



# Critical Event CEW Checklist / Analysis and Evidence Collection Checklist

This checklist is intended to be a wide-ranging list of evidentiary items your agency may desire to gather as part of an investigation involving the use of a TASER conducted energy weapon (CEW). Each agency will determine its own investigation procedures and practices.

Event date and time: \_\_\_\_\_  
CEW Operator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Department Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject's Information:

- ☐ Gender
- ☐ Age
- ☐ Height
- ☐ Weight
- ☐ Build (very thin, skinny, medium build, muscular, large, overweight, obese)
- ☐ Dispatched information regarding the subject
- ☐ Officer's observations of subject
- ☐ Subject's information reported to officer (by subject or witnesses on scene)
- ☐ Pre-event behaviors of the subject
- ☐ Post-event behaviors post the last application of the CEW, (e.g., talking, resisting, standing up, sitting up, cuffed, unconscious, cooperative, etc.)
- ☐ Type of physical exertion by the subject (running, fighting, pacing, throwing objects, resisting, struggling, etc.)
- ☐ Duration of the subject's physical exertion
- ☐ Under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- ☐ Emotionally disturbed person (EDP), mental illness, or serious psychological distress (SPD)
- ☐ Did the subject experience loss of consciousness
- ☐ If subject experienced loss of consciousness, what is the time gap between conclusion of CEW discharge and loss of consciousness – be as specific as possible timing wise.
- ☐ All signs of life (pulse, breathing, moaning, groaning, talking, etc.) after conclusion of CEW discharge
- ☐ Subject's criminal history
- ☐ Subject's drug history
- ☐ Subject's medical history (e.g., diabetic, history of epilepsy or seizure)
- ☐ Subject's psychiatric history
- ☐ Subject's prescription history (including compliance)
- ☐ Subject's rehab history

## If a death occurred temporal to the CEW use:

- ☐ Obtain hair and nail samples for forensic and medical testing
- ☐ Obtain pre-mortem body core temperature
- ☐ Obtain pre-mortem blood samples
- ☐ Obtain post-mortem body core temperature as soon after death as reasonable
- ☐ Obtain post-mortem fluid samples (including where, when, how taken) (drug redistribution concerns)
- ☐ Obtain annotated timeline of events between CEW deployment and time of death:
  - o Whether or not the subject was initially responsive (walking, talking, etc.) after CEW exposure(s) and if so, for how long. List the complete record of signs of life post-CEW use.
  - o Length of time between the CEW exposure and subject's collapse. Approximate time that subject went into distress (or died) after the last CEW deployment

**Data Downloads:** As soon as reasonable, download the CEW data and reset the clock if necessary, to account for any time drift. Also download all recording devices that may have captured the incident. For best chain of custody record, security safeguards, and ease of use, it is recommended that all data and video be uploaded to Axon Evidence (Evidence.com) services.

Contact Bryan Chiles regarding clock or data downloads at: w: 480-502-6260, c: 602-384-8417 or email: [bchiles@axon.com](mailto:bchiles@axon.com).



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- ☐ Collect each CEW used or present at incident for data download and time drift correction
- ☐ Record each CEW model and serial number
- ☐ Record each CEW cartridge model and serial number
- ☐ Identify which CEWs were used/deployed during incident
- ☐ Download all audio and video recordings from incident (including on-officer and in-vehicle recordings)
- ☐ Download each CEW present at the incident (agency should determine if it will provide a copy of the CEW's data download to the CEW user before the officer is required to provide a force report.)
- ☐ Perform a time synchronization for each CEW present at the incident to correct for any clock time drift
- ☐ Consider placing each CEW used on subject into evidence during investigation
- ☐ Consider testing the CEW's electrical output to determine if it was operating within the manufacturer's specifications

## Acquire any time stamped logs/information:

- ☐ 911 and agency dispatch time logs and recordings
- ☐ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dispatch and time logs
- ☐ Hospital emergency room (ER) dispatch and time logs
- ☐ Other time stamped/logs

## Create annotated timeline of the incident:

- ☐ Create annotated timeline of all reasonably accurate documented times regarding the incident
- ☐ Collect any relevant body-worn camera, in-car and/or CCTV video

