

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION 6: USE OF FORCE / FIREARMS

SUBJECT: 606 EMDD POLICY

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2019

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this policy is to establish the rules and standards for the deployment and use of Electro-Muscular Disruption Device (EMDD), namely the Advanced Taser X-26.

2. **POLICY.** The Pineville Police Department places high value on the life and safety of its officers and the public that it serves. Written directives are designed to ensure that this value guides police officers' use of EMDD's. When officers utilize EMDD's restraint must be considered in their use. Police officers have been delegated the responsibility to protect life and property and apprehend criminal offenders. The apprehension of criminal offenders and the protection of property must at all times be subservient to the protection of life. The officer's responsibility for protecting life must include his own.

3. **GUIDELINES.** The following are guidelines that officers of the Pineville Police Department should observe in the event of deployment and/or use of a EMDD. The guidelines shall be used when the applicable conditions warrant the referral to the guideline. An example is that several guidelines can be utilized in sequence with another while in some instances/occurrences a specific guideline will stand-alone.

- A. Only officers that have been trained and certified by a TASER instructor for an EMDD use may utilize an EMDD. The training will consist of the proper utilization and the safe and proper use to control dangerous or violent subjects when deadly physical force does not appear to be justified and /or necessary; or attempts to subdue the subject by other tactics have been, or will likely be, ineffective in the situation at hand; or there is a reasonable expectation based on the officer's perception that it will be unsafe for the officer(s) to approach within contact range of the subject.
- B. Departmental EMDD's shall be approved by the Chief of Police and these shall be the only devices that police officer's shall carry.
- C. EMDD's shall be issued to and used only by officers who have completed the department's EMDD Training Program.
- D. Each discharge, including accidental discharges, of an EMDD shall be investigated and documented utilizing the appropriate reporting form.
- E. Anytime a person has been subjected to an EMDD then the Pineville Fire Department shall be notified. The Pineville Police Department personnel shall remove the EMDD dart and Fire Department personnel will evaluate the subject in order to deem if further medical attention is needed. Retaining the darts for evidence shall follow the protocol that is established in certification training. Remember that the darts are a biohazard and should be handled appropriately.
- F. Photographs shall be taken of the subject that was subjected to an EMDD discharge. The photographs shall consist of the face of the person and the area that accepted the discharge of the EMDD.

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- G. An EMDD should only be activated by one officer against a single person.
 - H. A fleeing suspect is not an automatic deployment of an EMDD. Use of force guidelines should be adhered.
 - I. EMDD should not generally used against pregnant women, elderly persons, young children, and visibly frail persons unless exigent circumstances exist.
 - J. EMDD devices should not be used against handcuffed persons unless it is justifiable through circumstances by departmental use of force standards.
 - K. When practical the officer needs to take into account the area that the EMDD is discharged, to prevent further injury to the subject.
 - L. When a subject gains control of an EMDD the officer should attempt to move past the 21 foot range of the EMDD, seek cover, request back up, and utilize tactics to mitigate the danger.
 - M. All persons subjected to an EMDD activation shall be monitored regularly, according to certification guidelines, while in custody even if they have received medical care.
 - N. All EMDD darts should be treated as a biohazard. Officers should utilize protocol that was established in training for proper retrieval of EMDD darts.
 - O. Following an EMDD activation officers should utilize a restraint technique that does not impair respiration.
 - P. EMDD should not be used in the known presence of combustible vapors and liquids or other flammable substances including but not limited to alcohol based Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) spray carriers.
 - Q. NO privately owned EMDD will be utilized by an officer.
 - R. Warnings prior to activation of an EMDD will follow training protocols.
 - S. A supervisor shall respond to the location when an EMDD is discharged, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
 - T. A supervisor shall conduct an initial review of the EMDD activation. If it is found that the EMDD discharge violates Pineville Police Department policy then the appropriate notifications shall be made.
 - U. An officer designated by the Chief of Police shall be the only person to download the data contained in the internal memory of EMDD.
 - V. Use of EMDD's against aggressive animals is permitted.
 - W. The Chief of Police or his designee shall approve certification procedures and restrictions.
 - X. Officers that are certified in the use of an EMDD shall follow the procedures that have been established in the training module to receive an EMDD for on duty carry.
4. **TASER AVAILABILITY.** Patrol officers shall carry a Taser at all times when performing patrol duties.

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5. AIR CARTRIDGES. All Officers shall be issued two Taser Air cartridges. It is the officer's responsibility to maintain the cartridges. If the issued cartridges lost or damaged due to negligence then the officer will incur the replacement cost of the air cartridge.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police