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Revised From:	
GENERAL ORDER 41.00	
References: Appendix General Order 41.00: CED Deployment Reporting Procedure	

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GENERAL 41.00 CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE

I. AUTHORITY

By the authority vested in the Office of the Sheriff of Camden County, this policy is to establish a “Conducted Energy Device” policy for sworn members of the Camden County Sheriff’s Office.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to bring members and Officers of the Camden County Office of the Sheriff into compliance with the guidelines promulgated by the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office, Camden County Prosecutor’s Office, and existing statutory and case law as they relate to the use of force by law enforcement officers. This General Order shall explain the authorization to use the Conducted Energy Device under the limits of the Enhanced Mechanical Force portion of Use of Force policy.

III. POLICY

The Camden County Office of the Sheriff has authorized the use of Conducted Energy Devices for an authorized officer and in compliance with all current and applicable Attorney General Guideline/Policy on Conducted Energy Devices, the authorization of the Camden County Prosecutor, and this general order.

IV. MECHANICS

All CED Operators authorized to carry and use by the Camden County Office of the Sheriff will be in strict compliance with the all current Attorney General Policies on Conducted Energy Devices.

A. Approved Conducted Energy Devices

The New Jersey State Police, in consultation with the Division of Criminal Justice, shall develop a list of specifications and characteristics of conducted energy devices that may be deployed and used pursuant to this policy

B. Authorized Officers/use of a Conducted Energy Device (CED)

1. No Officer shall be authorized to carry or use a conducted energy device during an actual operation until having completed a training course and qualification procedure approved by the Police Training Commission in the proper use and deployment of conducted energy devices. The training program shall include a component on techniques to de-escalate a confrontation with a person from a different culture or background. The training program shall also include a component on how to interact with an emotionally disturbed person, how to recognize mental illness, and techniques to de-escalate a psychiatric crisis to prevent injury or death.

2. Officers participating in a training course approved by the Police Training Commission shall during such training be exempt from criminal liability under N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3(h) for knowing possession of a stun gun.

3. All Officers authorized to carry and use a conducted energy device pursuant to this policy shall qualify, and thereafter re-qualify annually, in a training course and qualification procedure approved by the Police Training Commission.

4. Officers will carry the conducted energy device on the support side of their body (preferred) or in a cross-draw configuration, both configurations further described as being carried on the opposite side of the body which their duty weapon is carried. Under no circumstances does the Camden County Office of the Sheriff authorize its Officers to carry a CED on the same side of the body as their issued weapon.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

A. Subjects against whom a Conducted Energy Device has been directed shall be transported to a medical facility for examination if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The subject requests medical attention;

2. The subject had been rendered unconscious or unresponsive;

3. The subject after being subjected to a discharge does not appear to have recovered normally, as described in Conducted Energy Device training;

4. The subject has exhibited signs of excited delirium, as described in Conducted Energy Device training, prior to, during, or after the discharge of the Conducted Energy Device;

5. The subject has suffered bodily injury requiring medical attention as a result of a fall, or otherwise reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention;

6. The subject was exposed to three or more discharges from a Conducted Energy Device during the encounter;
7. The subject has been exposed to a continuous discharge lasting 15 seconds or more;
8. No one present at the scene is qualified or authorized to remove the Conducted Energy Device's darts/electrodes from the subject's person;
9. An officer trained and authorized to remove darts/electrodes experiences difficulty in removing a dart/electrode; or
10. Any part of the Conducted Energy Device dart/electrode has broken off and remains imbedded.

B. An Officer is authorized to remove a Conducted Energy Device dart/electrode from a subject only if the Officer has received training on dart/electrode removal, provided, however, that an Officer is not authorized to remove a dart/electrode from any part of the person's head or neck, or where the dart/electrode is located in the area of the subject's genitalia, or female breast. In the absence of exigent circumstances requiring immediate action, a dart/electrode may only be removed from these areas of the subject's body by an emergency management technician (EMT) or by other qualified medical personnel.

C. Reporting and Evaluation

1. In all instances when a conducted energy device is fired or discharged at a person during an actual operation, the Officer who employed such force shall:

- a.) Complete any reports made necessary by the nature of the underlying incident
- b.) Complete a Use of Force Report; and
- c.) Complete a Conducted Energy Device Deployment Review Report (Part I).
- d.) Collect probes, leads, and spent C.E.D. Cartridges and enter them into evidence.
Handle with care, probes are sharp and potentially contaminated! Place probes back into the empty cartridge, point first, and wrap all wire leads around it.

2. In all instances when a conducted energy device is fired at or discharged upon a person, Internal Affairs shall investigate the circumstances and outcome of the device's use. The investigating IA Detective shall report on the incident to the Sheriff and/or his designee, providing them information on all relevant circumstances, deployment, and outcome, including whether the deployment avoided injury to a law enforcement officer and avoided the need to use deadly force. Upon receipt, the Sheriff or his designee shall issue a finding on whether the firing and all discharges complied with the Revised Attorney General Policy on Conducted Energy Devices. The Sheriff/Chief or his/her designee shall forward the report to the Prosecutor within three (3) business days of the firing/discharge, unless the Prosecutor grants the Sheriff's/Chief or his/her designee's request for a reasonable extension of time within which to forward the report for good cause shown.

