

ODS Global, LLC

What you Need to Know

Taser Basics

What is a Taser

A **Taser** /'teɪzər/ is a brand of conducted electrical weapon sold by Axon, formerly Taser International. It fires two small barbed darts intended to puncture the skin and remain attached to the target. The darts are connected to the main unit by thin insulated copper wire and deliver a modulated electric current designed to disrupt voluntary control of muscles, causing "neuromuscular incapacitation." The effects of a Taser may only be localized pain or strong involuntary long muscle contractions, based on the mode of use and connectivity of the darts. The Taser is marketed as **less-lethal** since the possibility of serious injury or death exists whenever the weapon is deployed.

The Taser was introduced as a less-lethal force option for police to use to subdue fleeing, belligerent, or potentially dangerous people, who would have otherwise been subjected to more lethal force options such as firearms. A 2009 report by the Police Executive Research Forum in the United States found that police officer injuries dropped by 76% in large law enforcement agencies that deployed Tasers in the first decade of the 21st century compared with those that did not use them at all. Taser International and its CEO Rick Smith have claimed that unspecified "police surveys" show that the device has "saved 75,000 lives through 2011". A more recent academic study suggested police use of conducted electrical weapons in the United States was less risky to police officers than hands-on tactics and showed officer injury rates equal to use of chemical sprays like oleoresin capsicum. However, when police combined conducted electrical weapons with use of other weapons, officers were four or five times more likely to be injured than when using a baton or chemical spray

Function

The Taser fires two small dart-like electrodes, which stay connected to the main unit by conductive wire as they are propelled by small compressed nitrogen charges. The cartridge contains a pair of electrodes and propellant for a single shot (or three shots in the X3 model) and is replaced after each use. There are a number of cartridges designated by range, with the maximum at 10 feet (3.048 m). Cartridges available to non-law enforcement consumers are

limited to 5 feet (1.524 m). The electrodes are pointed to penetrate clothing and barbed to prevent removal once in place. Earlier Taser models had difficulty in penetrating thick clothing, but newer versions (X26, C2) use a "shaped pulse" that increases effectiveness in the presence of barriers.

Tasers may provide a safety benefit to police officers. Tasers have a greater deployment range than batons, pepper spray or empty hand techniques. This allows police to maintain a greater distance. A study of use-of-force incidents by the Calgary Police Service conducted by the Canadian Police Research Centre found that the use of Tasers resulted in fewer injuries than the use of batons or empty hand techniques. The study found that only pepper spray was a safer intervention option.

Safety

Although tests on police and military volunteers have shown Tasers to function appropriately on a healthy, calm individual in a relaxed and controlled environment, the real-life target of a Taser is, if not mentally or physically unsound, in a state of high stress and in the midst of a confrontation. The possibility that other factors such as illicit drug intoxication, alcohol abuse, pre-existing heart disease, and cardioactive therapeutic drugs may modify the threshold for generation of cardiac arrhythmias cannot be excluded. In addition, Taser experiments "do not take into account real life use of Tasers by law enforcement agencies, such as repeated or prolonged shocks and the use of restraints"

Comparison to alternatives

Supporters claim that electroshock weapons such as Tasers are more effective than other means including pepper-spray (an eye/breathing inflammatory agent), batons or other conventional ways of inflicting pain, even handguns, at bringing a subject down to the ground with minimum physical exertion.

Supporters claim that electroshock guns are a safer alternative to devices such as firearms. Taser International now uses the term, "less lethal" instead of "non-lethal," which does not mean the weapon cannot cause death, but that it is not intended to be fatal, and in most cases is not. Non-lethal weapons are defined as "weapons that are explicitly designed and primarily employed so as to incapacitate personnel or material, while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury to personnel, and undesired damage to property and the environment."

The Best Place To Taser Someone

Are you a new owner of a taser and you want to know the best place to taser someone? It's important to know where to shoot the taser and to practice it to make sure you can aim properly

in a stressful situation and not hurt someone in the process. Well, not hurt them more than intended, anyways.

Taser International, the primary supplier of tasers for the law enforcement agency, advises that the best place to aim the probes towards the frontal body of the assailant and near the lower torso. This is because the probes are more effective at causing the assailant to lose balance by engaging the pelvic and lower torso muscles that essentially allow a person to stand. It is important to note that it is advisable to avoid hitting a person in sensitive areas, if possible, such as the head, neck, hands, feet, joints, the groin area, and the spinal column. If you do happen to fire the probes into one of these areas the person will require hospital medical treatment to have the barbs removed. But remember, you only need to avoid these areas if at all possible!

