



TASER (Electronic Control Device)

Frequently Asked Questions

Are Electronic Control Devices (ECD) and TASER the same thing?

Yes, TASER is the brand name of the electronic control device used by Northern Territory Police. The Northern Territory Police refer to the device as TASER.

Will every NT Police Officer carry a TASER?

No, only the front line, general duties officers who have completed the specific training will carry a TASER.

Do NT Police already use TASER's?

Specialist Northern Territory Police have been using TASER since 2003. They have been used operationally and have assisted police to resolve potentially dangerous situations.

After nearly five years of testing and evaluation they have now been introduced for general duties police use.

Why do NT Police need a TASER?

Police are occasionally required to use force to address violent and dangerous situations. Minimal use of force but without compromising public safety is preferred.

Police officers are trained to utilise a force option that is most suitable for the situation, considering the risks and threat to all people present including the offender.

All 'use of force' options pose some risk, however this risk is considerably lower than allowing a dangerous situation to continue. TASER's have now been used for many years and have proven to be highly effective for use in resolving dangerous and violent situations across the globe. They have reduced the number of occasions police would otherwise have been forced to resort to lethal force options.

When will police use TASER?

Police may use TASER to defend themselves or others, to disarm and/or restrain violent offenders, prevent self harm or to control an animal. They can be used when the actions of the person against whom they are used give rise to a fear that physical injury to any person will result.

How does it work?

The TASER is a small, hand-held device that produces an electric current, causing temporary loss of muscle control in an individual. This results in an inability to perform coordinated action for the duration of the impulse (a few seconds).

The TASER can be used in two ways; by pressing it into the person's body directly, or from a distance away.

The TASER contains a cartridge that uses compressed nitrogen which projects two small darts to reach a person from a distance away. These stick into the clothing or skin of the person they are fired at.

These darts are connected to the TASER by insulated wire. A high voltage but very low amperage electrical current is transmitted through the wires to where the darts make contact with the person.

Are TASER's safe?

TASER technology is a less lethal option of force, used only by trained Police in situations which pose significant risk to those involved. Independent medical and scientific experts have determined that when used in such circumstances, TASER technology is among the most effective use-of-force intervention available to law enforcement.

TASER's have undergone extensive scientific testing and scrutiny. Northern Territory Police have considered extensive testing by overseas government and law enforcement agencies to be satisfied that TASER technology is an effective less lethal force option.

What about people with pacemakers?

Pacemakers should not be affected by the TASER device. They are designed to withstand high energy shocks.

More information is available at www.police.nt.gov.au/taser

Technical information on the TASER device can be found at www.taser.com