## TASER® Officer Safety Programs Real World Results Overview



### **TASER Impact:**

Reduce **Lethal Force** by up to **78%** Reduce **Officer Injuries** by up to **83%** Reduce **Suspect Injuries** by up to **80%** Reduce **Use-of-Force** litigation by up to **54%** Reduce **Worker's Comp Claims** by up to **78%** 

protect life

"Why should TASER<sup>®</sup> Electronic Control Devices (ECDs) be standard issue equipment for every officer?"



Because every officer deserves a safer job. *OFFICERS ARMED WITH TASER ECDs ARE LESS LIKELY:* 

- **TO BE INJURED**
- **TO INJURE SUSPECTS**
- TO BE INVOLVED IN CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

**OFFICERS ARMED WITH TASER ECDs ARE BETTER ABLE:** 

- **TO PROTECT THEMSELVES**
- TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC
- **TO SAVE LIVES**

"I wish we had TASER technology my first year as Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. It may have prevented two lethal force incidents that occurred within a 24 hour period. Litigation from these two incidents alone cost the city over \$25 million – more than enough to have covered the cost of a full deployment of TASER devices to every officer in Chicago."



-Terry Hillard, Ret. Superintendent, Chicago Police Department

## "How do TASER ECDs improve officer safety?"

### TASER ECDs reduce officer injuries by up to 83%.

Officers don't get paid to fight. Yet, the majority of officers injured on duty are injured during non-deadly force encounters. TASER International offers a powerful means to subdue violent subjects that is safer compared to traditional hands-on force tactics. The TASER ECDs allow officers to incapacitate dangerous or violent subjects from a distance - regardless of the physical size of the officer and regardless of the size, strength and mental state of the subject.

## The result?

Fewer officers are injured in the course of their duties.

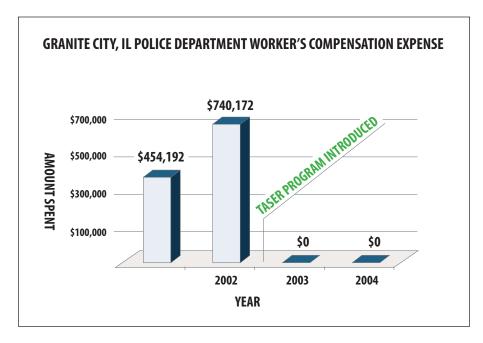


**Every Officer Deserves to Go Home Safely ACTUAL RESULTS: REDUCTION IN OFFICER INJURIES IN DEPARTMENTS WITH TASER OFFICER SAFETY PROGRAMS\*** Down 56% Cincinnati Police Department Austin Police Department 🕗 Down 50% Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office Own 80% Columbus Police Department Down 23% Cape Coral Police Department Down 93% Topeka Police Department 🕗 Down 46% **Omaha Police Department** Down 47% \* Data shows actual results only and does not imply endorsement.

## "What about financial impact? How can officer safety impact my budget?"

# Fewer officer injuries mean fewer Worker's Compensation claims and less officer downtime.

In 2002, the Granite City Police Department in Illinois was at risk of being privately uninsurable. Worker's Compensation claims were at an all time high. The department was given 12 months by its insurance carrier to improve its status and save their insurability. Seventy percent of the major claims were incurred during interventions with mentally disturbed and/or impaired subjects wherein officers were forced to physically engage subjects at close quarters. A three-part plan to reduce injury claims was implemented, including defensive driver training, reconfiguring of the booking area, and implementation of a TASER Officer Safety Program. Within the first year of the TASER Officer Safety Program, no officer injuries were incurred as a result of engaging combative subjects and no lost time was claimed as a result of officer combat. In fact, force-related injury claims were completely eliminated for the next two years.



"Does TASER technology reduce the number of deadly force incidents?"

