

**CHAPTER 29**  
**ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE**  
**REVISED SEPTEMBER 2023**  
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**CHAPTER 29**  
**ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE**

1. POLICY.

a. Training.

(1) All uniformed employees shall undergo eight hours of Academy-certified electronic control device (ECD) training.

(2) Academy-certified instructors will train Division and Area instructors. Area-certified instructors will conduct annual recertification of personnel.

(3) All uniformed employees who carry an ECD in the performance of their duties shall recertify annually in its use.

(4) Remedial training shall be provided to employees who fail to demonstrate proficiency during ECD certification.

(5) Employees who fail to demonstrate proficiency during ECD certification training shall not carry or use an ECD while on duty until proficiency is demonstrated and documented.

b. Carrying.

(1) During the course of enforcement duties, all uniformed employees who are certified shall carry an ECD if available. Exceptions to this policy include attendance at funerals and court appearances.

(2) Uniformed employees shall not carry or use an ECD unless they have been trained and certified in its use by a certified instructor.

(3) An ECD shall be carried by qualified uniformed employees in an approved holster on the duty belt in accordance with training and this policy. Uniformed employees shall carry a minimum of two cartridges.

(a) Only holsters that have been evaluated and approved by the Academy, Weapons Training Unit (WTU); for safety, security, and functional reliability; and have been approved by the Office of the Commissioner; are authorized for use by employees of this Department. A list of approved duty holsters is located in Annex A of this chapter.

(b) California Penal Code Section 13660(a) provides that any law enforcement agency that authorizes peace officers to carry an electroshock device, shall prohibit that device from being holstered, or otherwise carried on the same lateral side of the officer's body, as the officer's primary firearm is holstered or otherwise carried.

(c) Uniformed employees shall utilize a support hand draw or primary hand cross-draw technique.

(d) The Department will provide each uniformed employee with an approved holster. Uniformed employees may purchase a personal ECD holster for on-duty use from the list of departmentally approved ECD holsters (refer to Annex A). The maintenance, repair, and replacement of a personal holster are solely the uniformed employee's responsibility.

c. Personally Purchased Electronic Control Devices. Uniformed members of the Department may carry a personally purchased ECD while on duty. Personally purchased ECDs shall adhere to the following:

(1) The ECD shall be the same make, model, and color, as that purchased and currently used and approved by the Department.

(2) Prior to allowing a uniformed employee to carry a personally purchased ECD on duty, the ECD shall be inspected by the Area ECD coordinator to ensure it is the correct model, it functions properly, and the firmware is up to date. Each ECD shall be identified and recorded on a CHP 4, Secondary Firearms Report; and a CHP 311, Annual Officer Safety/Protective Equipment Inspection.

(3) The Area ECD coordinator will be responsible for recording the serial numbers of all personally purchased ECDs and maintaining a current list at the Area office, in accordance with the Area's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

(4) Personally purchased ECDs shall deploy only departmentally purchased cartridges and utilize only a departmentally purchased power source when used on duty.

(5) If the use of a personally purchased ECD requires the device to be booked into evidence, the employee will utilize a departmental ECD while on duty until the personally purchased ECD can be returned to the employee.

(6) Personally purchased ECDs will be subject to the same requirements as departmental devices, such as periodic downloading of data and firmware updates. In the event an employee will be on extended time off (exceeding ten days), the employee shall have their personally purchased ECD downloaded by the ECD coordinator the day immediately before and after the leave.

(7) The employee shall be responsible for contacting the manufacturer and arranging for repairs should the personally purchased ECD malfunction or become defective. If the ECD is damaged while on duty, the repair should be handled in accordance with Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 73.5, Uniform/Grooming and Equipment Standards; Chapter 12, Uniform Allowance. The employee will utilize a departmental ECD while on duty until the personally purchased device is repaired.

(8) Uniformed employees with a personally purchased ECD shall obtain departmental cartridges at the beginning of each shift and turn the cartridges in at the end of each shift, in accordance with the Area's SOP.

(9) Prior to obtaining the departmental cartridges, the employee shall perform a function check (refer to paragraph 1.g.[1] of this chapter).

(10) The reporting requirements in paragraphs 1.q.(1) and 1.q.(2) of this chapter do not apply to personally purchased ECDs discharged while **off duty** and **not equipped** with departmental cartridges.

(11) The employee should include in their purchase a departmentally approved ECD holster.

d. Quarterly Review. The contents of this policy shall be reviewed by all uniformed employees on a quarterly basis.

e. Area Electronic Control Device Coordinators.

