

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Police Department

To: Tarik Khatib, Chief of Police
From: Rob Murry, Police Sergeant
Date: February 2, 2012
Re: Lawrence Police 2011 TASER Report

DISCUSSION

Between January 1, 2011 and December 31 2011, seven members of the public received an exposure from an Electronic Control Device (ECD or TASER) during a criminal incident. The ECD was displayed 18 times during criminal incidents without being deployed and without anyone receiving an exposure. Additionally 56 police officers of the Lawrence Police Department received an exposure from an ECD during police training. All TASER uses resulting in ECD exposure to a member of the public were upon individuals who were actively engaged in physical violence against another person or officer, or they were actively and physically resisting lawful arrests. A brief synopsis of each event is included as an attachment.

All the members of the public who received an ECD exposure were examined by medical health care professionals at a hospital after the ECD exposure. Police Officers that received an ECD exposure were not examined by medical health care professionals. 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 or direct ECD contact.

All Lawrence Police ECD deployments are subject to a review process. All ECD deployments involved a person who was involved in active assaultive behavior or the threat thereof. Active assaultive behavior presents injury risks to the person and the officers who must accomplish their lawful objectives. Lawrence Police Department ECD usage philosophy dictates that ECD usage is for the purpose of intervening in violent encounters where there is a threat of or actual "Inbound Violence" toward a person or any of the officers. This philosophy recognizes there are some instances of active resistance that may not necessitate an ECD deployment. All of our ECD deployments were within the guidelines and philosophy that govern our officers' use of an ECD.

In 2011 57 officers received the initial user certification from a certified TASER instructor. 34 officers received user re-certification from a certified TASER instructor. 1 officer attended training at an outside agency and was certified as an instructor from a certified Master TASER instructor. Currently, every officer departmentally certified to carry a TASER has received an exposure from the ECD.

In 2011 the department spent approximately \$21,863.26 on Electronic Control Devices and related equipment. The breakdown is as follows:

TASER Cartridges	\$6,123.31
Actual TASERs	\$13,114.00
Digital Power Magazines	\$1,372.39
Cleaning Swabs	\$133.18
Holsters	\$1,120.38
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Total	\$21,863.26

INCIDENT SYNOPSES

March 10, 2011:

On March 10, officers responded to the 1300 block of Maple lane in reference to an unknown disturbance. It was later determined to be a domestic disturbance and that an individual needed to be arrested for Criminal Damage related to the disturbance. The individual was seated on a bed when the individual was notified that the individual would be placed under arrest. Two officers each grabbed an arm and attempted to handcuff the individual. The individual was able to pull an arm free and struck an officer in the face. The individual then attempted to put the same officer in a head lock. The officer was able to pull away and draw his ECD. The officer announced his intention to deploy his ECD and deployed it on the individual. After being exposed to the ECD the individual continued to tense up and hold his arms under his body. The officers transitioned from the ECD to open hand techniques and were able to place the individual into custody.

March 27, 2011:

On March 27, Officers responded to the 1600 block of West 5th Street. The response was in reference to a domestic disturbance in progress. The individual was armed with an aluminum baseball bat. The first officer who arrived knocked on the door and the individual opened the door and walked outside with the baseball bat in a threatening manner. The officer backed up drew his sidearm and ordered the individual to drop the bat. The individual dropped the bat but refused to get on the ground as ordered by the officer. When a second officer arrived on the scene, the individual turned his aggressions towards the second officer, physically looked at the second officer and began yelling at the officer. The first officer took the opportunity to holster his sidearm and draw his ECD. When the individual continued towards the second officer after being directed to stop the first officer deployed the ECD. The ECD deployment was unsuccessful. The individual however was distracted enough for the second officer to place him into custody. The individual continued to be aggressive after being taken into custody.

May 18, 2011:

Officers were dispatched to the 1200 block of Brook Street in reference to a domestic battery. During the course of the investigation it was determined the individual needed to be placed under arrest for domestic battery. The individual was sitting on a couch in the living room when he was told he was under arrest. The individual stated he was not going to jail, immediately stood up, and ran towards the kitchen area. Two officers were able to stop the individual and were able to get him on the ground. However, they did not have complete control of the individual and he continued to kick at one of the officers while the other officer tried to physically restrain the individual. While the individual was attempting to kick one officer the other officer deployed the ECD. The deployment was successful and the individual was taken into custody.

May 21, 2011:

Officers were dispatched to 11th and Massachusetts Street in reference to an individual armed with a gun and a knife who had threatened at least two citizens. Several officers responded near 11th and Massachusetts Street. An officer observed the individual with a pistol in the right hand and a knife in the left hand. The individual was told numerous times to put the weapons down, however, he refused. The ECD was deployed and was a successful exposure. The individual went to the ground and was placed into custody.

May 26, 2011:

Officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of Harper Street in reference to a suicidal individual. The individual had barricaded himself inside of his house with an adult female and four children. The individual refused requests to allow the adult female or children to leave. Eventually officers were able to negotiate the individual into exiting the residence to speak with officers. After walking a short distance from the house, the individual diverted and ran north toward the garage door. The individual was ordered to stop and an officer physically blocked his path. The individual continued to run toward the officer blocking his path. Prior to overtaking the officer an ECD was deployed and the individual was taken into custody.

May 31, 2011:

Officers were dispatched to the 600 block of Walnut Street in reference to a subject being out of control. The individual was extremely intoxicated and had indicated that he wanted to commit suicide. Officers located the individual in the basement. The individual went into a back bedroom and indicated he had stabbed himself. Officers instructed him to come out of the room. The individual exited the bedroom but was armed with a sharp pointed weapon in one hand and a lamp in the other. When the individual began to approach the officers in an aggressive manner an ECD was deployed successfully by one of the officers. The individual was placed under arrest. The object in the individuals hand was determined to be a wood lathe tool.

October 9, 2011:

Officers were dispatched to the 1900 block of Miller Drive in reference to a domestic disturbance. The individual was located in his fathers' residence. The individual was in the basement and was holding an 8 foot 2x4, like a ram and started yelling at officers. The individual's father, who was also downstairs, tried to intervene and tackled his son. Officers ran down the stairs and tried to place the individual into custody. Officers initially tried to physically restrain the individual however he began kicking at the officers and was able to land several kicks. One of the officers deployed an ECD but it was ineffective. The officer removed the expended cartridge and placed a new cartridge on the ECD. The officer deployed the ECD the deployment was successful and the individual was taken into custody. Both officers were battered by the individual and one officer received some abrasions to his hand.

EVENTS SUMMARY

All seven people who received an exposure from an Electronic Control Device were examined by medical health care professionals at a medical care facility. The medical attention was typically provided at the expense of the City and not the person.

None of the seven persons who were exposed to the Electronic Control Device have filed complaints.

The seven persons who were exposed to the Electronic Control Device discharge were comprised of: two (2) Native American males, and five (5) Caucasian males. Their ages: one (1) was 23 years old, one (1) was 41 years old, one (1) was 28 years old, one (1) was 32 years old, one (1) was 30 years old, one (1) was 46 years old, and one (1) was 48 years old.

The following Kansas Statute and Lawrence Municipal Ordinance violations were listed by the arresting officers in the seven cases where a person received an exposure to an Electronic Control Device:

- Aggravated assault
- Aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer
- Assault on a law enforcement officer
- Battery (domestic)
- Battery
- Battery against a law enforcement officer
- Criminal damage (domestic)
- Criminal damage
- Criminal threat
- Emergency Detention
- Interference with duties
- Kidnapping
- Obstructing legal process or official duty