## TASER ECDs save lives and reduce deadly force by up to 78%.

TASER technology is not a replacement for lethal force. However, use of TASER electronic control devices in a dangerous confrontation can frequently bring the situation under control and prevent the risk of escalation to deadly force. In fact, agencies with TASER Officer Safety Programs report significant drops in deadly force levels. A recent field study of TASER ECDs at the Columbus, Ohio Division of Police showed the TASER Officer Safety Program averted 14 potentially deadly force encounters over a 6-month period. In addition, **the Miami and Seattle police departments experienced over 12 months without a deadly force showting – a record success attributed directly to the introduction of TASER Officer Safety Programs in 2004.** 

"The protection of life is bottom line in law enforcement and the Division's TASER program and its investment into this new technology has proven its worth."



- Six-month study of TASER program, Columbus, OH Division of Police

#### ACTUAL RESULTS:

#### **REDUCTION IN DEADLY FORCE**

Phoenix Police Department Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office 🕑 Down 54% 🕑 Down 69%

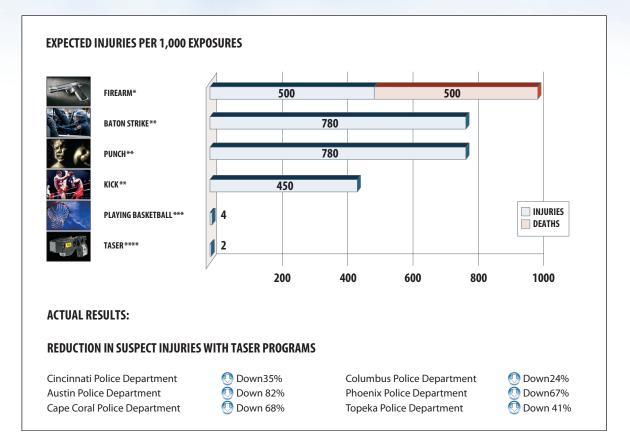
Over 11,000 serious or fatal injuries have been avoided with TASER officer safety programs.\*

\* Estimated from field data reports.

## "What about the people we arrest? How do TASER ECDs affect them?"

## TASER ECDs reduce suspect injuries by up to 80%.

While most people know that a TASER ECD is certainly far safer to the recipient than a bullet from a firearm, many people do not realize that a TASER system exposure represents a significantly lower risk of injury than traditional hands-on force tactics. When faced with a violent, resistant subject – the use of a TASER device reduces the risk of injury not only to the officers involved, but the arrestee as well.

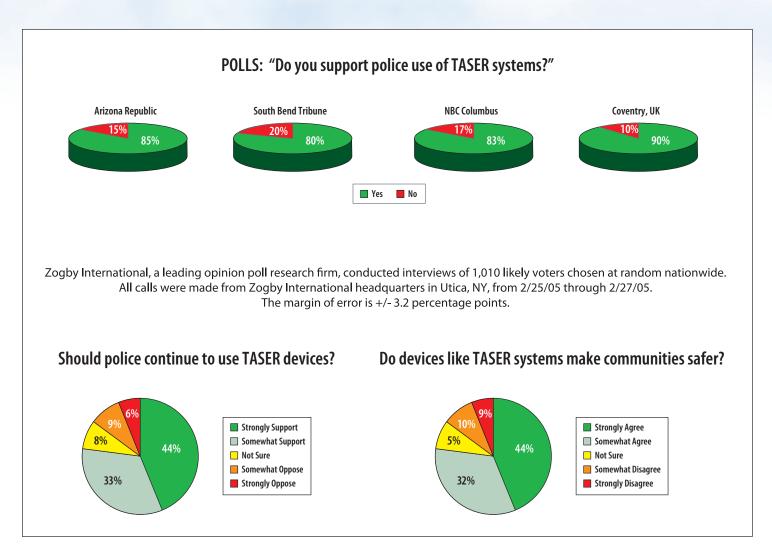


\* Electronic gun (TASER) injuries. Annals of Emergency Medicine 1987 Jan;16(1):73-8. Ordog GJ, Wasserberger J, Schlater T, Balasubramanium S. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\_uids=3800082&dopt=Citation.

