



## **AP 6520.1 Taser Policy**

### **References:**

Education Code § 35291 Governing board to prescribe rules for discipline of the schools  
Education Code §§ 49330-49335 Injurious objects  
Penal Code § 245 Assault with deadly weapon  
Penal Code § 417.4 Imitation firearm; drawing or exhibiting  
Penal Code § 626.9 Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995  
Penal Code § 626.10 Dirks, daggers, knives, razor or stun gun; bringing or possessing in school  
Penal Code § 25200-25225 Firearms, access to children  
Penal Code § 30310 Prohibition against ammunition on school grounds

### **Use of an Electronic Control Device (ECD)**

#### **1. Policy**

The policy of this District is to protect and serve students and members of the academic community while at the same time respecting the rights of suspects and balancing the need for officer safety in use of force incidents. Situations may occur in which campus safety officers may find it necessary to defend themselves, defend others, or restrain a suspect against their will. Inherent in these situations is the risk of injury to both campus safety officers and other members of the academic community. In an effort to reduce these risks, and as an alternative to what would otherwise require a greater level of force, the use of an Electronic Control Device (ECD) is permitted by authorized safety officers as outlined herein. It is the policy of this District that authorized safety officers will use only that force which is necessary to accomplish lawful objectives. All uses of force by authorized safety officers must be objectively reasonable based on the specific facts and circumstances of the incident. In no event shall any other person, including District employees, students, or guests use or bring ECD on District property.

#### **2. Approved Electronic Control Device**

A Taser C2 Electronic Control Device is authorized for use by Electronic Control Device Certified Officers.

#### **3. ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE TRAINING**

- a. Prior to being issued an Electronic Control Device, an officer shall attend an Electronic

Control Device training session approved and provided by the Santa Clarita Community College District and conducted by a certified Electronic Control Device instructor, who will ensure the officer successfully demonstrates proficiency in the use of the device. The training will provide campus safety officers instruction in the safe, effective and efficient use of the devices. Training will include:

- i. Authority for and limits on the proper use of the Electronic Control Device and the use of force at the Santa Clarita Community College District;
- ii. Proper and safe handling and storage procedures; and,
- iii. Procedures for obtaining medical assistance after use of the Electronic Control Device.

b. The certified Electronic Control Device instructor is responsible for certifying officers' proficiency for those devices.

c. The District shall provide a minimum of one training per year, with sufficient notice provided to campus safety officers, with the opportunity provided for new employees upon hire. Upon successful completion of initial ECD training, the Director, Campus Safety will record the following in the Campus Safety Officer's personnel file:

- i. Date, location, instructor's name (and organization), specific device used and a notation that the officer has successfully completed training.

d. Electronic Control Device certified officers must successfully complete annual in-service training approved by the Santa Clarita Community College District and conducted by a certified Electronic Control Device instructor in order to remain qualified to carry the device. In-service Electronic Control Device training shall be documented and shall require demonstrated proficiency with the device and knowledge of use of force policies.

e. The instructor will promptly notify the Director of Campus Safety if an officer fails to demonstrate competency with an issued Electronic Control Device. The safety officer will not be issued an ECD until satisfactorily completing remedial training.

f. The Director of Campus Safety shall maintain a log of all ECDs issued by the department. The log will contain the make, model number, serial number and will identify the officer to whom the ECD is issued, the date of issue, and the name of the person issuing the ECD to the officer.

g. Each ECD will be inspected and approved for use by a certified ECD instructor prior to initial issue and during annual in-service training. Unsafe or defective ECDs will be taken out of service.

#### 4. Criteria for Deployment

- a. In addition to compliance with the District's use of force policy all deployment of ECD's as a response to resistance must comply with the provisions of this policy
  - i. The ECD as a force option is considered equivalent to the use of chemical spray
  - ii. The ECD shall not be considered for a passively resistant subject. Active resistance or active aggression is required
  - iii. Flight from an officer, by itself, is not a justification for the use of an ECD.
  - iv. Officers shall give consideration to the nature of the offense the subject is suspected of committing, the degree of suspicion that the subject committed the offense, the risk of harm to others and all other circumstances surrounding the incident.

