








# TASER® Shockwave™ ECD Warnings, Instructions, and Information Law Enforcement

## Important ECD Product Safety and Health Information

These safety warnings are for your protection as well as the safety of others. Disregarding this information could result in death or serious injury.<sup>1</sup>

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	<p><b>Complete Training First</b> Significant differences exist between each of the TASER International, Inc. (“TASER”) Electronic Control Device (“ECD”) models. Do not Use<sup>2</sup> or attempt to Use any ECD model unless you have been trained and certified by a Certified TASER Instructor<sup>3</sup> on that particular model.</p>
	<p><b>Read and Obey</b> Read, study, understand, and follow all instructions, warnings, information, training bulletins and TASER training materials<sup>4</sup> before Using the TASER Shockwave ECD. 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.</p>
	<p><b>Obey Applicable Laws</b> Use the Shockwave ECD only in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and other regulations or legal requirements. Your law enforcement agency's Guidance<sup>5</sup> must also be followed.<sup>6</sup> Any Use of an ECD must be legally justifiable. Resistance to law enforcement interaction incurs substantial risk of death or serious injury and subjects who resist law enforcement assume all such risks of death or serious injury.</p>
<p><b>These warnings are effective November 30, 2011, and supersede all prior revisions and relevant Training Bulletins.</b> The most current warnings are online at <a href="http://www.TASER.com">www.TASER.com</a>. <b>This warning label appears on newer ECD models.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>This warning label appears on newer ECD models.</i></p>	

<sup>1</sup> These warnings are state of the art but cannot address all possible Shockwave ECD application circumstances or permutations. They are intended to inform Users about reasonably foreseeable potential risks of harm. The decision to Use the Shockwave ECD in a particular manner or circumstance must follow applicable legal standards. These warnings do not create a standard of care. Herein, the singular is also the plural, the plural includes the singular, and the masculine is also the feminine.

<sup>2</sup> The terms “Use,” “Used,” “Using,” or “User” 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 a Shockwave ECD.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Current TASER Instructor Training materials may be obtained by contacting TASER's Training Department.

<sup>5</sup> Law enforcement agencies are force and force tools experts and are solely responsible for their own Guidance. “Guidance” includes, but is not limited to, policy, procedure, rule, order, directive, training, continuum, and standard. TASER has no power or authority to mandate or require Guidance, set policy, or establish standards of care or conduct.

<sup>6</sup> Law enforcement agencies, government entities, and Users are sophisticated purchasers, sophisticated users, and learned intermediaries with respect to law enforcement weapons (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 Shockwave ECD deployment, intended Use, side effects, and environment of Use.

Confronting, apprehending, capturing, controlling, restraining, incapacitating, and taking persons into custody are often high risk events that could result in death or serious injury.

When lawfully Used as directed, Shockwave 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, physical exertion, capture, control, restraint, or incapacitation involves risks that a person may get hurt or die.<sup>7</sup>

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 Shockwave ECD is Used and to enhance safe operation of the Shockwave ECD.















The signal word WARNING indicates a 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 Shockwave ECD. WARNINGS may be followed by instructions and information integral to the WARNING.

## Safety Information: ECD Deployment and Use

 <b>WARNING</b>	
	<p><b>Minimize Repeated, Continuous, or Simultaneous<sup>8</sup> Exposures</b></p> <p>Reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the number of Shockwave ECD exposures. There is an increased risk of probe hits from multiple cartridges to a target at distances less than 7 feet (2.1 m) from the Shockwave ECD or when multiple Shockwave ECDs are deployed. Shockwave ECD Users should use the lowest number of Shockwave ECD exposures that are objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and should reassess the subject's resistance level before initiating or continuing the exposure.</p>
	<p><b>Control and Restrain Immediately</b></p> <p>Begin control and restraint procedures, including restraining the subject during Shockwave ECD exposure, as soon as reasonably safe and practical to do so in order to minimize total Shockwave ECD exposure. The Shockwave 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 Shockwave ECD electrical discharge.</p>
	<p><b>Sensitive Body Part Hazard</b></p> <p>When possible, avoid intentionally targeting the Shockwave 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 the lower center mass (below chest) for front shots and below the neck area for back shots.</p>
	<p><b>Targeting</b></p> <p>The Shockwave ECD is not an aimed device and is intended as a barrage fire, area denial system. The risk of hitting the head, face, or throat is greater for persons 68 inches (172.2 centimeters ("cm")) tall or shorter at distances approaching 25 feet (7.62 meters ("m")).</p>

<sup>7</sup> "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).  
<sup>8</sup> "Simultaneous" means delivery to the body of electrical charge by multiple ECDs or multiple completed circuits at the same time.

