

CITY OF MADISON
CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2010

TO: Noble Wray, Chief of Police
FROM: Officer Timothy Harder
SUBJECT: 2009 Taser Report

Expansion of the MPD Electronic Control Device (Taser) program continued in 2009. As of the close of the year, the department had acquired **190** X26 Tasers; **377** MPD employees are trained as Taser users. Assignments of Taser trained personnel (reflecting 2009 assignments):

Assignment	Number of Trained Taser Users
Patrol Officer	204
NPO	5
ERO	4
CPT Officer	28
Detective	36
Traffic	10
Sergeant	42
Other	48

At the close of 2009, almost all MPD personnel have been trained as Taser X26 users. 377 of the authorized 438 commissioned personnel are Taser X26 certified. Taser training has been incorporated into the MPD pre-service academy as part of the curriculum.

2009 MPD Taser Data

In 2009, MPD officers deployed Tasers **51** times in **48** incidents (three incidents entailed two officer's deployments against one subject due to ineffective initial deployment, 2 deployments were on aggressive dogs)

Of the 51 actual deployments, 35 (69%) were effective (meaning the weapon functioned and allowed the suspect to be taken into custody). Of the ineffective deployments, the causes were:

Failure Cause	Number	Percentage of Total Deployments
Probes Missed (one or both)	15	29%
Thick/Heavy Clothing	1	1%
Target acquisition	1	1%

Notable Deployments

A selection of notable Taser deployments in 2009:

- 8 incidents involved subjects armed with weapons, (replica handgun, handgun, knives, scissors and a cane) Officers had lethal coverage and used a lesser amount of force than could of potentially been used on an armed subject.
- 80 % of the incidents involved subjects physically fighting or attempting to harm officers.
- 2 incidents involved aggressive pit bulls.
- On 1/14/09, officers responded to a man with a shovel and knife trying to kill his neighbor. The suspect had already hit the victim repeatedly with the shovel. Suspect ran from the residence and officers pursued on foot. Officer deployed the ECD when the subject stated “Fuck You” and became violent. The deployment was ineffective due to a thick winter jacket. A foot pursuit began until the subject stopped and “squared off” on the officer. A second deployment was ineffective due to a probe miss. However, the officer did apply a follow up drive stun, which was effective for one cycle. This gave additional responding officers time to get to the location and assist in taking the subject into custody.
- 2/8/09, officers were dispatched to a female attempting suicide with a knife. Officers arrived to find the female with cuts to arms and neck. The female was still holding the knife to her neck. Officers attempted to talk with the female for 10-15 minutes. She refused to drop the knife. Female attempts to cut her throat with the officers approximately 10 feet away. Sgt. deployed a less lethal beanbag at the same time. The impact round was ineffective due to it glancing off the subject’s hand. A Taser deployment was effective and the subject was taken into custody.
- On 6/4/09, officers were sent to a fight in progress. Loud kicking noise caused officers to investigate a specific apartment building. When trying to contact a subject through an open apartment door, subject is armed with a 12” knife. Subject holds the knife to his head. Subject refuses to drop the knife from a 12-14’ distance. Officer had lethal coverage and deploys the ECD. ECD is effective on the subject. Subject transported to jail on numerous charges and probation violations.
- On 6/18/09, officers are sent to check the welfare of a suicidal female. Subject tells dispatch she ingested 28 Tylenol. Subject is verbally uncooperative. Subject arms herself with (2) 12” kitchen knives. Officer has lethal coverage, deploys ECD from 7-8 feet. ECD is effective. Subject transported to ER for an evaluation.
- On 7/11/09, Officers attempt to arrest a wanted subject. A traffic stop is conducted and subject flees on foot. Officers pursue. Officer sees shiny object hanging from subject’s side, which appears to be a semi-automatic handgun. Officer has already tactically deployed ECD from its holster. Officer deploys the ECD, believing the subject may arm himself. Object is a replica handgun belt buckle. ECD is effective. Subject is taken into custody on warrants.

