TASER TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the TASER device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training. Any personnel who have not carried the TASER device as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a department-approved TASER device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been issued TASER devices should occur every year. A reassessment of an officer’s knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Training Manager. All training and proficiency for TASER devices will be documented in the officer’s training file. Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive TASER device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry TASER devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device. The Training Manager is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry TASER devices have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification. Application of TASER devices during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Training Manager should ensure that all training includes:

a) A review of this policy.
b) A review of the Use of Force Policy.
c) Performing weak-hand draws or cross-draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing and firing a firearm.
d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin.
e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the TASER device and transitioning to other force options.
f) De-escalation techniques.
g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the TASER device.