	<p><b>Perform Spark Test Prior to Each Use</b> Shockwave ECDs must be safely spark tested prior to each use.</p>
	<p><b>Avoid Misuse</b> Use a Shockwave ECD only for its intended purpose, in legally justifiable situations, and in accordance with User's agency's Guidance.</p>
	<p><b>Be Aware of Trigger-Held Continuous Discharge</b> If a Shockwave ECD's trigger button is held down it can continue to discharge beyond the 5-second cycle until the trigger button is released or the power source is expended.</p>
	<p><b>Be Aware that a Shockwave ECD or Cartridge may Fail to Fire, Operate, or be Effective</b> No weapons system, tool, technique, or Shockwave ECD is always effective. If a Shockwave ECD, cartridge, or accessory is inoperable, fails to function, or the intended Shockwave 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 Shockwave ECD to fire, operate, or be effective could result in death or serious injury.</p>
	<p><b>Prepare to Redeploy Shockwave ECD or Use Backup Plan</b> Always prepare to redeploy the Shockwave ECD or Use a backup plan. Be familiar with backup plans and acceptable alternatives in the event of ineffective deployment.</p>
	<p><b>Use only 15', 21' or 25' TASER Cartridges</b> Only 15-foot, 21-foot, and 25-foot TASER cartridges should be used with the Shockwave ECD. DO NOT use 35-foot TASER cartridges with the Shockwave ECD.</p>
	<p><b>Charge the Battery Before Use</b> The Shockwave Power Magazine (SPM) must be charged prior to use. The switch guard must be in the down (SAFE) position when recharging the SPM.</p>
	<p><b>Incapacitation, Falling, and Startle Hazard</b> Shockwave ECD Use may cause muscular contraction, Neuro Muscular Incapacitation ("NMI"), startling, and falling, which could result in death or serious injury.</p>
 	<p><b>NMI and Secondary Injuries</b> A Shockwave 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. Also, Shockwave 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, change in momentum, drowning, or loss of control of any mode of transportation, conveyance, or machinery. Especially at risk is a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• could fall and suffer impact injury to the head or other sensitive area;</li> <li>• is on an elevated or unstable surface (e.g., tree, roof, ladder, ledge, balcony, porch, bridge, crane, dock, chair, bunk bed, or stair);</li> <li>• is less able to catch or protect self in a fall (e.g., restrained, handcuffed, incapacitated, or immobilized);</li> <li>• could fall on a sharp object (e.g., holding a knife or other edged weapon or sharp object on ground);</li> <li>• is running, in motion, or moving under momentum;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• is located in water, mud, or marsh environment if the ability to move is restricted; or</li> <li>• is physically infirm, elderly, or pregnant.</li> </ul>
 	<p><b>Eye Injury Hazard</b> 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.</p>



### Fire and Explosion Hazard



Shockwave ECD Use could result in a fire or explosion when flammable gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or materials are present. A Shockwave 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 a Shockwave 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: 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.



#### Muscle Contraction or Strain-Related Injury

Shockwave ECDs can cause strong or moderate muscle contractions that may result in physical exertion, athletic, or sport-type injury, including, but not limited to, injury such as hernia, rupture, dislocation, tear, or other injury to soft tissue, organ, muscle, tendon, ligament, nerve, bone, or joint. 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, 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 Shockwave ECD deployment or discharge by making a rapid movement.



#### Physiologic or Metabolic Effects

The Shockwave ECD can produce physiologic or metabolic effects which include, but are not limited to, changes in: acidosis; adrenergic states; blood pressure; calcium, creatine kinase ("CK"); electrolytes (including potassium), heart rate and rhythm; lactic acid; myoglobin; pH; respiration; stress hormones or other biochemical neuromodulators (e.g., catecholamines). Reasonable effort should be made to minimize the number of Shockwave ECD exposures and resulting physiologic and metabolic effects. In human studies of electrical discharge from a single Shockwave ECD of up to 15 seconds, these 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.



#### Higher Risk Populations

Shockwave 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. Shockwave ECD Use has not been scientifically tested on these populations. The Shockwave ECD should not be Used on members of these populations unless the situation justifies possible higher risk of death or serious injury.





#### Physiologically or Metabolically Compromised Persons

Law enforcement personnel are called upon to deal with individuals in crises 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, sensitization to arrhythmias, etc), 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 Shockwave 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.