Where To Aim The Taser

The important thing here is to remember that the point of the taser is to be less-lethal and not to permanently injure somebody if it's possible. Taser International released updated guidelines on where to shoot the taser to be most effective and also induce the least amount of risk.

The guidelines state that you should aim for the front and lower torso. This is going to be the most effective as it will engage the pelvic muscles that are primarily responsible for balance. Your goal with a taser is to put someone on the ground so you can set your taser down and get away safely. If you happen to miss this area, it will still be effective just not to its maximum potential.

Another thing to understand is if you hit the assailant and he or she is too close to you it will actually be very ineffective. This is because the two taser probes don't have a chance to spread out and if they don't spread out they affect less of the muscles. Fewer muscles affected equals more muscles the assailant has left to use.

Where NOT To Aim The Taser

If you can, it's best to avoid aiming at the following areas of a person. These areas include the head, neck, hands, feet, joints, the groin area, and the spinal column. EMS and Police agencies generally document taser barb removal procedures and the procedures indicate that any of these areas being hit require the person hit to have the barbs removed in the emergency room of a hospital.

The key thing here is to avoid these areas, but only if possible. You are the one being attacked and you will not be held liable in the situation that you hit one of these areas while protecting yourself or your loved ones in a situation where self-defense is justified.

What The Taser Is Doing

While knowing where to hit the person with a taser, it's important to also understand what the taser is doing when you land your shot so you have a fully encompassing understanding of what you're doing. First, you need to understand how the brain works in relation to the muscles. It's actually a super intricate relationship, but simply put the brain sends an instruction to the muscles and the muscles execute the instruction.

The way the brain communicates is through the use of little electrical currents. So, essentially, a taser is overloading the person with electrical currents that speak the same language as the brain and the muscles basically can't "hear" what the brain is saying. So they start doing a bunch of random actions which causes the result of seizing up. Kind of cool, huh?

Taser Vs A Stun Gun

The words taser and stun gun tend to get used interchangeably at whim but they are actually quite different. The difference between a taser and a stun gun, in basic terms, is that the taser is a long-distance weapon and the stun-gun is a close-range impact weapon. Because the stun gun doesn't have probes that stick into the target, you are right to assume there is a different method for where to stun someone with a stun gun.

With a stun gun, it's basically best to get the attacker in all the places where you should avoid with a taser. The areas you want to hit with a stun gun is the neck, the upper torso, the underarm or the shoulder, groin and upper hip. These are all areas with a ton of nerves and if you hold the stun gun there for 3-5 seconds that will cause the loss of balance and the incapacitation you are looking for.

To Help With The Confusion

When you're researching tasers online you get a lot of mix-up between stun gun and tasers, as I already mentioned. Here's a piece of info that will not only add to your taser knowledge but help you remember that taser is the long-distance ranged device. It's easy to understand why people mistake a stun **gun** for a taser.

The word taser is actually an acronym. Yep! It stands for Tom Swift And His Electric Rifle, the name of an old science fiction novel that is actually quite a controversial book by itself. This book, however, was Jack Cover's favorite book. Cover is the inventor of the modern electronic conducive weapon (ECD) and he took the name of this book and used it as a loose acronym for his invention.

Regardless of the controversy behind the story, knowing about it will help you keep the two separate and add to the constantly proliferating knowledge you are obtaining about your taser and how to use it!

And We're Done!

At this point you fully understand the best place to hit someone with a taser and also the places you want to avoid! You've also learned the difference between a stun gun and a taser and even how to use a stun gun effectively if this is your self-defense weapon of choice.

Finally, you learned that taser is an acronym which helps you identify the difference of a stun gun and a taser when you think of a taser in terms of an electric rifle.

ODS Global Guarantee

ODS Global guarantees that any less-lethal products supplied to our clients will be of the highest quality and meet both national and international standards. Our products will meet and exceed most federal regulations. We will provide training in the safe operation of our products to minimize any fatalities that could occur from the unsafe use of our products. We will insure that training is only conducted by our employees and /or representatives that have been fully trained and certified to teach safety of these less-lethal weapons.