

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Michael Poehlman /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief:		
General Order No: P-405-10	Issued: 12 March, 2010	Supersedes: N/A
General Order Title ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES		

I. POLICY

Because Electronic Control Devices (ECD) constitute an intermediate, significant level of force, ECDs may be displayed or used only by authorized and trained personnel in accordance with GO P-400 **Use of Force** and additional guidelines established herein. It is the Policy of the Reno Police Department that officers use only that amount of force which appears reasonably necessary to overcome the resistance offered by the suspect and/or to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the safety of the officer and others. The use of force must be objectively reasonable, and the officer must only use that amount of force which a reasonable officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.

II. DEFINITIONS

ECD:

Any device deploying battery-powered electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions, override an individual's voluntary motor responses or cause pain compliance.

Drive Stun:

A drive stun is the process of utilizing the ECD as a pain compliance technique. This is done by activating the ECD and placing it against the intended target. This can be done with or without a cartridge in place or after a cartridge has been deployed.

Intermediate Force:

A level of force which is justified based upon an objectively reasonable belief that a subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others.

Passive Resistance:

Non-violent resistance to or non-cooperation to lawful orders of an officer.

III. PROECDURES

An Electronic Control Device (ECD) enhances an officer's ability to neutralize an aggressive

subject without the additional escalation of force. This decreases the chance of injury to officers, suspects, and others. The use of an ECD is not meant to replace tactics or training and should only be viewed as an additional tool or option available to the officer. An ECD is considered an intermediate force weapon and should be handled with care.

A. General Procedures

Officers may carry a departmentally issued ECD on their person as a part of their regular equipment. The ECD will only be carried using the department issued holster. The preferred carry method is one in which the ECD would require a non-shooting hand draw from the holster. Secondary method is in a cross-draw position. Officers will not carry the ECD in a position that the draw motion from the holster is the same motion used to draw their duty firearm.

Officers may perform a daily test of the ECD to ensure it is functioning properly. Officers will follow training guidelines when performing the test.

B. Deployment of an ECD

The decision to use the ECD is dependant on the amount of resistance offered by the suspect. The ECD is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms, OC, or defensive tactics techniques.

An officer's decision to discharge an ECD should take into consideration the following:

1. The officer's perception of:
 - a. the threat posed by the subject and
 - b. the subject's ability to carry out that threat
2. The totality of the situational risks.
3. Whether a subject's behavior is consistent with aggressive or violent resistance or an active threat to the safety of the involved police officer(s), the subject or the Public.

The ECD will not be deployed on a passively resistant subject.

An ECD is not a replacement for a firearm. An ECD should optimally be deployed when a contact/cover officer is present. An ECD shall not be used without firearm backup in those incidents where there is a threat of death or great bodily harm to the officer or another person.

An ECD should not generally be activated more than twice on any single subject. Officers must assess the effectiveness during and after each application and determine if an additional application is warranted or a different tactic should be employed.

An ECD will generally not be used in the following instances absent exigent circumstances:

1. Subjects in elevated positions or in a position where a fall from sudden muscular contractions could reasonable cause unnecessary injury
2. Running subjects
3. Subjects in water
4. Subjects operating a motor vehicle or other machinery which may cause injury if suddenly uncontrolled

5. An obviously pregnant subject
6. An obviously frail subject
7. Subjects that have flammable substances either on their person or within the immediate area of their person.
8. Handcuffed persons.

An ECD may be used on an aggressive animal to prevent attack to the officer or citizens.

Post-Deployment Responsibilities

REMSA should be called to the scene to remove the probes from the subject. Additionally, the following persons shall be examined by medical personnel on scene or transported to a medical facility for examination following exposure to an ECD. Any person who:

1. Requests medical attention.
2. Is hit in a vital tissue or sensitive area (e.g., eye, groin, face, neck, head, female breasts, etc).
3. The REMSA personnel have difficulty removing the probes from (due to probe or barb separation).
4. Does not appear to recover properly after ECD deployment.
5. The officer reasonably believes may be more susceptible to injury, such as the elderly, or those who the officer has reason to believe are pregnant, equipped with a pacemaker, or in obvious ill health.
6. Has exhibited signs of extreme uncontrolled agitation or hyperactivity prior to ECD exposure.

When an ECD is deployed in a training environment, the probes may be removed by the instructor unless one of the above complications occur.

Reporting Procedures

Officers and supervisors shall follow the reporting guidelines outlined in General Order P-400 *Use of Force*. The responding supervisor should ensure the cartridge used in the incident is placed into evidence and that photographs of the subject are taken. The photographs should show the location on the body where the probes struck or, in the case of a drive stun, the location where the ECD contact points were on the subject's body.