TASER® X2™, X3®, X26™, and M26™ Handheld ECD Warnings, Instructions, and Information: Law Enforcement

Important ECD Product Safety and Health Information

These warnings are for your protection as well as the safety of others.[1,2] Disregarding this information could result in death or serious injury.

⚠ WARNING

Complete Training First
Significant differences exist between each of the TASER International, Inc. ("TASER") Electronic Control Device ("ECD") models. Do not use[3] or attempt to use any ECD model unless you have been trained and certified by a Certified TASER Instructor[4] on that particular model.

Read and Obey
Read, study, understand, and follow all instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins and TASER training materials[5] before using TASER ECDs. Failure to comply with these instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins, and TASER training materials could result in death or serious injury to the user, force recipient, and others.

Obey Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Agency Guidance
Use ECDs only in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and other regulations or legal requirements. Your law enforcement agency's Guidance[6] must also be followed.[7] Any ECD use must be legally justifiable. Resistance to law enforcement interaction often incurs substantial risk of death or serious injury and subjects who resist law enforcement assume all such risks of death or serious injury.

These warnings are effective November 30, 2011, and supersede all prior revisions and relevant Training Bulletins. The most current warnings are online at www.TASER.com.

This warning label appears on newer ECD models.

[1] These warnings are not based solely on the conclusions or findings of current medical or scientific literature. Rather, there are numerous factors that are considered in developing these warnings and some of those factors are more conservative than purely scientifically known, established, or confirmed principles or knowledge. The singular is also the plural, the plural includes the singular, and the masculine is also the feminine.

[2] The product warnings must be read as a whole. These warnings are state of the art but cannot address all possible ECD application circumstances or permutations. They are intended to inform users about reasonably foreseeable potential risks of harm. The decision to use the ECD in a particular manner or circumstance must follow applicable legal standards and law enforcement agency Guidance. These warnings do not create a standard of care.

[3] The terms "use," "used," or "using" include, but are not limited to: acquiring; accessing; entrusting; providing; possessing; storing; handling; manipulating; carrying; holstering; drawing; brandishing; displaying; deploying; utilizing; drive-stunning; using alligator or other types of clips or attachments; or discharging an ECD.

[4] A Certified TASER Instructor possesses and maintains a current TASER instructor certification for the specific product model they are teaching, demonstrating, or using and is required to be fully compliant with TASER's most current training requirements and materials.

[5] Current TASER Instructor Training materials may be obtained by contacting TASER's Training Department.

[6] Law enforcement agencies are force and force options and tools experts and are solely responsible for their own Guidance. "Guidance" includes, but is not limited to, policy, custom, procedure, rule, order, directive, training, continuum, and standard. TASER has no power or authority to mandate or require Guidance, set policy, require training, or establish standards of care or conduct.

[7] Law enforcement agencies, government entities, and users are sophisticated purchasers, sophisticated users, and learned intermediaries with respect to law enforcement weapons and other force options (including ECDs), force, force use, legality of force use, and reporting.

Scope and Purpose

This document presents important safety warnings, instructions, and information intended to reasonably minimize hazards associated with ECD deployment, intended use, effects, side effects, and environment of use.

Using force[8] is often a high risk event that could result in death or serious injury. When lawfully used as directed, ECDs are designed in probe-deployment mode to temporarily incapacitate a person from a safer distance than some other force options, while reducing the likelihood of death or serious injury. Any use of force or physical exertion involves risks that a person may get hurt or die.[9]

Within this document certain safety signals and signal words are used to call attention to safety messages:

The safety alert symbol is used to alert users to potential injury hazards. ALWAYS obey all safety messages that follow this symbol to reasonably minimize the risk of death or serious injury when the ECD is used and to enhance safe operation of the ECD.

⚠ WARNING

The signal word WARNING indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided or heeded, could result in death or serious injury. It is intended to direct the user's attention to hazards that may not be obvious, but may be reasonably mitigated by heeding training and instructions, or avoiding certain actions, circumstances, or behaviors, thereby improving the safety of the ECD. WARNINGS may be followed by instructions and information integral to the WARNING.