(1) Area commanders shall assign an officer or sergeant as the Area ECD coordinator. The Academy, WTU, shall be notified immediately when a new Area ECD coordinator is assigned. The Academy, WTU, will provide online training to newly assigned Area ECD coordinators. Area ECD coordinators shall perform the following duties:

(a) In the event an ECD is deployed during a use of force incident, or is deployed during any situation outside of training, immediately download the ECD to Evidence Sync.

(b) On a monthly basis, download all ECDs assigned to the Area to Evidence Sync. During the monthly download, the Area ECD coordinator shall inspect the ECDs to ensure the following:

- 1 Each ECD is free of cracks.
- 2 The safety switch moves up and down freely.
- 3 The central information display illuminates properly.
- 4 The battery contact points inside the grip are intact and free from corrosion.

(c) Send ECDs in need of repair or replacement to the Academy, WTU.

- 1 A completed CHP 125, Weapon Control Memorandum, shall accompany each ECD detailing the issues.
- 2 The ECD shall not be sent with cartridges or Tactical Performance Power Magazines (TPPM).
- 3 Refer to HPM 70.8, Firearms Manual, Chapter 9, Firearms and Weapons Inventory and Control, for packaging and declared value procedures when shipping ECDs to the Academy, WTU.

(d) Notify the Area commander of any missing ECDs.

(e) Assist the Area commander with the annual ECD inventory.

f. Storage of and Checking In or Out Electronic Control Devices.

(1) Electronic control devices shall be stored in a secure storage area, without a cartridge or TPPM loaded in the ECDs.

(2) Departmental personnel checking an ECD in or out shall ensure a cartridge or TPPM is not loaded in the ECD.

(a) After checking out an ECD, the employee shall perform a function check (refer to paragraph 1.g.[1] of this chapter).

g. Function Check.

(1) Pre-Patrol Spark Test.

(a) With the safety switch in the down (SAFE) position, ensure all cartridges have been removed from the ECD.

(b) Once the ECD is confirmed to be unloaded, place the safety switch in the up (ARMED) position.

(c) Check the battery status on the ECD's central information display.

(d) With the ECD pointed into a clearing tube or other designated safe location, perform a spark test by depressing the trigger. As the ECD is cycling, check for rapid pulse rate. Allow the ECD to cycle a full 5 seconds to ensure proper function.

(e) Insert two 25-foot cartridges into the ECD bays. While continuing to point the ECD in a safe direction, and with all fingers off the ECD trigger, depress the ARC switch for no less than two seconds, ensuring the spark arcs across the cartridges. Repeat this step with the ARC switch on the opposite side of the ECD.

(f) Check the laser sight and light for function and desired configuration.

(g) The spark test should be performed using the hand the uniformed employee would normally use to deploy the ECD.

(2) A pre-patrol spark test shall be performed before an ECD is deployed to the field.

(3) Areas shall develop and implement policy designating a safe location for the performance of pre-patrol spark tests.

h. Electronic Control Devices Exposed to Moisture/Water. The ECD can fail when exposed to extreme moisture/water. In the event an ECD is exposed to extreme moisture/water, do not move the safety switch to the up (ARMED) position until after conducting the following procedures:

(1) Procedures to follow in the event an ECD is exposed to moisture/water, but not completely submerged:

(a) Remove the TPPM from the ECD. If there is any visible moisture inside the TPPM well (grip portion of the ECD), wipe off the excess moisture with a clean, dry cloth.

(b) Remove the cartridge from the ECD.

(c) Wipe off all exposed surfaces. Allow internal surfaces to air dry. DO NOT USE BLOW DRYERS OR COMPRESSED AIR.

(d) After 24 hours, ensure that all components are completely dry. Put the TPPM back into the ECD and wait one minute before proceeding to the next step.

(e) With the ECD pointed in a safe direction, place the safety switch in the up (ARMED) position. If the ECD discharges without pulling the trigger, place the safety switch in the down (SAFE) position and remove the TPPM. Send the ECD to the Academy, WTU, following the procedures outlined in paragraph 1.e.(1)(c) of this chapter. Do not reinstall the TPPM or cartridge or attempt to use the ECD.

(f) If the ECD does not discharge without pulling the trigger, conduct a spark test and ensure a rapid pulse rate.

(g) If the ECD does not operate normally, place the safety switch in the down (SAFE) position, remove the TPPM, and send the ECD to the Academy, WTU, for repair or replacement (refer to paragraph 1.e.[1][c] of this chapter).

(h) If the ECD functions normally, place the safety switch in the down (SAFE) position and return the ECD to service.

