

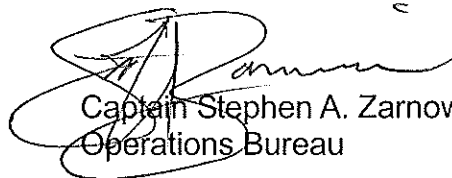
MEMORANDUM  
January 16, 2009

To: Chief W. Ronald Olin  
From: Captain Stephen A. Zarnowiec  
Ref: 2008 TASER Usage Report

Between March 25, 2008 and December 31, 2008, Electronic Control Devices (ECDs or TASERs) were used eight times in actual field confrontations and twenty-one times during voluntary training with police employees. All TASER uses resulting in ECD exposure to a member of the public were upon individuals who were actively engaged in physical violence. All of these TASER uses were the result of officers lawfully intervening in physical violence against another member of the public or police officer.

All eight persons who received an ECD application during a violent physical encounter were examined by medical health care professionals after the ECD application. All persons exposed to the ECD were later found to have no ill effects from the ECD application other than the normal skin irritation from probe puncture or direct ECD contact.

A brief synopsis of each event is included as an attachment.

  
Captain Stephen A. Zarnowiec  
Operations Bureau

Attachments:

## Lawrence Police 2008 TASER Incidents Synopses

April 19, 2008:

An officer was at The Ranch, 2515 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, in reference to crowd control at the time the bar was closing. The officer observed a large fight involving an estimated twenty five (25) people. As the officer was intervening in the incident, the officer attempted to separate two of the combatants while they were on the ground. One of the combatants was on his back on the ground with the other combatant on top of him striking his head and body while refusing to comply with the officer's orders to stop beating the individual below him. The officer drew the Electronic Control Device, and warned the combatant three times that he was about to use the ECD. The person did not stop the attack and the officer deployed the ECD with a direct contact application. The individual immediately stopped fighting and complied with the officer's arrest after the ECD application.

April 19, 2008:

Lawrence Police officers were assisting Eudora Police during a vehicle pursuit. The vehicle pursuit had terminated near Mile Marker 11 on K-10 Highway and the vehicle driver was now fleeing on foot from Eudora Police officers and Douglas County Sheriff's deputies. A Douglas County Sheriff's deputy deployed his Electronic Control Device and the suspect stopped and fell to the ground. The Douglas County Sheriff's deputies next attempted to place the person in handcuffs. The person violently resisted attempts to place handcuffs on his wrists and was kicking at the deputies. The deputy that had issued the first ECD application attempted a second ECD application which failed due to the original probes having been dislodged. The person continued fighting the deputies and was attempting to stand up on his feet. A Lawrence Police officer deployed his ECD probes resulting in a successful ECD application to the person. The deputies attempted to handcuff the person during the ECD application. When the ECD application ended the person again fought to prevent the handcuffing and resumed kicking at the deputies. The Lawrence Police officer initiated a second ECD application at which time the deputies were able to overcome the subject's resistance and complete the handcuffing procedure.

June 1, 2008:

Officers were at Club Axis, 821 Iowa Street, in reference to crowd control at the time the bar was closing. A security guard approached the two officers who were in the area and reported a person who was trespassing. The bar was closing and there were about one hundred people in the area. The security guard led the officers to the individual who was trespassing. One of the officers recognized the trespasser a person who

had previously been told they could not be present on the property. The person trespassing was in the company of five other people. One of the officers initiated an arrest of the person for trespassing. The person being arrested began to fight the officer. As the person fought the arresting officer the second officer drew his ECD in preparation for deployment. The initial arresting officer was able to control the subject using normal defensive techniques, so the second officer re-holstered the ECD without using it. As the officers handcuffed the arrestee, the group with the arrestee became irate and began to encircle the officer that originated the arrest. The group was hostile, questioned the arrest, and made demands of the officers. Officers attempted to withdraw from the group and take the arrestee to a patrol car, but the group followed. The group began threatening the officers with physical violence. Upon securing the arrestee in a patrol car, one person in the group moved toward one of the officers while making threats. One of the people with the aggressor attempted to restrain the individual from reaching the officer. The officer then advised the person who made the threats they were under arrest. The subject broke free and tried to evade arrest by walking away from the officer. The officer attempted to handcuff the arrestee and another person in the group attempted to pull the arrestee from the officer. The second officer then initiated an arrest of the person interfering with the first officer's arrest, and was immediately attacked. The assailant took hold of the officer's arms and was pushing him backwards. The first officer disengaged the arrest and immediately deployed the ECD probes and issued a single ECD application to the person. The person immediately ceased aggression and officers completed the arrest.