Safety Information: ECD Known and Potential Side Effects

⚠ WARNING	
⚠	Always follow and comply with all instructions, warnings, information, and current TASER training materials to reasonably minimize the risks associated with possible Use and side effects listed below.
	**Physiologic or Metabolic Effects** The ECD can produce physiologic or metabolic effects which include, but are not limited to, changes in: acidosis; adrenergic states; blood chemistry, blood pressure; calcium, creatine kinase ("CK"); electrolytes (including potassium); lactic acid; myoglobin; pH; respiration; heart rate, rhythm, capture; stress hormones or other biochemical neuromodulators (e.g., catecholamines). Therefore, reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number of ECD exposures and resulting physiologic and metabolic effects. In human studies of electrical discharge from a single ECD of up to 15 seconds, the effects on acidosis, CK, electrolytes, stress hormones, and vital signs have been comparable to or less than changes expected from physical exertion similar to struggling, resistance, fighting, fleeing, or from the application of some other force tools or techniques. Adverse physiologic or metabolic effects may increase risk of death or serious injury.
	**Physiologically or Metabolically Compromised Persons** Law enforcement personnel are called upon to deal with individuals in crisis who are often physiologically or metabolically compromised and may be susceptible to arrest-related death ("ARD"). The factors that may increase susceptibility for an ARD have not been fully characterized but may include: a hypersympathetic state, autonomic dysregulation, capture myopathy, hyperthermia, altered electrolytes, severe acidosis, cardiac arrest, drug or alcohol effects (toxic withdrawal or sensitization to arrhythmias), alterations in brain function (agitated or excited delirium), cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, sickle cell disease, and other pathologic conditions. These risks may exist prior to, during, or after law enforcement intervention or ECD use, and the subject may already be at risk of death or serious injury as a result of pre-existing conditions, individual susceptibility, or other factors. In a physiologically or metabolically compromised person any physiologic or metabolic change may cause or contribute to death or serious injury. Follow your agency's Guidance when dealing with physiologically or metabolically compromised persons.

[8] The terms "using force" and "use of force", include, but are not limited to: confronting, apprehending, capturing, controlling, restraining, incapacitating, taking persons into custody, and maintaining custody.

[9] "Almost every use of force, however minute, poses some risk of death." *Garrett v. Athens-Clarke County*, 378 F.3d 1274, 1280, n.12 (11th Cir. 2004). Therefore, as with any use of force, the user must appropriately balance the actual risks inherent in the force option used against the exigencies presented by a particular incident.

Higher Risk Populations

ECD use on a pregnant, infirm, elderly, small child, or low body-mass index ("BMI") person could increase the risk of death or serious injury. ECD use has not been scientifically tested on these populations. The ECD should not be used on members of these populations unless the situation justifies possible higher risk of death or serious injury.

Muscle Contraction or Strain-Related Injury

ECDs can cause strong or moderate muscle contractions that may result in physical exertion, athletic, or sport-type injury, including, but not limited to, injuries such as: hernia rupture, dislocation, tear, or other injury to soft tissue, organ, muscle, tendon, ligament, nerve, bone, or joint; or injury or damage associated with or to orthopedic or other hardware. Fracture to bone, including compression fracture to vertebrae, may occur. These injuries may be more serious and more likely to occur in people with pre-existing injuries, orthopedic hardware, conditions or special susceptibilities, which include but are not limited to, known or unknown: pregnancy; osteopenia; osteoporosis; spinal injury; or previous muscle, disc, ligament, joint, bone, or tendon damage or surgery. Such injuries may also occur when a person reacts to the ECD deployment or discharge by making a rapid movement.

Seizure

Repetitive stimuli (e.g., flashing light or electrical stimuli) can induce seizure in some people. This risk may be increased in a person with a seizure history or if electrical stimuli pass through the head area. This may also result in a person falling with a possible secondary injury.

Stress and Pain

The ECD can cause temporary discomfort and pain which may result in stress, panic, anger, rage, or startle which may be injurious to some people and may cause adverse changes in blood chemistry. Additionally, anticipation of ECD exposure can cause stress, trepidation, panic, startle, or fear, which may also be injurious to some people.

Neurocardiogenic Response (Fainting)

A person may experience an exaggerated response to an ECD exposure, or threatened exposure, which may result in a person fainting or falling with possible secondary injury.

Incapacitation, Falling, and Startle Hazard

ECD use may cause muscular contraction, Neuro Muscular Incapacitation (NMI), startling, and falling, which could result in death or serious injury.