- \*\* Source: Study of Use of Force at Los Angeles Police Department, Captain Greg Meyer. Original study available at http://home.earthlink.net/~gregmeyer/injury.html on the internet.
- \*\*\* Source: NCAA Injury Surveillance System Summary (for athletic practices games have higher injury rates).
- \*\*\*\* Source: Human Effectiveness and Risk Characterization of the Electromuscular Incapacitation Device A Limited Analysis of the TASER. Part 1: Technical Report. Part 2: Appendices. March 2005.

"How will my community react to the controversy surrounding these devices?"

While the media reports a "TASER Controversy" public citizens overwhelmingly and consistantly support TASER technology use.



## "Isn't high voltage dangerous?"

## It's not the volts, but the amperes that matter for electrical safety.

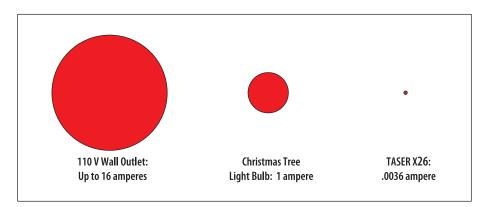
We tend to think of electricity as a harmful force to our bodies. Indeed, if lightning strikes or you stick your finger in an electrical outlet high levels of electrical current can be quite dangerous. However, it's important to know that not all electricity is harmful. In fact, electricity is essential to the life process. All communication between the brain and body is conducted via electrical signals. You cannot breathe nor can your heart beat without electricity – human life cannot exist without it.

TASER devices are designed to over-stimulate the command and control systems of the human body, transmitting controlled pulses that are carefully designed to impair conscious control of the skeletal muscles without affecting the heart or other vital organs. As shown below, it's not the voltage that determines the effects of electricity on the body, but rather the amount of electric current (measured in amperes) that matters most. While the TASER devices deliver a peak open-circuit voltage of up to 50,000 volts to allow the TASER X26 discharge to arc through clothing, the average current delivered is only 0.0036 amperes.



Mother and daughter experience 20 million volt Van de Graff Generator at science museum.

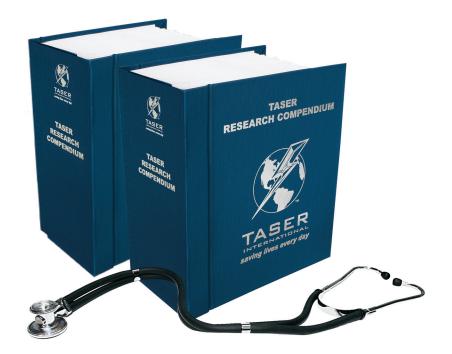
## **Average Current Comparison**



### "Are there independent studies on TASER technology?"

## Yes. TASER brand ECDs are among the most extensively studied law enforcement devices in history.

Dozens of independent studies find that TASER devices, while not risk free, are among the safest use-of-force alternatives available. In fact, we believe TASER devices are among the most extensively studied weapons on the market today. In addition to significant government and company sponsored studies on our products, we believe TASER is the only weapons company in the world with a scientific and medical advisory board. Our advisory board includes world-class experts who provide critical insights to help us design and test the safest devices possible.



#### TASER Scientific and Medical Advisory Board

#### Hugh Calkins, MD

Director of the Electrophysiology Laboratory Johns Hopkins University

#### **Richard M. Luceri, MD** Director of Arrhythmia Center

Holy Cross Hospital

#### Mark Kroll, PhD

Adjunct Professor, Cal Poly (Holds the most patents on cardiac devices of any person in the world.)

#### James D. Sweeney, PhD

Chair-Dept of Bioengineering Florida Gulf States University (Recognized expert on nerve and muscle stimulation.)