3. The Prosecutor shall review all reports detailing conducted energy device firings/discharges occurring within his/her jurisdiction. The Prosecutor shall within seven (7) days of the device's firing/ discharge forward to the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice the investigation

report(s) prepared by the Chief of Detectives, along with a memorandum or letter indicating whether the Prosecutor concurs or disagrees with the findings of the Sheriff/Chief as to the propriety of the firing/discharge(s). The Prosecutor may request a reasonable extension of time within which to report to the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice when the Prosecutor believes that an incident requires further investigation to determine whether the firing/discharge(s) complied with the Attorney General's Supplemental Policy on Conducted Energy Devices. The Prosecutor may conduct any such further investigation or may direct the Chief of Detectives to do so. The Director of the Division of Criminal Justice shall report to the Attorney General on the propriety of the firing/ discharge(s).

4. In all instances when a conducted energy device is fired at or discharged upon a person, a superior officer/supervisor shall take custody of and secure the device. The superior officer shall safeguard the digital information in that device concerning the incident until the video/audio/data-log can be downloaded and recorded to a disk for dissemination to the appropriate investigating entity (Camden County Prosecutor's Office).

5. The internal digital recording systems of the conducted energy device shall be maintained, and the data contained therein cannot be tampered with and cannot be accessed or erased except by duly authorized officers.

a.) After the information is safeguarded, the device may be returned to duty.

b.) The information stored in the device concerning the use of force incident (e.g., data concerning the time the weapon was fired, the time of all electrical discharges, and video recordings of the firing of the weapon and all electrical discharges) shall be preserved and reported on in the report of the incident.

c.) This information shall be considered part of the criminal investigation file and shall be maintained in accordance with the appropriate retention schedule promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Archives and Records Management.

d.) If the Attorney General or designee has reason to believe that this agency or any of its members are not complying with or adequately enforcing the provisions of the Attorney General's Supplemental Policy on Conducted Energy Devices, the Attorney General may temporarily or permanently suspend or revoke the authority of the Police department or any Officer to possess or use conducted energy devices, may initiate disciplinary or criminal prosecution proceedings, and may take such other actions as the Attorney General in his/her sole discretions deems appropriate to ensure compliance with the Attorney Generals Supplemental Policy on Conducted Energy Devices.

D. Training: All prospective Taser Operators will complete the NJ Learn online resource exam, prior to being sent to the approved CED Operator Certification class. If the NJ Learn course cannot be completed prior due to technical issues or issues with the NJ Learn website, the NJ Learn exam can be completed after the Certification class. The CED Operator will be barred from utilizing a CED until this class is completed.

E. All prospective CED Instructors will need to first be certified as a Range Safety Instructor by completing the class approved by the Police Training Commission prior to being sent to a CED Instructor Certification class.

F. All certified CED Operators will qualify once annually in a qualification course that is approved by the Police Training Commission and the County Prosecutor's Office.

G. All certified CED Operators will participate in a bi-annual training session for familiarization.

H. Any officer discovering a Conducted Energy Device that is malfunctioning or in need of repair shall forward a written explanation of the malfunction and the malfunctioning CED unit to the Armory for review. A replacement unit shall be issued in the interim, if available.

I. At no time, nor under any circumstance, will any officer attempt to perform any repair or alteration to the Conducted Energy Device aside from re-charging the CED Cam power source and/or replacing CED cartridges. The CED and its associated equipment are designed as sealed-units and are not intended to be disassembled or repaired by the Operator/end-user.

J. Officers who are assigned a Conducted Energy Device

1. Only those officers who belong to a Specialty Unit which must respond from their home directly to the scene of an incident will receive personally issued CED Units, this is to include the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team and the Civil Disturbance Team. All other CED Operators will have the opportunity to sign-out a CED from their assigned unit during their regular shift and may sign out a CED from the Bureau of Criminal Identification for side-work.

2. All CED Operators will handle the Conducted Energy Device with the same care they handle their issued weapons.

3. All CEDs will be stored in a secure location, just the same as one would store their issued firearm. Additionally, the CED must be stored with the battery installed in the handle.

4. Avoid rough handling of the CED, and do not use a Device that shows any damage such as a cracked handle or other significant damage.

5. Do not deploy with a CED that is showing ½ charge or less on the information display. All CEDs should be charged once per week. The CED Cam battery should be removed from the handle for charging and then reinstalled into the handle upon completion of charging.

6. Avoid exposing the CED to excessive moisture when possible, and do not submerge the CED in water. In the event the CED is submerged:

- a.) Place the safety/power switch in the down/off/safe position.
- b.) Point the CED in a safe direction and carefully remove the cartridges.
- c.) Remove the CED battery system (TASER Cam HD).
- d.) Notify the armory and submit all equipment there for assessment.

7. Handle all CED cartridges with care. Do not attempt to modify or disassemble any cartridge. Cartridge doors sometimes fall off. Inspect your cartridges to ensure they still have the doors intact. Do not deploy with a CED Unit that has cartridge(s) with missing doors. Any cartridge with missing front door should be removed from service and replaced with a new cartridge. Send all damaged cartridges to Special Services.