June 18, 2008:

Officers were sent to a residence in the 2300 block of Belle Crest Drive reference a trespassing call. The person refused to leave the area. The person moved into the street and remained in the roadway while intoxicated. One officer attempted to arrest the individual. The individual resisted the arrest and pushed the arresting officer. Officers attempted to secure the person in handcuffs, but were not successful. One officer applied a single contact ECD application resulting in the officers gaining control and placing the person in handcuffs.

July 12, 2008:

Officers were dispatched to the area of 14<sup>th</sup> and Ohio Street in reference to a group disturbance. The first arriving officer drove into the area and immediately found a group of ten to fifteen people engaged in a disturbance. Once out of the car the officer observed the group surrounded two people on the ground fighting. The officer went into the group and attempted to separate the two people on the ground fighting. The two people fighting refused comply with the officer's demands to cease fighting. The officer applied a single contact ECD application

resulting in the fight ending and the officer being able to arrest one of the combatants. Tension continued as friends of the arrestee attempted to encircle the officer as he attempted to remove the arrestee to the car. The officer was able to physically push the threatening group back and successfully secured the arrestee in his patrol car without further ECD use.

July 20, 2008:

Officers were sent to a fight at a residence located in the 3400 block of West 28<sup>th</sup> street. The first arriving officer entered the residence discovered one person holding another person on the ground. As the officer entered the residence, the person who had been on the ground got up and ran upstairs. The officer followed the person up the stairs and ordered the person to get on the ground. The person refused and took a fighting stance with clenched fists. The officer initiated an arrest and began reaching for the person. The person backed away and began throwing objects at the officer. The person struck the officer with several blunt objects including a briefcase. The officer deployed O. C. spray and it had no effect on the attacker. The person retreated out of sight to a walk-in closet and it was unknown if any other weapons were in the closet. A second officer arrived and both officers demanded the person come out of the closet and cooperate with the officers. The individual refused to comply and advised officers they were going to be sorry. The person then bolted at the officers from inside the closet, yelling at the officers, his fists clenched, and his body in an attack posture. One officer pointed the ECD at the person and ordered him to the ground. The person refused to comply. The officer deployed the ECD probes and issued a single ECD application to the person. The person immediately ceased aggression and complied with the officers.

August 30, 2008:

Officers were sent to a person creating a disturbance near the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Street. One officer located the person creating the disturbance. The officer advised the person he was being arrested. The individual began cursing the officer and took an offensive posture. The officer attempted to take hold of the person's arm for handcuffing but the person pulled away and raised his fists in a fighting stance. The arresting officer called for help on the radio and withdrew his expandable baton. A second officer was responding to assist the first officer when he heard the initial officer call for help on the radio. The second officer arrived and observed the person push the arresting officer backwards. The person then spit at the arresting officer and continued his aggression toward the arresting officer. The second officer pointed the ECD at the person and ordered him to the ground. The person refused to comply, turned toward the second officer with his fists clenched and

stepped toward the officer. The officer deployed his ECD probes and issued a single ECD application to the person. The person immediately ceased aggression and complied with the officers. During the exposure the officer touched the ECD in a manner that caused him to be exposed to the ECD application being delivered to the arrestee.

September 21, 2008:

Officers were sent to a residence in the 1200 block of Ohio Street reference to a complaint of an alcohol party that was now out of control. Upon arriving officers observed numerous violations occurring in their presence including; minors in possession of alcohol, open containers in public, and lettering. One officer attempted to make contact with a resident at the front door of the residence. The person at the front door refused to cooperate with the officer and attempted to push the door closed pinning the officer in the doorway. The officer initiated an arrest of the person who was pinching him in the door and removed the person to the front porch. The person began to fight the arresting officer. A second officer moved to assist the first officer with the combative person. Both officers were unsuccessful in gaining control of the person fighting them. A third officer observed the person resisting the arrest and battering the officers. The third officer moved to aid the first two officers by attempting to control the arms of the person being arrested. All three officers were being overpowered by the person fighting them. The third officer deployed his ECD with a direct contact application to the person. The person was able to pull away from the ECD rendering the ECD ineffective. The officer applied a second direct contact ECD application. The individual continued fighting the officers and the officer applied one more ECD application resulting in the officers being able to complete the handcuffing. Once handcuffed, the person ceased fighting the officers.