#### 5. Electronic Control Device Use

- a. The ECD will be utilized only by officers who have successfully completed all required training in the use and deployment of the device. (Electronic Control Device Certified Officer)
- b. Any incident in which an ECD is used upon an individual(s) by a Campus Safety Officer will be considered a use of force incident. All uses will be appropriately documented and reviewed by the Director and Assistant Director of Campus Safety, as well as officials from the Sheriff's Department.
- c. Unless it would otherwise endanger officer safety or is impractical due to circumstances, a verbal announcement of the intended use of the ECD should precede the application of the device in order to:
  1. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
  2. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that an ECD may be deployed
- d. The fact that a verbal and/or other warning was given or reasons it was not given shall be documented in any related reports.
- e. The ECD can be deployed by a certified officer when the use is reasonable and necessary to overcome or prevent assaultive behavior and/or when other means of physical force

are not reasonable or practical to bring a subject under control without risk of injury to the subject.

- f. Officers shall attempt to target the center mass of the subject's back. Where back targeting is not practical, frontal targeting should be lower center mass; intentional deployments to the chest shall be avoided where practical. Officers shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid striking an individual's head, neck, eyes or genitals.
- g. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair their vision.
- h. Officers will NOT use an Electronic Control Device in the following circumstances:
  - i. On a subject who is near, or has been exposed to, potentially flammable, volatile or explosive materials, such as gasoline, natural gas, or alcohol-based pepper spray.
  - ii. When a subject is in a significant amount of water.
  - iii. Punitively, as a means of coercion or in any other unjustified manner, such as to torture, psychologically torment, elicit a statement or inflict undue pain on any individual.
- i. Special consideration, consistent with training, should be given for use of an ECD on a subject who:
  - i. is visibly pregnant
  - ii. is operating a functioning, operable motor vehicle
  - iii. is physically limited (age related, young child, or frail)
  - iv. is handcuffed
  - v. is elevated above the officer (e.g. roof, fire escape, tree, bridge, stairwell, etc.) such that the secondary impact may cause collateral injury.

Special consideration should also be utilized where the officer has prior information that the subject suffers from a disability which would increase the danger to that person by using the ECD (e.g. a person at the scene tells an officer that the subject has a heart condition).

As with any use of force, officers should clearly document justification for use of an ECD particularly on those identified as requiring special consideration.

- j. When activating an ECD, officers should use one standard Electronic Control Device cycle (five seconds) and re-evaluate. If subsequent activations are necessary, they should ordinarily be limited to two (2) subsequent reactivations and the duration necessary to place the subject in custody by the use of handcuffs. Officers must be able to articulate

the circumstances that warrant any additional ECD activations. Officers should also consider whether the probes or darts are making proper contact, or if the use of the ECD is limiting the ability of the individual to comply, or if other options or tactics may be more appropriate. This, however, shall not preclude any officer from multiple reasonable applications of the ECD on an individual.

- k. No more than one officer should deploy an ECD against a single individual at the same time.
- l. Once in custody, the Campus Safety Department shall take any and all actions necessary to address the ramifications of the incident including calling the local Sheriff's department and/or ensuring any necessary medical personnel, including Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are provided to any individual involved in the incident.
- m. Officers may use the ECD to defend themselves or others from a vicious or attacking animal. Should such an occasion arise, the officer will make reasonable attempts to notify the owner of the animal, and shall thoroughly document the incident in a departmental report.
- n. Officers shall handle and store Electronic Control Devices in the same manner as a firearm, exercising a due regard for safety.

#### 6. Post-Exposure Procedures

- a. A. Following deployment of an Electronic Control Device, and upon control of the suspect, the suspect will be transported, if appropriate, as necessary without delay, to a safe location, and first aid would be administered as appropriate. A campus safety officer will remain with the suspect until EMT or Sheriff arrive and through the conclusion of the event. Campus safety officers are not responsible for transporting a suspect off campus. The suspect may be transported off campus by EMT or Sheriff as necessary.
- b. If a person upon whom an ECD has been deployed refuses medical attention, their refusal shall be signed by medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports.

#### 7. Documentation and Reporting of Electronic Control Device Use

- a. The Director of Campus Safety shall include ECD utilizations in an annual analytical report of incidents involving non-lethal uses of force by Campus Safety personnel.
- b. Campus Safety Officers shall notify their immediate supervisor as soon as possible after an ECD has been deployed. A supervisor will immediately respond to the scene of any deployment of an ECD, including unintentional discharges.

- c. All deployments of the ECD shall be documented, including those cases where a subject complies once threatened with an ECD device. Supervisors shall ensure that all proper documentation is made.
- d. Photographs will be taken of the suspect, including contact sites and areas of the suspect's body believed to have sustained injury. Where the push-stun method has been used, photographs are extremely important due to the increased potential for this method causing scarring;
- e. Supervisors shall ensure that officers have included all critical information in all required reports and that the chronology and specifics for the event, as well as the individuals involved, are properly documented.

Endorsed by CPC on 09/28/2021