NMI and Secondary Injuries

An ECD may cause NMI if probes are within sufficient proximity to complete a circuit, with sufficient spread, and an adequate circuit is completed and maintained rendering the subject temporarily unable to control movement and may cause a fall or uncontrolled fall. Also, ECD use may cause a startle response. This loss of control or startle may increase risk of death or serious injury resulting from loss of balance, fall, uncontrolled fall, change in momentum, drowning, or loss of control of any mode of transportation, conveyance, or machinery. Especially at risk is a person who:

- Could fall and suffer impact injury to the head or other area;
- Is on an elevated or unstable surface (e.g., tree, roof, ladder, ledge, balcony, porch, bridge, crane, dock, chair, bunk bed, or stair);
- Is less able to catch or protect self in a fall (e.g., restrained, handcuffed, incapacitated, or immobilized);
- Could fall on a sharp object (e.g., holding a knife or other edged weapon or sharp object on ground);
- Is running, in motion, or moving under momentum;
- Is operating or riding in or on any mode of transportation (e.g., vehicle, bus, bicycle, motorcycle, cart, train, or airplane), conveyance (e.g., escalator, moving walkway, elevator, skateboard, skates, or rollerblades), or machinery;
- Is located in water, mud, or marsh environment if the ability to move is restricted; or
- Is physically infirm, elderly, or pregnant.

Safety Information: ECD Deployment and Use

⚠ WARNING

Minimize Repeated, Continuous, or Simultaneous[10] Exposures
Reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number of ECD exposures. ECD users should use the lowest number of ECD exposures that are objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and should reassess the subject's behaviors, reactions, and resistance level before initiating or continuing the exposure. If subject is non-compliant after a number of ECD exposures, consideration should be given to whether alternative control measures in conjunction with or separate from the ECD are appropriate under the circumstances.

Control and Restrain Immediately
Begin control and restraint procedures, including restraining the subject during ECD exposure, as soon as reasonably safe and practical to do so in order to minimize total ECD exposure. The ECD user, and those individuals assisting the user, should avoid touching the probes, wires, and the area between the probes to avoid accidental or unintended shock during ECD electrical discharge.

Other Conditions
Unrelated to ECD exposure, conditions such as excited delirium, severe exhaustion, drug intoxication or chronic drug abuse, and/or over-exertion from physical struggle may result in death or serious injury. Accordingly, it is advisable to use expedient physical restraint to minimize the overall duration of stress and exertion particularly on individuals exhibiting symptoms of superhuman strength, excited delirium and/or exhaustion.

Sensitive Body Part Hazard
When possible, avoid intentionally targeting the ECD on sensitive areas of the body such as the head, throat, chest/breast, or known pre-existing injury areas without legal justification. The preferred target areas are below the neck area for back shots and the lower center mass (below chest) for front shots. The preferred target areas increase dart-to-heart safety margin distance.[11]

Avoid Misuse
Use an ECD only for its intended purpose, in legally justifiable situations, and in accordance with user's agency's Guidance.

Never Confuse Handgun with ECD
Confusing a handgun with an ECD could result in death or serious injury. **ALWAYS** follow your agency's equipment carrying and holstering location Guidance and training regarding distinguishing between handguns, other weapons, and ECDs.

Trigger-Held Continuous Discharge
If an ECD's trigger is held back (on all but the X2 ECD with an APPM), it can continue to discharge beyond the 5-second cycle until the trigger is released or the power source is expended.

5-Second Discharge Cutoff and Trigger Reactivation Necessity for an X2 ECD with APPM
The X2 ECD may be programmed with an optional automatic shut-down feature (the APPM) that will stop a continual trigger discharge at 5 seconds (even if the user continues to hold back the trigger) and require an additional trigger pull by the user for an additional cycle. The X2 ECD programmed with the APPM emits an audible alert 4 seconds into the ECD output cycle. Under high stress circumstances or noisy environments, the user may not hear the audible warning.

Immediate Subject Reaction
A subject receiving an ECD discharge may immediately regain their physical and/or cognitive abilities upon cessation of the delivered ECD discharge.

Drive-Stun Mode is Usually Pain Compliance Only
The use of a handheld ECD in drive-stun mode is painful, but also is generally temporary, localized, and does not cause NMI.

ECD or Cartridge May Fail to Fire, Operate, or Be Effective
No weapons system, tool, technique, force option, or ECD is always effective. If an ECD, cartridge, or accessory is inoperable, fails to function, or the intended ECD application is ineffective in achieving the desired effect, consider reloading and redeploying, using other force options, disengaging, or using other alternatives according to agency Guidance. The failure of the ECD to fire, operate, or be effective could result in death or serious injury.

[10] "Simultaneous" means delivery to the body of electrical charge by multiple ECDs or multiple completed circuits at the same time.

[11] Proximity of the ECD electrical discharge to, or across, the heart has been identified as a principal concern for ECD-caused cardiac risks and safety.

