

MEMORANDUM
January 11, 2010

To: David L. Corliss, City Manager

From: W. Ronald Olin, Chief of Police

Ref.: Deployment of Electronic Control Devices 2009

The Lawrence Police Department responded to 126,348 calls for service writing 16,295 investigative and 3,464 accident reports. During the performance of these services to the City of Lawrence, officers utilized an Electronic Control Device (commonly called TASERS) on two occasions. In every occasion when an ECD was deployed the reports were scrutinized by Captain Zarnowiec. We had no uses outside of the stringent guidelines that govern our officers' use of an ECD. A brief overview of each of these ECD uses is attached to this memorandum.

Additionally, between January 1 and December 31, 2009, we displayed TASERS fifteen times without deploying the device. The circumstances in these incidents meant that the threat of a use was enough to stop the potential for violence. The sight is often a calming effect in the interaction.

I anticipate continuing to increase the number of officers who are trained and certified to carry the device during 2010. We will continue to monitor closely the use of ECDs with mandatory written reports and close supervisory review after each incident. If I may provide additional information, please let me know.

W. Ronald Olin
Chief of Police

Attachment: 2008 TASER Usage Report

MEMORANDUM
January 10, 2010

To: Chief W. Ronald Olin

From: Captain Stephen A. Zarnowiec

Ref: 2009 TASER Report

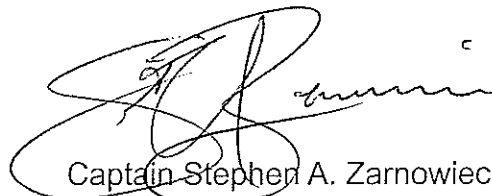
Between December 31, 2008 and December 31 2009, Electronic Control Devices (ECDs or TASERS) were used two times in actual field confrontations where a member of the public was using physical violence against a police officer. TASERS were also used on twenty-one police officers during voluntary TASER training. Both incidents involving a member of the public were the result of officers using the ECD to lawfully intervene in physical violence against another police officer. A brief synopsis of each Field ECD event is included as an attachment.

Each member of the public who received an ECD application was examined by medical health care professionals at hospital after the ECD application. All persons exposed to the ECD (including police officers exposed to the ECD during training) were later found to have no ill effects other than the normal skin irritation from probe puncture and/or direct ECD contact.

2009 recertification training was successfully completed for those officers still with the department who were originally trained to use a TASER. An additional twenty officers were selected and trained in 2009 in order to increase the number of officers in the field who have access to TASER technology.

An additional \$35,000 is authorized and funded for both TASER equipment and training costs. Purchase of additional TASERS is awaiting a thorough evaluation of the next generation of TASER X3 which was released near the first part of August in 2009. The evaluation requires two prerequisites: the acquisition of a demonstration TASER X3 and obtaining TASER X3 training for our TASER instructor.

We contacted our distributor and requested we be placed on a list to be sent a TASER X3 for evaluation. Our TASER distributor contacted us in mid November and arranged to send us a TASER X3 for evaluation. That TASER has not arrived yet. Our TASER instructor completed TASER X3 training in the first part of January 2010.



Captain Stephen A. Zarnowiec
Operations Bureau

Attachments:

2009 TASER Information Sheet

Two arrests where a TASER was deployed:

1. 8th & KY, W/M, 42 YOA, Probe deployment, Tazed (1) time for attempting to drive off from a car stop while dragging one of our officers - immediately ceased hostilities after ECD application, Was seen at hospital after ECD application with no ill effects, Charged with Reckless Driving; Obstruction of Legal Process; Disorderly Conduct, Did not file any complaint against the officers or department.
2. 6th & Florida, B/M, 37 YOA, Probe deployment, Tazed (1) time for grabbing and shoving an officer who was attempting to restrain the suspect - immediately ceased hostilities after ECD application, Was seen at hospital after ECD application with no ill effects, Charged with Battery on a Law Enforcement officer; and Obstruction of Legal Process, Did not file any complaint against the officers or department.

TASERs were displayed 15 times without being deployed. Suspects complied in 12 of these instances upon seeing the device. The other 3 instances are indeterminate as it is unknown if the suspect was aware the TASER had been displayed.

One instance occurred where an officers elected not to use an ECD during a violent arrest that resulted in an officer injury and loss of time due to the injury. ECD deployment would have been justified legally and by policy in this case.