

How TASER® Devices Work

- ♦ In Saskatchewan the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing had introduced the most recent model of the TASER, the X26.
- ♦ The X26 is considered to be the fourth generation of the weapon and is the model of TASER most commonly in use today.
- ♦ It works by firing two metallic darts through a cartridge attached to the front of the gun. The probes are connected with insulated wires to the gun and when fired embed into the skin of the target subject. The effective range is about 25 feet. Once embedded, the electric circuit is closed running high voltage (50,000 volts) electrical current pulses (36 joules per pulse) at low amperage (<0.004 amps) through the body of the target subject.
- ♦ When the probes make adequate contact (both hit the subject) and are of an adequate spread it disrupts the operation of the subject's sensory and motor nervous systems and renders him or her incapable of voluntary movement (the subject typically falls to the ground).
- ♦ In addition to the physical incapacitation, being shot by a TASER is also reported to cause varying levels and intensity of pain for the target subject.
- ♦ The effect lasts only as long as the trigger on the gun is squeezed. The TASER is designed for an initial burst of 5 seconds, which can be extended if necessary.
- ♦ The TASER can operate as a stun gun. In what is called "drive-stun mode" the TASER becomes a "1st generation stun system in that it works primarily on pain compliance affecting the sensory nervous system." When used as a stun gun multiple prolonged shocks can be

given through direct body contact with the targeted individual. "The electric shock can penetrate up to 2.5 centimeters of clothing". The purpose is to encourage a desired behavior through pain compliance.

- ♦ The TASER can also operate in what is referred to as "presentation mode" when the gun is displayed by the operator and a warning provided. "In some cases the device is 'arced' to show a flash of electricity (not directed at the person) to convey that the device is about to be deployed. It has been reported that using the TASER in presentation mode will often gain compliance without the need to deploy the weapon.
- ♦ The TASER has the ability to record and store data, in what is referred to as a data-port. The data-port records and stores the firing sequence (time, duration of the cycle, temperature and battery status).
- ♦ The TASER also has the capability of having a video camera-mounted on the gun.

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