#### Partial List of Agencies / Journals That Have Published Studies on TASER Devices\*

- The Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Human Effects Center of Excellence,
- United States Department of Defense

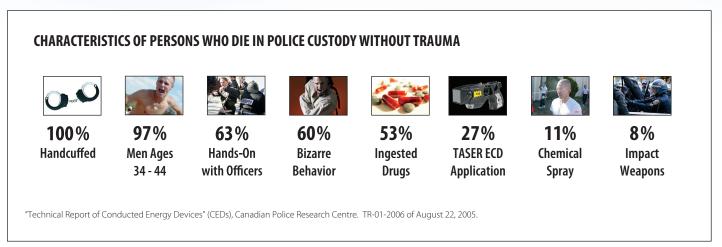
  Defence Scientific Advisory Council, United Kingdom
- Police Scientific Development Branch, United Kingdom
- Canadian Police Research Centre
- Hennepin County Medical Center Minneapolis, Minnesota
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Washington School of Medicine and Harvard Medical
   School
- Florida Gulf States University
- Medical University of Vienna
- Potomac Institute for Policy Studies
- Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology
  Society of Academic Emergency Medicine
- The Alfred Hospital, Australia
- The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Board
- Orange County Sheriff's Office Florida, TASER Medical Task Force
- Wisconsin Department of Justice Law Enforcement Standards Board

\* No endorsement is implied

## "What about all of these tragic deaths in incidents involving TASER device use?"

## "Definitive research or evidence does not exist that implicates a causal relationship between the use of CEDs (TASER devices) and death."

 "Technical Report of Conducted Energy Devices" (CEDs), Canadian Police Research Centre of August 22, 2005



Each year, hundreds of people die in police custody of no readily apparent cause. Over time, as new technologies emerge, public scrutiny is often dedicated to establishing these deaths as the responsibility of police officers or the use-of-force they employ. Ten years ago, there was significant debate about the use of pepper spray and its perceived role in sudden in-custody death. Studies have shown no significant link between pepper spray and these unfortunate incidents. Yet at the time, there was a great deal of debate surrounding its use. Today, TASER systems are the tools under scrutiny, and the debate surrounding sudden in-custody death has again resurfaced. However, a recent report by Dr. Jeffrey Ho, published in Police Magazine in August 2005, found that the TASER device was used in only 27 percent of these tragic cases. The report stated that while, "Police weapon use does not appear to be a predictive factor for in-custody deaths, personal behavior does." One thing remains certain however, with an epidemic of methamphetamine and other illicit drug use sweeping the country, sudden in-custody deaths and the rise of excited delirium are challenges that are here to stay.

## "Will officers be more prone to abuse TASER devices?"

## TASER devices offer 3 levels of unprecedented accountability.



#### Anti-Felon Identification (AFID)

Each TASER Cartridge is serial numbered, bar-coded and disperses 20-30 serialized confetti pieces when discharged – this can determine which officer fired the TASER device.

### **2.** DATAPORT TIME/DATE FIRING RECORDS

TASER devices provide a built-in audit tracking system. It records the time and date of every trigger pull – verifying usage patterns to corroborate an officer's report or to audit an alleged misuse.



### Enhanced Accountability Reduces Citizen Complaints

Due to the unparalleled accountability in TASER devices, agencies deploying TASER systems report significant drops in citizen use-of-force complaints.

Cincinnati	🕙 Down 50%
Austin	🕛 Down 32%
Columbus	🕑 Down 25%



### **3.** NEW VIDEO & AUDIO INCIDENT RECORDING

The new TASER CAM<sup>™</sup> records over an hour of MPEG4 video and audio data. An optional upgrade system, the TASER CAM is compatible with all TASER X26s and provides another layer of accountability to corroborate an officer's report.

A study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police reports that when video is available, law enforcement officers are exanerated in more than 96% of complaint cases.

