

Inver Grove Heights Police Policy Manual		Subject: Conducted Electrical Weapon		
Effective: August 1, 2018	Policy Number: 18-02.03	Replaced Policy Number: N/A	Page: 1	

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I. PURPOSE:

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of the conducted electrical weapon (CEW) device.

II. POLICY:

The CEW is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

III. ISSUANCE AND CARRYING:

- A. Only department personnel who have successfully completed department approved training may be issued and carry the CEW.
- B. CEWs are issued to department personnel.
- C. Department personnel shall only use the CEW and cartridges that have been issued by the Department. Officers who have been issued the CEW shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person.
- D. Members carrying the CEW should perform a spark test on the unit prior to every shift.
- E. When carried while in uniform, officers shall carry the CEW in a weak-side holster on the side opposite the duty weapon. It is recommended that officers draw the CEW with their non-dominant hand.
 - 1. All CEWs shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
 - 2. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued CEW is properly maintained and in good working order.
 - 3. Officers should not hold both a firearm and the CEW at the same time.
- F. When carried while in plain clothes, officer will maintain physical control of the CEW at all times.
 - 1. Follow above section III E (1-3).

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IV. VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS:

- A. A verbal warning of the intended use of the CEW should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:
 - 1. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
 - 2. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the CEW may be deployed.
- B. If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided that a cartridge has not been loaded into the device), or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the CEW. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.
- C. The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the CEW in the related report.

V. USE OF CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON:

- A. The CEW has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The CEW should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the CEW is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.
- B. Application of the CEW
 - 1. The CEW may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:
 - a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
 - b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.
 - c) Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the CEW to apprehend an individual.
- C. Special Deployment Considerations
 - 1. The use of the CEW on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

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- a) Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
 - b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
 - c) Individuals with obviously low body mass.
 - d) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
 - e) Individuals on an elevated level.
 - f) Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any known combustible vapor or flammable material, including alcohol-based chemical aerosol weapons.
 - g) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).
2. Because the application of the CEW in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without probes) relies primarily on pain compliance, the use of the drive-stun mode generally should be limited to supplementing the probe-mode to complete the circuit, or as a distraction technique to gain separation between officers and the subject, thereby giving officers time and distance to consider other force options or actions.
 3. The CEW shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

D. Targeting Considerations

1. When feasible reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the CEW probes to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

E. Multiple Applications of the CEW

1. Officers should apply the CEW for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles. When officers deploy the CEW, assisting officer(s) should handcuff the individual while the CEW is discharging. This should likely decrease the need for additional CEW applications. Multiple applications of the CEW against a single individual are not allowed except when the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.
2. If the first application of the CEW appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the CEW, including:
 - a) Whether the probes are making proper contact.
 - b) Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.

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- c) Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.
3. Officers should not intentionally apply more than one CEW at a time against a single subject.

F. Actions Following Deployments

1. Officers shall notify a supervisor of all CEW discharges. The expended cartridge, along with both probes and wire, should be photographed. This photograph should include the cartridge serial number.

G. Dangerous Animals

1. The CEW may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective. Officers should plan on a restraint device to be applied to the animal if it is to be transported.

H. Off-Duty Considerations

1. Officers are not authorized to carry department CEWs while off-duty.
2. Officers shall ensure that CEWs are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

VI. DOCUMENTATION:

A. Officers shall document all CEW discharges, unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person, laser activation and arcing the device completely and accurately in an appropriate report (incident, supplemental, aggression/resistance form, etc.). Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy.

B. Reports

1. The officer should include the following in the narrative report:
2. Identification of all personnel firing CEWs.
3. Identification of all witnesses.
4. Medical care provided to the subject.
5. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions.
6. Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems.

VII. MEDICAL TREATMENT:

A. Absent extenuating circumstances, officers may remove CEW probes from a person's body. Used CEW probes shall be treated as a sharps bio-hazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

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- B. Officers must examine probe upon removal to determine if the probe is intact. Probes are to be photographed as indicated in section 5, F(1) and disposed of properly. Photographs of probe sites and any additional injuries should be taken.
- C. All persons who have been struck by CEW probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be offered medical assistance and closely monitored by the officer to determine any need for medical attention or changes in condition prior to booking. Officers should remain vigilant about excited delirium and other health factors.
- D. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:
 - 1. The person may be pregnant.
 - 2. The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention or condition has changed.
 - 3. The CEW probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
 - 4. The person requests medical treatment.
- E. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress shall be transported by ambulance to a medical facility for examination. Any individual who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking.
- F. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.
- G. The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the CEW.

VIII. SUPERVISORS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the CEW may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the CEW was activated.
- B. A supervisor will review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the CEW. The device's onboard memory should be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor and forwarded to the Use of Force Coordinator with the Aggression/Resistance form.

IX. TRAINING:

- A. The Training Manager shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a CEW have been properly trained to carry the CEW and are retrained as necessary. Personnel will receive training on the use of the CEW and this policy, including the

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- learning objectives as provided by POST, at least annually (MN Statute 626.8452, Subd. 3).
- B. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Use of Force Coordinator. All training and proficiency for CEWs will be documented in the officer's training file.
 - C. Officers who do not carry CEWs should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.
 - D. Voluntary exposures of CEWs during training can result in injury to personnel and is not mandatory for training.
 - E. The Use of Force Coordinator should ensure that all training includes:
 - 1. A review of this policy.
 - 2. A review of the Use of Force Policy.
 - 3. Performing non-dominant hand draws to reduce the possibility of accidentally drawing and firing a firearm.
 - 4. Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the accidental application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin.
 - 5. Handcuffing a subject during the application of the CEW and transitioning to other force options.
 - 6. De-escalation techniques.
 - 7. Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the CEW.