 - b. To "paint" the subject with the CEW's laser and/or show a warning arc in an attempt to gain voluntary compliance of the subject where resistance, assault, or violence is reasonably anticipated. This is not considered a deployment requiring a use of force investigation but shall be described in the case report.
4. Unintentional cartridge discharge or lost cartridge – The officer shall submit a BlueTeam lost or damaged property report detailing the circumstances surrounding the deployment to his supervisor for investigation. The completed investigation will be forwarded to the CEW training instructor.
5. Special Consideration should be used:
 - a. When the officer has a reasonable belief that deployment may cause serious injury or death from situational hazards including falling, drowning, or igniting a potentially explosive or flammable material or substance, except when deadly force would be justified.
 - b. Use of CEW on animals - Under some circumstances, a deployment of a CEW may provide a safer option for officers to handle incidents involving animals. A CEW may be deployed on an animal that presents a threat or that needs to be captured for reasons of public peace or safety, preservation of property, or other legitimate purposes. When feasible, officers should consider having an Animal Warden available so that tools such as "dog poles" can be used in conjunction with a CEW deployment to improve the chances of successfully controlling an animal.

C. OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

¹ See Resisting Arrest/Use of Force Procedure

1. Upon use of the CEW with the drive stun technique or with cartridge deployment, the officer shall:
 - a. Request the response of a supervisor.
 - b. Request the response of an EMS Unit.
 - c. Follow the Akron Police Department's use of force procedure.
2. Individuals who have been subjected to the CEW or the probes shall be treated as follows:
 - a. Once in custody, the officer shall advise paramedics or the emergency department staff that the person has been subjected to the CEW and relate the approximate time the action occurred. If the probes penetrate the skin, the puncture sites shall also be brought to the attention of the officer's supervisor, paramedics or emergency department staff. Only emergency department staff or EMS may remove CEW probes.
 - b. If the probes are no longer attached to the skin, the individual may be released to the custody of the officer after an EMS evaluation.
 - c. An officer shall obtain medical clearance from EMS or the emergency department physician.
3. After deployment, officers shall dock the T7 battery and replace it with a green lit battery from the T7 dock.
4. Complete a BlueTeam Use of Force Report and an APD Case Report.
5. The CEW probes are considered hazardous and shall be discarded in the biohazard container that all EMS units carry. Officers must use protective gloves when handling the discharged probes.

D. SERGEANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Respond to scene.
2. Ensure that EMS is responding.
3. Complete a Supervisor's BlueTeam Resisting Arrest/Use of Force Checklist on every use, whether it is the drive stun technique or cartridge deployment. When practical, photos shall be taken to document all contact points on the individual.

4. When any CEW deployment results in serious physical harm or death of an individual, ensure that the entire CEW and all parts of the cartridge are kept intact and are tagged into evidence.

5. Follow the Akron Police Department's use of force procedure.

By Order Of,



Stephen L. Mylett
Chief of Police

Date 2/22/23