- Police Chief, Vol. 71, No. 8, August 2004

#### Further, the audit capabilities of TASER devices make it much easier to defend against frivolous lawsuits. Several officers have reported their careers were saved from baseless allegations of abuse specifically because the dataport downloads from the TASER device factually disproved the allegations.

## "What about litigation – I hear TASER is involved in a number of lawsuits?"

### TASER ECDs reduce excessive force litigation by 54%.

- Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Study, 2004

While you may hear in the media about "all these TASER lawsuits," the fact is that TASER International is involved in relatively few use-of-force lawsuits, in comparison to the over 11,000 agencies that rely on TASER weapons. TASER is establishing a solid track record of having these suits dismissed.

In 2003, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRA) introduced a program to encourage police agencies to deploy TASER ECDs with the goal of reducing risk and liability exposure. Under this program, the MMRA would reimburse the agency for a portion of the cost to purchase and deploy TASER systems. In this program 40 law enforcement agencies participated and deployed TASER devices. During 2004, the first full year of the program, the number of excessive force claims at these agencies collectively dropped 54%, from 48 claims in 2003 to 22 claims in 2004. There were a total of 432 TASER device deployments, yet zero claims of excessive force related to the use of TASER devices. The TASER ECDs likely played a key role in reducing excessive force claims by 26 cases year over year. At an average cost of \$250,000 per excessive force claim, a reduction of 26 cases translates to an approximate total savings of \$6.5 million.

Further, a TASER device was successfully employed in at least seven instances that likely would have escalated to deadly force levels and resulted in wrongful death litigation were it not for the TASER device. Wrongful death cases cost an average of \$2.5 million in litigation / awards. If we assume that only three of these cases would have escalated to deadly force, the successful non-lethal conclusion of these seven

#### **ACTUAL RESULTS:**

#### **REDUCTION IN EXCESSIVE FORCE LITIGATION**

- 40 plus agencies in study
- 432 TASER device deployments
- Only 1 injury required hospitalization
- <u>Zero</u> claims of excessive force

\* Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Study, 2004

cases likely averted an additional \$7.5 million in wrongful death claims.

The net liability and litigation cost savings works out to \$3,500 per officer for the approximately 4,000 officers in the participating agencies. Is it worth a 1-in-400 risk an agency will get a TASERrelated lawsuit if it can cut the overall use-of-force litigation in half? Excessive use-of-force litigation against police is, unfortunately, business as usual for law enforcement in our litigious society. In excessive use-of-force claims, the greater the risk of injury, the greater the risk of liability [*Ewolski v. City of Brunswick*, 287 F.3d 492 (6th Cir. 2003)]. Since the TASER device has among the lowest risk of injury compared to other use-of-force options, the courts have routinely held that the use of a TASER device by police or correction officers does not constitute excessive use-offorce or cruel and unusual punishment.

#### See:

- Draper v. Reynolds, 369 F.3d 1270 (11th Cir. 2004)
   Lifton v. City of Vacaville, 72 Fed.Appx. 647, 2003 WL 21805215
- (9th Cir. 2003) • Ewolski v. City of Brunswick, 287 F.3d 492 (6th Cir. 2002) • Jolivet v. Cook, 48 F.3d 1232 (Table), 1995 WL 94496 (10th Cir.
- Walker v. Sumner, 8 F.3d 33 (Table), 1993 WL 394948 (9th Cir.
- 1993) • Hinton v. City of Elwood, 997 F.2d 774 (10th Cir. 1993)
- Hinton V. City of Elwooa, 997 F.2a 774 (10th Cir. 1993)
   Russo v. Cincinnati. 953 F.2d 1036 (6th Cir. 1992)
- Caldwell v. Moore, 968 F.2d 595 (6th Cir. 1992)
- Michenfelder v. Sumner, 860 F.2d 328 (9th Cir. 1988)
- Maiorano ex rel. Maiorano v. Santiago, 2006 WL 2024951, slip op. (M.D. Fla. July 15, 2006)
- Wylie v. Overby, 2006 WL 1007643, slip op. (E.D. Mich. April 14, 2006)
- Johnson ex rel. Smith v. City of Lincoln Park, 434 F.Supp.2d 467 (E.D. Mich. 2006)
- Policky v. City of Seward, 433 F.Supp.2d 1013 (D. Neb. 2006)
- Hernandez v. Terhume, 2000 WL 1847645 (N.D. Cal. 2000)
- Drummer v. Luttrell, 75 F.Supp.2d 796 (W.D. Tenn. 1999)
   Nicholson v. Kent County Sheriff's Dept., 839 F.Supp. 508 (W.D.
- Mich. 1993)
- Parker v. Asher, 701 F.Supp. 192 (D. Nev. 1988)
- Alford v. Osei-Kwasi, 203 Ga. App. 716 (Ga. Ct. App. 1992), cert. denied (June 10, 1992)