Limited Effects
An ECD's effectiveness is determined by many factors including, but not limited to: absence of delivered electrical charge; probe locations; probe spread; subject's muscle mass; clothing; and movement. Even though a subject may be affected by an ECD in one part of his body the subject may maintain full muscle control of other portions of his body.

Probe Trajectory Deviations
Probe discharge, flight trajectory, and subject impact location can be affected by numerous factors, including but not limited to: failure of cartridge to properly deploy; strong air movements; officer and subject movements; or probe striking subject, clothing, or object with insufficient force or trajectory to penetrate or adhere to subject. Deviations can result in the ECD not being effective or being of limited effectiveness due to failure to complete the electrical circuit, a small probe spread, or failure to deliver a sufficient charge to the subject.

Prepare to Redeploy ECD or Use Backup Plan
Always prepare to redeploy the ECD or Use a backup plan. Be familiar with backup plans and acceptable alternatives in the event of ineffective deployment.

Fire and Explosion Hazard
ECD use could result in a fire or explosion when flammable gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or materials are present. An ECD can ignite explosive and flammable clothing or materials, liquids, fumes, gases, or vapors (e.g., gasoline, vapor or gas found in sewer lines or methamphetamine labs, butane-type lighters, or flammable hair gels). Do not knowingly use an ECD in the presence of any explosive or flammable substance without legal justification. Note that some self-defense sprays use a flammable carrier, such as alcohol.

Safety Information: Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection

⚠ WARNING

Eye Injury Hazard
If a TASER probe, electrode, or electrical discharge contacts or comes into close proximity to an eye it could result in serious injury, including permanent vision loss. DO NOT intentionally aim an ECD at the eye of a person or animal without justification.

LASER Light Could Result in Serious Eye Injury
The ECD uses a LASER as a targeting aid. Avoid intentionally aiming the LASER at the eye of a person or animal without justification. NEVER aim the LASER at aircraft or aircraft operator, or other moving vehicle.

Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection Hazard
ECD use may cause a mark, burn, scar, penetration, other skin, or tissue damage or infection. Provide First Aid and medical care as needed.

Scarring
Use of an ECD may cause irritation, puncture, mark, abrasion, rash, burn, keloid, or other scarring that may be permanent. This risk may be increased when using the M26 or X26 ECD in drive-stun mode with the cartridge removed or the X3 or X2 ECD in drive-stun mode due to the multiple sets of electrical contacts. The nature and severity of these effects depends on numerous factors including the area of exposure and method of application, individual susceptibility, and other circumstances surrounding ECD use, exposure, and after care.

Penetration Injury
The TASER probe has a small dart point which may cause a penetration injury to a blood vessel or internal organ (including lung, bone, or nerve). The probe or dart point (which may detach) can also puncture or become embedded into a bone, organ, or tissue, which may require immediate medical attention, surgical removal, or may result in scarring, infection, or other serious injury.

	**Penetration Injury Care** Injury due to penetration of the probe or dart point into a blood vessel, organ, nerve, or bone may require medical attention. A probe, dart point, or barb embedded in a sensitive area such as the eye, the genital area, breast, neck, throat, or vascular structure may cause serious injury and may require special medical attention and further evaluation.
	**Probe Removal** Probe removal may cause injury. Leaving a probe in the body may result in pain or injury. Follow your agency's Guidance and biohazard protocols for probe removal. In the case of embedment, organ or bone penetration, or probe, dart point, or barb detachment, immediate medical attention and possible surgical removal may be required.
	**Skin, Wound, or Infection Treatment** ECD use may cause a skin irritation, puncture wound, abrasion, mark, rash, burn, keloid or other scar which may require medical attention and may be permanent. As with any injury of this type, infection or tetanus and resulting complications may occur in some circumstances.
	**Biohazards** Utilize appropriate biohazard protocols and personal protective equipment including Body Substance Isolation procedures, gloves, masks, and washing of hands and exposed areas as necessary. Follow your agency's Guidance and appropriate biohazard, waste, and evidence protocols when dealing with biohazards.
	Untethered Discharged Probe In probe deployment, it is possible that a discharged probe that does not impact a subject or target may become untethered from the wire and travel a significant distance. A loose, untethered probe can cause serious injury.

