

**River Bend Police Department**  
**CEW- Taser / Less Lethal Shot Gun**  
**General Order 18**  
Effective 05/08/2014

**18.01** **Policy:** It is the policy of the River Bend Police Department in that the Taser (CEW) and Less Lethal Shot Gun (LLSG) is to be considered as an intermediate level of force as it applies to the Use of Force.

**18.02** **Equipment:** The Taser (CEW) / Less Lethal Shot Gun (LLSG) is a device that may be used:

- a. To control violent subjects when an officer reasonably believes that deadly force does not appear to be necessary,
- b. When attempts to subdue the suspect by conventional tactics of verbalization, firm grip control, pain compliance holds and/or self-defense techniques have been or are likely to be ineffective in the situation at hand, or
- c. When there is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the suspect.
- d. To prevent the commission of suicide or self-inflicted physical injury.
- e. To prevent attack from a dangerous animal.

**18.02.01** As with any use of force, the threat must be a credible one. Officers must be prudent in the use of this alternative control device. Abuse or misuse of the device can be a violation of state and/or federal law and may result in civil or criminal litigation.

**18.02.02** The officer should not use the CEW on a subject that:

- a. Has been sprayed with OC Spray
- b. Appears to the officer to be under the age of 12 or over the age of 65.

**18.02.03** The officer should not use the LLSG (Less Lethal Shot Gun)

- a. Closer than the minimum safe range for that round as designated by the manufacturer.
- b. Appears to the officer that the person is under the age of 12 or over the age of 65.
- c. When the officer is alone and is faced with an armed suspect, a second officer on scene should deploy the LLSG.

**18.03** **Use of the CEW or LLSG:** Any use or attempted use of force of the CEW or LLSG against a subject shall be immediately reported to the Sgt. whom will report the incident to The Chief of Police as soon as practical. Officers who have discharged a Taser on a suspect shall:

- a. Restrain and secure the suspect as soon as possible.

- b. Ensure the suspect's injuries or complaints of injury (if any) are appropriately treated by medical personnel (EMT or First Responders).
- c. Medical treatment and clearance to book shall be sought for any suspect who has been Tasered or impacted by a bean bag round and:
  1. The suspect exhibits signs of excited delirium.
  2. The suspect has a pre-existing heart condition or pre-existing respiratory condition.
  3. The suspect is obviously intoxicated or obviously under the influence of drugs.
  4. The suspect has received a total of two or more effective and complete Taser cycles.
  5. The suspect has received a total of 3 or more effective bean bag rounds.
  6. The probes have entered a sensitive portion of the body (neck, head, genitals, etc.). The officer shall seek medical assistance (First Responder, EMT or ED personnel) for the individual and have the probes removed.
  7. Ensure a Use of Force form is completed and forwarded to the Sergeant for review and then to the Chief of Police.

#### 18.04

**After care of the CEW:** When Officers use a Taser, they must remove the Taser probes at the earliest opportunity. Only a certified Taser operator or qualified medical personnel (First Responder or EMT or other ED personnel) may remove the probes. If the probes are stuck in the facial area, soft tissue around the neck, genital region or the breast of a female, the subject will be transported to the Emergency Room for removal of the probes. If medical personnel are not available, the officer who removes the probe(s) should treat the site by applying an antiseptic wipe and a band-aid to the wound site as needed. Officers shall inspect the probes after removal to ensure that the entire probe and probe barb has been removed. In the event that the probe, or probe barb, has broken off and is still embedded in the subject's skin; the subject will be transported to the Emergency Room for the removal by appropriate medical personnel. Supervisors/officers should ensure that the Taser prongs are collected from the scene and placed into evidence.

#### 18.05

**NMI vs. Pain Compliance:** NMI is achieved when the probes are deployed effectively and is the desired use of the Taser. However, the X-26P Taser's secondary method for control has the capability of delivering a "painful stimulus" which in intent creates a "pain compliance effect" with direct contact to the body in the form of a **Drive Stun (DS)**. To effectively deliver a Drive Stun the Taser must make direct contact with the body after the Taser cartridge has been expended or removed. Note: To assure the suspect receives only a Drive Stun, remove the cartridge before making direct contact with the body. Otherwise the prongs may deploy and the likelihood of NMI is probable.

#### 18.05.01

When using a Drive Stun the officer should try to target appropriate pressure points in an attempt to get the suspect restrained as quickly as possible. For maximum effectiveness of the Drive Stun, drive the Taser into the pressure points of the subject's body. Use care when applying the Drive Stun to the neck and groin. Stay away from the trachea, back of the neck (cervical vertebra) and testicles unless defending yourself from a violent attacker. Just as in deploying the probes, provide medical attention after the use of a Drive Stun as skin irritation, rash, marks, abrasions or scarring may occur.

**18.06** **Training:** Officers issued Tasers / CEW / LLSG will demonstrate proficiency annually in a departmentally approved training course. Proficiency will include training on the following topics:

- a. Legal, moral and ethical aspects of Taser / LLSG use
- b. Safe Taser / LLSG handling and discharging procedures
- c. Proficiency and judgment in the use of Tasers or LLSG
- d. Department policy concerning use of Tasers, LSSG and less-lethal force

**18.06.01** All Taser / LSSG training and proficiency will be documented on in-service training forms maintained by the Sergeant, the training coordinator.

**18.06.02** **Only certified Taser instructors** will conduct Taser training qualification and testing. Officers issued Tasers will fire a minimum of two Taser cartridges as a part of qualification under the supervision of a certified Taser instructor annually.

**18.06.03** Sworn personnel who fail to qualify with the Taser will not carry the Taser until such time as they have satisfied the qualification requirements.

**18.06.04** **Only certified Fire Arms instructors** will conduct live fire training qualification. Officers issued LSSG will fire a minimum of two rounds as part of the qualification.

**18.07** **Ready for Use:** Officers issued a Taser / LSSG are responsible for maintaining the device's operational readiness. As such, officers shall:

- a. Store the Taser in the issued holster or case when not in use.
- b. Ensure that the Taser is accessible by keeping it concealed in a secured vehicle during the course of a shift or carrying the device on the officer's person. The Taser holster shall be worn on the support side or opposite of the officer's duty firearm. Or at a location that does not conflict with the officer's ability to draw his/her firearm.
- c. Check the expiration date and condition of the Taser cartridge. Expired or damaged cartridges shall be turned in for replacement.

**18.08** **Use of Taser / LSSG on a Subject:** When practical, prior to firing the Taser/ LLSG, the officer discharging the device should:

- a. Announce that the Taser / LLSG is being deployed and provide the suspect with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply. This may prevent unintentional firings and give warning to the suspect.

**18.10** **Documentation:** Officers who Taser / LLSG a suspect will complete a Use of Force and Incident Report. Such reports will include:

- a. What precipitated the use of the Taser (suspect behavior, etc.).
- b. To what extent the Taser was utilized.
- c. The results of the Taser deployment.

**18.10.01** Probes will be handled as bio-hazardous sharps and will be collected as evidence along with any material discharged (2 tags) from the Taser cartridge.

**18.10.02** When practical, it is recommended that photographs be taken of probe impact sites / impact and any other injuries associated with the deployment of the Taser / LLSG.

**18.10.03** Accidental discharges of the Taser / LLSG shall be reported immediately to supervisor with a written incident report by the end of shift.

**18.11** Notification: Use of the Taser / LSSG on a person, for any reason, the officer must, as soon as practical, make notification to the Sgt. who will notify the Chief of Police by phone, if the Sgt. is unavailable, then the Chief shall be directly notified.

**END**