## "My budget is tight. How can I afford to purchase and implement a TASER ECD program?"

## A full TASER Officer Safety Program can pay for itself in cost savings in less than a year.

#### **FINAL IMPACT**

(per officer)

A TASER Officer Safety Program is more than just an investment in the safety of your officers and community. It's a financial investment that can pay for itself very quickly in hard cost savings. Think about your last excessive use-of-force settlement, or your annual Worker's Compensation claims due to force related injuries. A TASER program can't make these problems go away, but agency studies show a TASER program can signficantly reduce these costs. In fact, using conservative estimates and published law enforcement agency data, a full TASER program (including the advanced new TASER CAM system) can pay for itself in less than a year. With our low cost municipal financing program, payments can be spread out over five years – and the program can potentially generate net savings right from the first month!

TOTAL YEAD 1 COST	
TOTAL YEAR 1 COST	
TASER X26 Program Startup Cost	(\$1,411.55)
Est. Year 1 Officer Injury Savings	\$368
Est. Year 1 Suspect Injury Savings	\$257
Est. Year 1 Liability Savings	\$294
NET YEAR 1 COST	(\$492.95)
RECURRING SAVINGS YEARS 2 - 10	
TASER X26 Program Recurring Cost	(\$157.76)
Est. Year 1 Officer Injury Savings	\$368
Est. Year 1 Suspect Injury Saving	\$257
Est. Year 1 Liability Saving	\$294
NET ANNUAL SAVINGS	\$760.84
TASER PROGRAM 10-YEAR IMPACT	
Number of Months to Break Even	19.8
Total Net Savings Per Officer (10 years)	\$6,354.61
Total Return on Investment (ROI)	324%

## Financial costs and benefits of TASER Officer Safety Program.

#### **OFFICER INJURY SAVINGS**

At the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Florida, the TASER Officer Safety Program was associated with an 80% reduction in force related police officer injuries, dropping from 120 injuries per year to 24 injuries per year. Using an estimated cost of \$5,000 per officer injury (Worker's Compensation claims, medical costs, and down time/lost man hours), this equates to an average savings of \$368 per officer per year.

OFFICER INJURY REDUCTION		
Case Study: Orange County Sherriff's Office, Florida		
Number of Officers	1,305	
Number of Officer Injuries Per Year Before TASER Program	120	
Number of Officer Injuries Per Year After TASER Program	24	
Estimated Average Cost Per Injury	\$5,000	
Total Savings in Officer Injury Costs	\$480,000	
AVERAGE INJURY SAVINGS PER OFFICER	\$368	

#### **OFFICER INJURY SAVINGS**

In an analysis of the results of its first full year of a full TASER Officer Safety Program, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC Police Department's suspect injury rate fell by 79% – from 200 injuries in 2002 to only 42 injuries in 2004. Assuming an average cost of \$1,500 per injury (lost officer time at emergency room, direct medical costs including EMS personnel, etc.) this reduced injury rate likely saved the city approximately \$237,000 on a department wide basis each year.

