



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

TITLE: ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES	GENERAL ORDER NUMBER: 106
REFERENCES: General Order 105	EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/01/2016
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The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the use and training of Department-approved electronic control devices. Electronic control devices are a force option where force is justified, but does not rise to a level permitting the use of deadly force. The use of electronic control devices is authorized to afford increased levels of protection to trained personnel, and to minimize the potential for injury to hostile subjects.

106:1 Definitions

Electronic Control Device (ECD)

A tool designed to be used by law enforcement officers to control suspects through the use of a less-than-lethal force option. Such devices temporarily incapacitate an individual through the use of an electronic current that affects the neuromuscular system causing temporary, involuntary muscle contractions. The contractions incapacitate a subject so they can be placed under control of a law enforcement officer, or other law enforcement personnel.

Passive Resistance: A person not complying with an officer's commands and is uncooperative, but is taking only minimal physical action to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control.

106:2 Application

106:21 Arrest and Detention

The ECD is generally authorized to be used in circumstances where grounds to arrest or detain are present and the subject's actions cause a reasonable officer to believe that physical force

will be used by the subject to resist the arrest or detention. The ECD is most effective at accomplishing arrest and detention and overcoming resistance in the "probe mode" which is the preferred deployment technique when practical.

Officers shall not use an ECD on persons who are only passively resisting.

106:22 Pain Compliance Weapon

The ECD may also be used in limited close-range, self-defense, and pain-compliance circumstances in the "contact" mode, if there is no opportunity to use the device in the preferred "probe mode." When the ECD is used in the "contact" mode, it is primarily a pain compliance tool.

106:3 Usage Guidelines

106:31 Affecting an Arrest

Electronic control devices shall only be used on subjects where necessary to affect an arrest, or perform any other duty imposed on the user by law.

106:32 CSO and Reserve Officers

CSO and Reserve Officers shall only use this device for self-defense, to protect the life of another, when directed and assisting a licensed police officer in effecting a lawful arrest; or to prevent the escape, or to retake following the escape a person who was lawfully arrested by a licensed police officer.

106:33 When Devices Shall or Should Not Be Used

Devices shall not be used when the presence of flammable fumes, liquids, or gasses are known or likely. Devices should not be used on women known to be pregnant unless all other means short of deadly force have been used.

ECD's should not be used in any situation where the officer has a reasonable belief that the subject might fall resulting in death or serious physical injury, and the circumstances presented to not justify that risk.

106:34 Use on Animals

The ECD may be used on animals where circumstances dictate that use is necessary to prevent harm to a person or animal, including the animal on which the ECD is used. The animal owner, if known, shall be notified of the incident.

106:4 Safety Considerations**106:41 Informing Others at the Scene**

The deploying officer shall inform others at the scene of the presence of, and planned use of, a control device consistent with training. Such information shall be divulged as is tactically prudent and practical. Officers shall restrain and control a subject as soon as possible after deployment, when tactically safe to do so.

106:42 Safety Priorities

When giving consideration to deploying an electronic control device, the officer shall give consideration to Department safety priorities. Those priorities are as follows:

- Hostages
- Involved, non-subject citizens

- Law enforcement personnel
- Subjects

106:43 Handling ECD Probes as a Biohazard

ECD probes are considered a biohazard, and must be handled appropriately. This includes the use of gloves, and biohazard containers for used cartridges by office personnel.

106:44 Authorized Carriers

Officers are required to carry the ECD in a department approved holster or carrier. *The ECD shall be carried in an approved holster on the side of the body opposite the service handgun.* Issued duty pants with ECD carriers are also approved.

106:45 Officers working uniformed patrol shall carry ECDs while on duty.**106:5 Medical Treatment****106:51 Offering Medical Treatment**

When an electronic control device is used to control a subject, the subject shall be offered prompt medical treatment or examination by medical personnel who are present at the scene, or at the hospital.

106:511

Officers shall examine the suspect for any signs of injury that may have resulted from falling from a seated or upright position.

106:52 Transport to Medical Facility

If no medical personnel are present at the scene or jail facility, the subject can be transported to a medical facility for examination.

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If the subject refuses medical treatment and no visible injuries are present, the officer shall document the refusal.

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If serious injuries are visible, the subject will be referred to medical examination.

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If the subject refuses a medical examination, every effort shall be made to have the subject sign the medical release form used by medical personnel.

106:53 Penetration of Sensitive Tissue

Probes that have penetrated sensitive tissue (i.e. neck, face, groin, and breast) must be removed by hospital staff.

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Officers shall inform medical personnel that the probes are not considered an impaled object. In emergency situations, and if necessary for the safety of the subject, officers may remove probes that have penetrated soft tissue.

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If transported to jail, jail staff shall be notified immediately that the subject has been impacted by the control device.

106:6 Reporting

106:61 Documentation

Whenever an officer deploys an electronic control device, that officer shall document the use in accordance with Columbia Heights Police Department General Order 105 in the following manner:

- Verbally notify the shift supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the shift;
- Prior to completing the shift, the officer shall complete an Incident Complaint Report. If the officer is unable to complete the report, it shall be completed by the shift supervisor. The ECD number should be recorded on both the Use of Force report and ICR report.
- All officers involved in the incident shall be named in the Incident Complaint Report.

- Officers shall attempt to photograph the location of the impact or electrode areas on the subject when practical. Depending on the location of the penetration or contact, same-sex officers or medical personnel shall be used. Refusals to be photographed shall be documented. The location of where each probe struck should be noted in the officer’s report. Refusals for medical attention shall also be documented.
- When an ECD is used in the line of duty, a thorough report documenting its use and the circumstances of the call shall be prepared.
- An ECD used on a subject should be kept in service and a supervisor should be notified so the data can be downloaded by an ECD instructor.

106:7 Maintenance of ECD Evidence

When the ECD has been used operationally, the officer should collect the cartridge, wires leads, darts and AFIDS, and secure them as evidence. The probes shall be inserted back into the cartridge, with the cartridge taped closed, and the cartridge shall be put in a bag or container marked as a biohazard container.

106:8 Training

All officers authorized to carry and deploy an electronic control device shall be trained by an instructor certified for that particular device. Training shall include instruction on the design, intended use, policy requirements on force options, care and maintenance, operation, and handling of components.

BY ORDER OF:
Scott Nadeau, Chief of Police