



Greenville, South Carolina Police Department

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I. POLICY

The policy of the Greenville Police Department is to provide officers with options for controlling combative or uncooperative subjects in a manner that minimizes the risk of injury to both officers and resistive subjects. The M26 Advanced Taser is a proven device for controlling combative and uncooperative subjects with minimal risk of injury. The M26 Advanced Taser is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques. The M26 Advanced Taser falls into the category of less lethal force options and is intended to supplement other weapons in this category.

II. DEFINITIONS

M26 Advanced Taser: A 26 watt hand held Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) device manufactured by TASER International. The device fires two probes a distance of up to 21 feet from a replaceable Air Cartridge. The probes are connected to the weapon by a high-voltage insulated wire. Electrical pulses are sent along the wires to the probes with the intended effect being to temporarily incapacitate the targeted subject.

Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD): A device which is designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject by delivering electrical pulses to the person. The electrical pulses are intended to completely override the central nervous system and directly control the skeletal muscles. The EMD effect is intended to cause an uncontrollable contraction of the muscle tissue, physically debilitating the targeted subject regardless of pain tolerance or mental focus.

Air Cartridge: The replaceable cartridge of the M26 Advanced Taser which contains and fires the electrical probes. The Air Cartridge has two probes on the front allowing it to be used as a contact device. When the Air Cartridge is removed the M26 Taser can also be used as a contact EMD device. The Air Cartridge has an expiration date and ejects 40 AFID identification tags when fired.

AFID: Small identification tags ejected from the Air Cartridge when the M26 Advanced Taser is fired. The AFIDs have the individual unit s' serial number printed on them allowing identification of which unit was fired.

Data Port: A computer data port located at the back of the M26 Advanced Taser which allows data to be downloaded from the device. Each time the device is fired it stores the time and date it was fired.

III. PROCEDURE

A. M26 Advanced Tasers will only be issued and used by officers who have successfully completed the Greenville Police Department s'Advanced Taser training program. Trained officers must go through annual retraining in order to continue to carry and use the device.

B. The M26 Advanced Taser is considered to be a less lethal force option which is on the same level as chemicals (i.e. O C Spray) on the Force Continuum. The M26 Advanced Taser is to be used only for controlling combative or resistive subjects.

C. Officers issued the M26 Advanced Taser will carry the device in the issued holster on their weak side in accordance with M26 Advanced Taser training.

D. Officers issued the M26 Advanced Taser are responsible for ensuring that the device is fully operational at all times. This includes ensuring that the unit is fully charged, the Air Cartridge has not expired, and all components are fully operational.

E. Deploying the M26 Advanced Taser:

1. The M26 Advanced Taser is considered to be a less lethal force option which is on the same level as OC Spray on the Force Continuum. Officers may elect to deploy the M26 Advanced Taser in circumstances which meet the criteria outlined by the Greenville Police Department s' Use of Force policy.

2. The M26 Advanced Taser can be used at a distance up to 21 feet, however the optimum distance is 7 to 10 feet. The device is equipped with both laser and fixed sights. The top probe will follow the sight of the device and the bottom probe will drop at an 8 degree angle, dropping approximately one foot for every seven feet of travel.

3. The device should be aimed at the center body mass of the intended target. The device should not be deliberately aimed at the face, neck or groin area.

4. The M26 Advanced Taser is programmed to give a five second burst. The duration of the burst may be shortened by depressing the safety lever at the officer s' discretion. Additional bursts may be administered by pulling the trigger

if the targeted subject is not controlled by the initial burst. The M26 Advanced Taser can be used as a contact device either with or without the Air Cartridge installed.

F. Considerations Deploying the M26 Advanced Taser:

1. The M26 Advanced Taser has the ability to ignite flammable liquids. The device is not to be deployed at subjects who have come into contact with flammable liquids or in environments where flammable liquids are obviously present.
2. Consideration should be given and care taken in situations where the targeted subject is likely to experience a fall from an elevated position when struck by the device.
3. Officers should not touch the wires of the device while the unit is discharging or they may receive electrical shocks from the device.
4. If the subject attempts to run the deploying officer should run with the subject if possible in order to avoid breaking the wires. Tactical and officer safety considerations should be constantly evaluated under these circumstances.

G. Actions Following Deployment of the M26 Advanced Taser:

1. The targeted subject should be restrained as soon as possible following deployment of the M26 Advanced Taser.
2. Dispatch should be notified and a supervisor requested following deployment of the M26 Advanced Taser.
3. An EMS unit will be dispatched to the scene following deployment of the M26 Advanced Taser.
4. EMS personnel will be requested to remove the probes which have penetrated the subject's skin. The subject will be treated by EMS. The probes will be considered contaminated sharps and disposed of accordingly. If the probes penetrate sensitive areas of the body such as the face, neck, groin, or other area the subject will be transported to a medical facility to have the probes removed by medical personnel.
5. The subject and any marks left by the M26 Advanced Taser probes will be photographed. Photographic documentation should be done by ID technicians but may be done with an available camera if an ID technician is not available at the decision of a supervisor. This may be done at the scene, medical facility or the Detention Center.

6. Following Deployment of the M26 Advanced Taser data will be downloaded from the device for documentation purposes. A supervisor can download data from the taser s data port. Once the data has been downloaded successfully the supervisor will install a new Air Cartridge and reissue the Taser to the officer. If a supervisor is unable to download the data then the Taser will be placed into Property and Evidence so that the data from the device can be downloaded. After the data has been downloaded the device will be reissued to the officer with a new Air Cartridge installed.

7. Deployment of the M26 Advanced Taser must be documented by an Incident Report and a Use of Force form.

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