## Record how each CEW was used during the incident:

- ☐ What specific model type of CEW was deployed (e.g., TASER M26, X26, X3, XREP, X2, X26P or TASER 7)
- ☐ CEW drawn from holster
- ☐ CEW pointed at subject
- ☐ CEW LASER activated at subject
- ☐ CEW Warning Arc
- ☐ CEW drive-stun without the cartridge(s)
- ☐ CEW drive-stun with the cartridge(s) but without any probes attached
- ☐ CEW probe deployment (one set of probes)
- ☐ CEW probe deployment (two sets of probes from a single CEW)
- ☐ CEW probe deployment (two sets of probes from two separate CEWs)
- ☐ CEW three-point deployment (with single probe connection)
- ☐ CEW three-point deployment (with both probes from single cartridge connection)
- ☐ CEW multi-point deployment (with multiple cartridges/probes from single CEW with X-Connect technology)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional evidence identification and collection:

- ☐ Photos of wounds, probe impacts, and/or drive-stun marks (with scale for reference in the photo)
- ☐ Photos of subject to document where injuries are present and where injuries are not present
- ☐ Keep the original battery in the CEW (certain CEW models require the battery to always remain inserted to keep the integrity of the CEW's internal clock).
- ☐ Keep the cartridge probes and wires. Do not let EMS place probes in sharps containers for disposal. Do not wind the wire up – maintain wire integrity as best as possible.
- ☐ Collect AFID tags from the TASER cartridge(s) and note their locations at the scene. If TASER 7 unit was deployed, charge battery in dock and determine the cartridge numbers on Axon Evidence.
- ☐ Collect and maintain as evidence the subject's clothing if a probe penetrated or was attached to the clothing or for later analysis of potential probe impact sites.



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## Record the TASER CEW Deployment Circumstances:

- ☐ Officer's objective for each CEW deployment or discharge
- ☐ Any CEW discharge after subject surrendered
- ☐ Any CEW discharge after subject handcuffed or otherwise restrained (and note the type of restraint)
- ☐ Any spark/function tests during the incident
- ☐ Any cartridge removal during the incident
- ☐ Any cartridge reattachment on CEW after removal during the incident
- ☐ Any cartridge discarded after removal from CEW during the incident
- ☐ CEW discharge duration(s), and number of cycle(s), with/without cartridge in place, mode of deployment
- ☐ Distance from the front of the CEW cartridge to the subject at the time of the probe deployment(s)
- ☐ For each probe deployment:
  - ☐ Did probe(s) from a cartridge contact the subject or the subject's clothing
  - ☐ Did probe(s) penetrate the skin
  - ☐ Specific location of each probe that contact the subject (see diagram below) and distance in inches between the probes
  - ☐ Match up probes and clearly identify if more than one probe deployment
  - ☐ Distance between the probes (probe spread) for each pair of probes
  - ☐ For multi-shot CEWs, were probes from more than 1 cartridge part of the same deployment cycle
  - ☐ Did any probe land or fall on the ground; if so, record the type of surface the probe fell onto and save and mark the probe
- ☐ For each drive-stun discharge, note any drive-stun follow-up to a probe deployment or any combination of the probes and drive-stun used together
- ☐ For each drive-stun discharge, was the drive-stun with or without expended cartridge in place on CEW
- ☐ Effectiveness of the discharge (did subject respond as expected, was there a change in the subject's behavior). If the CEW did not perform as expected, the reason for ineffectiveness (e.g., single probe hit, a probe clothing disconnect, intermittent connection, wire breakage, low muscle-mass deployment, small spread between the probes [less than 12 inches], low or dead battery pack, CEW dropped, CEW subjected to a high-moisture (wet) environment, etc.).
- ☐ Any other use of force employed on the subject other than a CEW, if so what type(s)
- ☐ Weather/environmental conditions