Safety Information: General Precautions

⚠ WARNING	
	**Unintentional Deployment Hazard** Unintentional ECD activation could result in death or serious injury to the user, force recipient, and others. Follow and comply with the following instructions to reduce the risk of unintentional use, deployment, or activation.
	**Store In A Secure Location** Store ECDs, cartridges, and accessories in secure locations inaccessible to children and other unauthorized persons to prevent inappropriate use, which may result in death or serious injury to the user, other persons, or animals. ECDs and cartridges are weapons and are not toys.
	**Use Of ECD's Safety** Always place the ECD safety switch in the down (SAFE) position when the ECD is not in use. Remember to place ECD safety switch in the up (ARMED) position when you intend to use the ECD.
	**Assume ECD Is Loaded** Always assume that an ECD is loaded and capable of discharging. To avoid unexpected discharge, ensure that no live cartridge is in the ECD when inserting: a battery; CDPM, DPM, XDPM, PPM, TPPM, APPM, EPM, or TPM battery pack; TASER CAM™ recorder; or while performing spark tests (except when spark testing the X2 or X3 ECD), maintenance, data downloading, or battery charging.
	**Be Aware of ECD Trigger** Keep your finger off the trigger until it is legally justifiable to use the ECD.
	**Be Aware of X3 ECD's Deployment Mode** Be aware of the deployment mode (manual or semi-automatic) set on the X3 ECD before using that ECD.
	**Be Aware of X2 ECD Static (Fixed) LASER Mode** The X2 ECD has static dual LASERs. One LASER is intended to align with the top dart; the other LASER is designed to align with the bottom dart, both of which are set-up for 15' (4.6 m) to 25' (7.62 m) cartridges at a 15' distance from the target. The trajectory of the 35' (10.7 m) long range cartridge will not line up with the bottom LASER when placed in the X2 ECD.

	**Keep Body Parts Away From Front of ECD or Cartridge** Keep your hands and body parts away from the front of the ECD and cartridge, unless instructed otherwise. A discharging ECD or cartridge could result in serious injury.
	**Avoid Static Electricity** Keep the cartridge away from sources of static electricity. Static electricity can cause the ECD or X26 or M26 cartridge to discharge unexpectedly, which could result in serious injury.
	**Beware of Electronic Equipment Interference** Interference from electronic transmission equipment in close proximity to the ECD could interfere with the proper operation of the ECD and cause the ECD to discharge. Keep the ECD at least several inches away from other electronic equipment. Place the ECD safety switch in the down (SAFE) position whenever it is immediately adjacent to electronic equipment (including transmitting radios and cell phones). Remember to place the ECD safety switch in the up (ARMED) position prior to attempting use.
	**Avoid Dropping ECD or Cartridge** If an ECD or cartridge is dropped or damaged it may unintentionally deploy or discharge, become inoperable, or fail to function, making it unsafe for continued use. If an ECD or cartridge has been dropped or damaged, refer to the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.

Safety Information: Maintenance

⚠ WARNING	
	Failure to maintain an ECD as instructed may cause the ECD to malfunction or fail to function optimally and could result in death or serious injury. Follow and comply with the following instructions to reduce the risk of ECD malfunction, including failure.
	**Perform Spark Test Prior to Each Shift** ECDs must be safely spark tested prior to each shift. Spark testing helps verify operational functionality. See the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials for further information on spark testing.
	**Damaged ECD or Cartridge** Do not use a cartridge with a missing blast door unless facing an immediate threat. ECD repair or modification by an unauthorized person may cause the ECD to fire or malfunction, will void the warranty, and may put the user or other person at risk of death or serious injury. Cartridges with blast doors that have been repaired should only be used for training and not for field use.
	**Update ECD Software** Some ECDs, including the TASER X26, X2, and X3 ECDs, have the capability for software updating. It is important to acquire, update, and maintain the latest ECD software update. Current ECD software may be obtained by contacting TASER's Customer Service Department or following instructions at www.evidence.com.
	**Use Only TASER-Approved Components, Batteries, Accessories, and Cartridges** The ECD is a sophisticated electronic system. In order to provide proper function, only TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges are to be used with the ECD. Use of anything other than TASER-approved components, batteries, accessories, and cartridges will void the warranty, may cause malfunction, and may put the user or other person at risk of death or serious injury.
	**Avoid Exposure to Wet Conditions** If the ECD is drenched or immersed in water or other liquid, DO NOT use, or attempt to use, the ECD until completing the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.

Safety Information: Hazardous Substances

⚠ WARNING

Hazardous Substances

The ECD contains components that contain chemicals known to the State of California and others to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not disassemble. Refer to your agency's Guidance for proper handling and disposal.