#### Neurocardiogenic Response (Fainting)











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

	<p><b>Seizure</b>  Repetitive stimuli (e.g., flashing light or electrical stimuli) can induce seizure in some people. This risk may be increased in a person with seizure history or if electrical stimuli pass through the head area. This may also result in a person falling with a possible secondary injury.</p>
	<p><b>Stress and Pain</b>  The Shockwave ECD can cause temporary discomfort, pain, stress, panic, or startle which may be injurious to some people. Anticipation of Shockwave ECD exposure can cause stress, trepidation, panic, startle, or fear, which may also be injurious to some people.</p>



## Safety Information: Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection




 <b>WARNING</b>	
 <b>Probe or Electrode Injury or Infection Hazard</b> Shockwave ECD Use may cause a mark, burn, scar, penetration, other skin, or tissue damage or infection. Provide First Aid and medical care as needed.	
	<p><b>Scarring</b>  Use of a Shockwave ECD may cause irritation, puncture, mark, abrasion, rash, burn, keloid, or other scarring that may be permanent. The nature and severity of these effects depends on the area of exposure and method of application, individual susceptibility, and other circumstances surrounding Shockwave ECD Use, exposure, and after care.</p>
	<p><b>Penetration Injury</b>  The TASER probe has a small dart point which may cause a penetration injury to 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.</p>
	<p><b>Penetration Injury Care</b>  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.</p>
	<p><b>Probe Removal</b>  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.</p>
	<p><b>Skin, Wound, or Infection Treatment</b>  Shockwave 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 may occur in some circumstances.</p>
	<p><b>Biohazards</b>  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.</p>
	<p><b>Untethered Discharged Probe</b>  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.</p>

## Safety Information: General Precautions


 <b>WARNING</b>	
 <b>Unintentional Deployment Hazard</b> Unintentional Shockwave 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.	
	<b>Store In A Secure Location</b> Store Shockwave 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. Shockwave ECDs, cartridges, and accessories are weapons and are not toys.
	<b>Use Of ECD Safety</b> Always place the Shockwave ECD safety switch in the unarmed position when not in Use. Remember to place the ECD safety switch in the armed position when you intend to Use the Shockwave ECD.
	<b>Assume ECD Is Loaded</b> Always assume that a Shockwave ECD is loaded and capable of discharging. To avoid unexpected discharge, ensure that no live cartridge is in the Shockwave ECD when inserting a battery or while performing spark tests, maintenance, or battery charging.
	<b>Avoid Unintentional Activation</b> Keep finger off the red trigger button until it is legally justifiable to use the Shockwave ECD. In the event of an accidental discharge, moving the switch guard to the down (SAFE) position will immediately stop the discharge cycle.
	<b>Keep Body Parts Away From Front of Shockwave ECD or Cartridge</b> Keep your hands and body parts away from the front of the Shockwave ECD and cartridge, unless instructed otherwise. A discharging Shockwave ECD or cartridge could result in serious injury.
	<b>Avoid Static Electricity</b> Keep the cartridge away from sources of static electricity. Static electricity can cause the Shockwave ECD or cartridge to discharge unexpectedly, which could result in serious injury.
	<b>Beware of Electronic Equipment Interference</b> Interference from electronic transmission equipment in close proximity to the Shockwave ECD could interfere with the proper operation of the Shockwave ECD and cause the Shockwave ECD to discharge. Keep the Shockwave ECD at least several inches away from other electronic equipment. Place the Shockwave ECD safety switch in the unarmed position whenever it is immediately adjacent to electronic equipment (including transmitting radios and cell phones). Remember to place the Shockwave ECD safety switch in the armed position prior to attempting Use.
	<b>Avoid Dropping Shockwave ECD or Cartridge</b> If a Shockwave 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 a Shockwave 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



 <b>WARNING</b>	
	Failure to maintain a Shockwave ECD as instructed may cause the Shockwave 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 Shockwave ECD malfunction, including failure.

	<p><b>Damaged Shockwave ECD or Cartridge</b> Do not use a cartridge with a missing blast door unless facing an immediate threat. Shockwave ECD repair or modification by an unauthorized person may cause the Shockwave ECD to fire or malfunction, will void the warranty, and may put the User or other person at risk of death or serious injury.</p>
	<p><b>Use Only TASER-Approved Components, Batteries, Accessories, and Cartridges</b> The Shockwave 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 Shockwave 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.</p>
	<p><b>Avoid Exposure to Wet Conditions</b> If the Shockwave ECD is drenched or immersed in water or other liquid, DO NOT Use the ECD until completing the procedure recommended in the current version of the TASER Instructor Training materials.</p>

## Safety Information: Hazardous Substances


**WARNING**

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**Hazardous Substances**  
The Shockwave 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.