## If an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), defibrillator, or heart monitor was used on the subject:

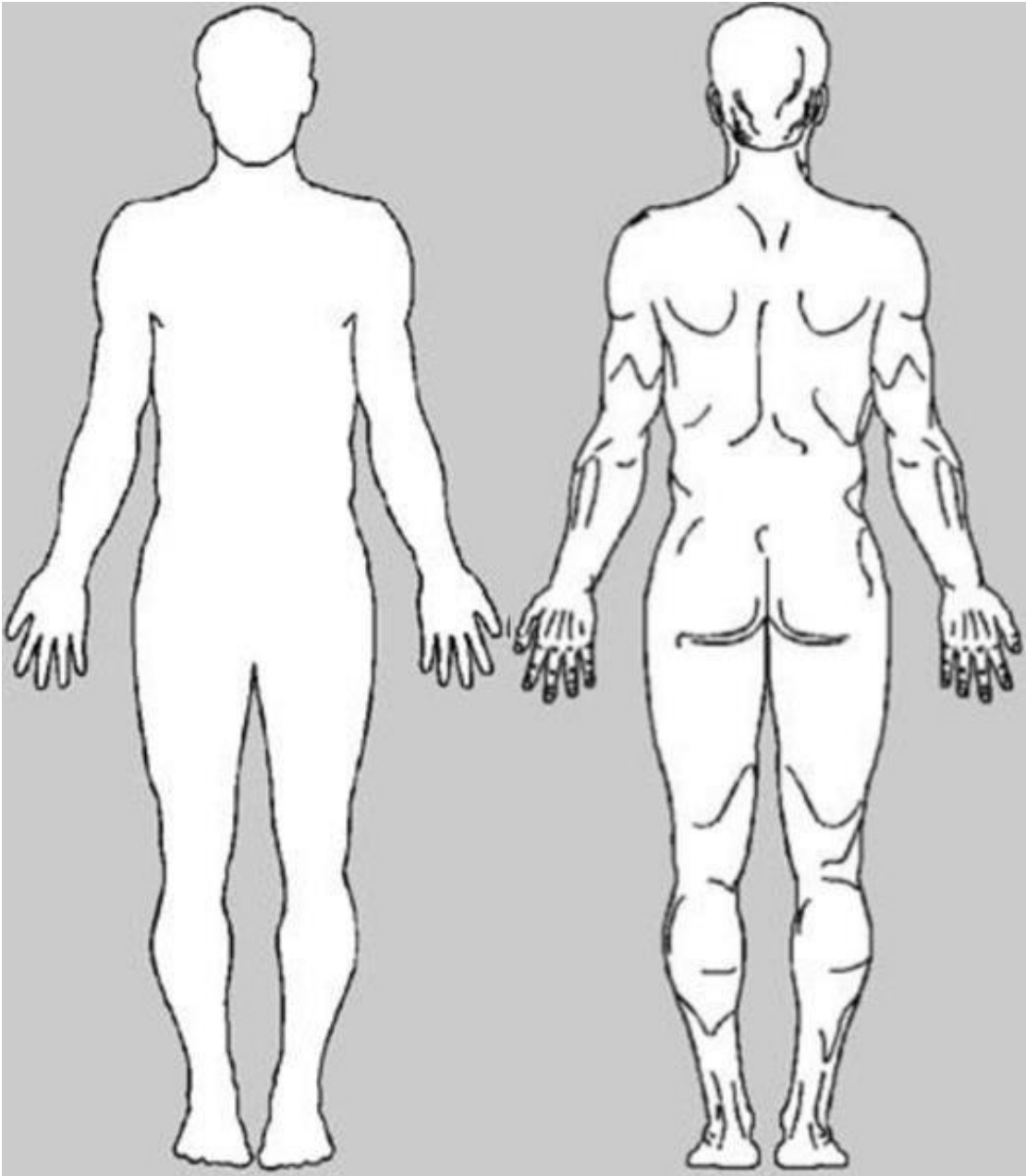
- ☐ Type of device used, manufacturer, model number, serial number, and who owns the device
- ☐ Recorded cardiac rhythms and times of each monitored or recorded rhythm
- ☐ Did the device indicate a shockable rhythm?
- ☐ Did the device operator deliver a "manual" defibrillation shock and if so, how many shocks?
- ☐ Did the device shock the subject and, if so, what was the cardiac rhythm after each shock?
- ☐ Did the device report "no shock?"
- ☐ Obtain a printout of the strips and event records from the device
- ☐ Obtain an electronic download of the event from the device
- ☐ Obtain a maintenance download from the device

**See chart on next page for probe/drive-stun locations**



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Clearly and accurately mark the paired locations of the probe or drive-stun exposures



When using the diagram, please indicate the distance in inches between the probe locations. Be sure to clearly identify both the top and bottom probes (consider using "OT" for the top probe and "OB" for the bottom probe; an "X" for a drive-stun; and a "3X" for a 3-point discharge. For multiple deployments use OT and OB; OT2 and OB2; OT3 and OB3; etc.)

For any media inquiries related to the TASER CEWs and how they function or their general safety, please direct the media to Axon's Media Hotline at 480-444-4000 or [press@axon.com](mailto:press@axon.com).

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