SUSPECT INJURY REDUCTION	
Case Study: Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina Police Department	
Number of Officers	1,524
Number of Suspect Injuries Per Year Before TASER Program	200
Number of Suspect Injuries Per Year After TASER Program	42
Estimated Average Cost Per Injury	\$1,500
Total Savings in Suspect Injury Costs	\$237,000
AVERAGE INJURY SAVINGS PER OFFICER	\$156

#### **USE OF FORCE LIABILITY SAVINGS**

The table below represents the results from a study by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (see page 12 for details).

Case Study: Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority		
Number of Agencies in Study	40	
Number of Officers	4,000	
Reduction in Excessive Force Claims	26	
Average Cost Per Excessive Force Claims	\$250,000	
Estimated Reduction in Wrongful Death Claims	3	
Average Cost Per Wrongful Death Claim	\$2,500,000	
Total Savings in Liability Costs	\$14,000,000	
AVERAGE LIABILITY SAVINGS PER OFFICER		

#### **LIVES SAVED**

Deadly force dropped from an average of nine times per year in the two years prior to the TASER Officer Safety Program in Orange County to two times per year in the two years after the TASER device deployment. Assuming a 50% survival rate in deadly force encounters (Ordog, et. al, Annals of Emergency Medicine, January, 1987), the reduction of seven deadly force incidents per year equates to 3.5 lives saved per year.

LIVES SAVED		
Case Study: Orange County Sherriff's Office, Florida		
Number of Officers	1,305	
Average Deadly Force Incidents Per Year Before TASER Program	9	
Average Deadly Force Incidents Per Year After TASER Program	2	
Annual Reduction in Deadly Force Incidents	7	
Lives Saved (Assume 50% survival)	3.5	
LIVES SAVED PER OFFICER PER YEAR	0.00268	

## See website for most current warnings. www.TASER.com

## **TASER Training Academy**



The TASER Training Academy provides training on the use of TASER brand electronic control devices. Training is geared toward the special needs of law enforcement officers, medical personnel, the military, correctional officers, private citizens, professional security and instructor certification. Force options and decision making, tactics, medical issues, weapon maintenance and personal safety are just a few of the topics covered in the offered courses.

Located at TASER International's headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, the TASER Training Academy features a state-of-the-art classroom facility complete with 48 desks equipped with power and internet access, safety mats, heavy bags and the IES Interactive MILO training simulator.

Some of the courses currently offered are:



- TASER M26 & X26 User Course
- TASER M26 & X26 Instructor Course
- TASER Master Instructor Course
- TASER Armorer's Course
- Relevant Medical Issues for Doctors
- TASER Use of Force, Risk Management and Legal Strategies Seminar
- TASER Use in the Correctional Environment
- Personal Defense Course



It is a well established truth that "we fight like we train." It is for this reason that we emphasize hands-on, interactive and scenario-based training. Most of our courses involve some degree of physical activity and participation. We make every effort to simulate real life stress and circumstances, to provide realistic training to better prepare the student for success in the field. Through the use of our IES Interactive Judgement Trainer Simulator and TASER Simulation Training Suits, we promote sound use-of-force judgement, tactics and follow-up procedures.

Our cadre of instructors consists of active and former law enforcement officers and military trainers. Many are internationally recognized experts in use-of-force at all levels with extensive training backgrounds.

Our instructors are committed to providing the best training possible and to forming lasting relationships to support our students long after they leave the academy.

For more information visit www.TASER.com or call us at 800.978.2737.



TASER International headquarters is a state-of-the-art 100,000 square foot secure facility in Scottsdale, Arizona.





address: 17800 North 85th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 toll free: 800.978.2737 direct phone: 480.991.0797 fax: 480.991.0791 website: www.TASER.com email: info@TASER.com

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