- On 9/12/09, Officers were dispatched to suicidal subject. The subject had locked himself in the bathroom of the residence with a pair of scissors. The officers force entry to the bathroom. The subject is holding the scissors to his neck stating he will kill himself. Officer has lethal coverage and deploys the ECD. ECD is effective. Subject is transported to ER for evaluation.
- On 10/02/09, Officers transport a subject to ER for mental evaluation. Subject attacks officer in examination room. Subject grabs officer around the throat in an attempt to strangle the officer. Officer is able to disengage and deploy the ECD. Deployment is ineffective due to heavy clothing on the subject. Subject throws feces at the officer while he is reloading ECD. Officer deploys ECD a second time, which is more effective. However, when cycle is complete, subject pulls probe out and flees the ER.
- On 12/16/09, officers are sent to check welfare of an adult bipolar subject, “acting crazy” according to his mother. Subject has armed himself with a knife and fled into the neighborhood. Officers locate the subject in a heavily populated area. Subject is armed with knife and stating “Shoot me”. Officer has lethal coverage and is able to deploy the ECD. ECD is effective and transport to ER for evaluation.

Any of these incidents could have resulted in the use of deadly force; use of the Taser in each avoided that possibility and resolved the incident.

Distance

Distance of 2009 deployments:

Distance	Deployments (total)
Drive-stun	1
1-3 feet	18
4-7 feet	21
8-11 feet	5
12-15 feet	5
16-21 feet	0
22-25 feet	0

Note that the number of drive-stuns (as a percentage of total deployments). This one incident was as a result of a missed probe shot and the follow thru with a drive stun on a violent, assaultive suspect. This is consistent with the modified policy as well as a new training emphasis.

Injuries

Injuries involved in 2009 deployments:

Incidents in which suspects were injured (beyond probe punctures)	0
Suspect injuries requiring medical treatment / self inflicted	2
Incidents in which officers were injured	4
Officer injuries requiring medical treatment	0

Note that these figures exclude injuries that occurred in use of force encounters prior to Taser deployment/arrival (for example, an extended struggle resulting in minor abrasions that occurred prior to the arrival of an officer equipped with a Taser or a Taser deployment).

Time of Day

The majority of Taser deployments continue to occur on MPD's 2nd and 3rd shifts.

Shift	Deployments	Percentage
1 st	8	16%
2 nd	18	35%
3 rd	25	49%

Race/Gender

Gender/Race	Deployments	Percentage
M/W	21	44%
M/B	20	42%
M/H	1	2%
M/A	1	2%
F/I	1	2%
F/W	1	2%
F/B	1	2%
Dog	2	4%

District

District	Deployments	Percentage
East	4	8%
North	11	23%
Central	14	29%
South	7	15%
West	12	25%
Outside City	0	

Criminal Charges

Resulting Charges to Subject	Number	Percentage
Misdemeanor Charges Only	38	79%
Misdemeanor & Felony Charges	7	15%
Felony Only	0	0%
Protective Custody, Emergency Detention, etc.	3	6%
Unknown/Outside Agency	0	

Subject Age

Age Range	Number of Subjects	Percentage *
14-17	1	2%
18-23	12	25%
24-28	12	25%
29-33	4	8%
34-38	6	12%
39-43	4	8%
44-48	3	6%
49-53	3	6%
54 +	1	2%
Dog	2	4%

*Percentages are rounded, as a result they do not add up to 100

Weapons

Number of armed suspects (actual Taser deployments)	8
Number of armed suspects (incidents where Taser was displayed or Taser use was threatened)	0

The weapons involved included knives, bats, chairs and metal objects.

Firing Cycles

Number of Firing Cycles	Number	Percentage
1	27	53%
2	13	25%
3	5	10%
4	2	4%
5	0	n/a
6+	4	8%

Taser Displayed but not Deployed

Number of violent subjects where compliance was gained by Tactically displaying Taser	83
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Taser Program – 2010

This was the last year of Capital budgeting funds. The department will be evaluating future MPD Taser needs in 2010 and make budget requests accordingly. Recruits will continue to receive Taser training in the pre-service academy, and Taser use will continue to be incorporated into inservice on an annual basis through scenario training. Long-term goal is to have 100% of officers trained and an adequate Taser X26 inventory for a large-scale deployment.