(2) Procedures to follow in the event an ECD is exposed to moisture/water and is completely submerged:

(a) Do not attempt to use the ECD.

(b) Ensure the safety switch is in the down (SAFE) position.

(c) Remove the TPPM.

(d) Remove both cartridges.

(e) Remove the ECD from service and send it to the Academy, WTU, for repair or replacement (refer to paragraph 1.e.[1][c] of this chapter).

(2) Observe standard range safety guidelines.

j. Restrictions.

(1) An ECD should not be used:

(a) On handcuffed persons, unless they pose an immediate threat of injury to the uniformed employee, themselves, or others.

(b) On a subject who is simply noncompliant or in control of a vehicle in motion (including motorcycles and bicycles).

(c) Against a person in control of a vehicle if the uniformed employee has reason to believe the vehicle could be put into motion.

(d) Against the following:

1 Women who appear to be pregnant.

2 Subjects who appear to be elderly.

3 Subjects who appear to be frail.

4 Subjects who appear to weigh less than 80 pounds.

5 Young children.

(2) An ECD shall not be used:

(a) As a prod or escort device.

(b) To rouse unconscious, impaired, or intoxicated individuals.

(c) If there is reason to believe a subject has been exposed to flammable liquids. Some oleoresin capsicum sprays carried by allied agencies contain flammable components.

(d) If the use would occur in a flammable or explosive environment where the spark may cause ignition (such as a clandestine laboratory).

(e) If the subject could fall from a substantial height or into a pool, river, or other body of water where substantial injury or death could occur.

k. Rules and Terminology.

(1) The uniformed employee shall avoid intentionally targeting the head, face, neck, throat, groin, and spine.

- (4) An ECD, with proper probe placement, may incapacitate the following:
  - (a) Humans.
  - (b) Humans under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
  - (c) Domesticated animals.
  - (d) Wild animals.

m. Precautions.

- (1) May cause slight signature marks which resemble minor surface burns. The skin may appear red, or a blister may form.
- (2) Can cause eye injury if the subject is struck by a probe in or near the eye.
- (3) Can ignite flammable liquids or gases.
- (4) Can cause strong muscle contractions.
  - (a) The exertion is similar to what is experienced during athletic activities, such as weightlifting or wrestling, and may result in injuries such as muscle or tendon strain or tear, joint injuries, back injuries, stress fractures, or other secondary injuries resulting from strong muscle contraction.
  - (b) Muscle contractions may pose additional risk to certain persons, such as pregnant women.
- (5) May cause secondary injuries from falling. Fall injuries, particularly from elevated heights, can pose a risk of significant injury or death.
- (6) May cause pain and associated stress.

n. Tactics.

- (1) **In the case of armed subjects, an ECD should not be used without the cover of lethal force.**

(2) A uniformed employee may display an ECD's electrical arc utilizing the arc button if the uniformed employee reasonably believes it will avert a potentially dangerous situation or physical confrontation. The display of an ECD's electrical arc under these circumstances is not considered a discharge under this policy.

(3) When feasible, prior to discharging an ECD, the uniformed employee should announce an ECD is going to be discharged.

(4) A contingency plan should be in place to take the subject into custody.

(a) Use of an ECD should be combined with physical restraint techniques to minimize the duration of the struggle and ECD use. Additional uniformed employees on the scene of an ECD deployment can attempt to restrain and handcuff a subject during an active ECD cycle.

(b) Failure to begin restraint procedures during an ECD application can unnecessarily prolong the duration or number of ECD applications administered to the subject.

(c) Touching a subject between the probes or contacting the wires while an ECD is activated may cause the uniformed employee to experience the effects of the ECD.

(d) If a uniformed employee attempting to handcuff a subject experiences the effects of the ECD, the uniformed employee should reposition their body, then reapproach and handcuff the subject.

(5) Minimizing Repeated Exposures.

(a) Every application of an ECD becomes a separate use of force and must be justified by the uniformed employee. A subject must be given reasonable time to comply.

(b) After the initial ECD cycle, a subject should be evaluated for compliance. Only the amount of cycles objectively reasonable to effect an arrest shall be used. Prolonged exposure without evaluation for compliance could have adverse affects on a subject's health.

(c) Repeated, prolonged, and/or continuous exposure to an ECD's electrical discharge may cause strong muscle contractions which may impair breathing and respiration, particularly when the probes are placed across the chest or diaphragm.

(d) Uniformed employees should avoid prolonged, extended, uninterrupted discharges or extensive multiple discharges whenever practicable. This will minimize the potential for overexertion of the subject or potential impairment of full ability to breathe over a protracted time period.

NOTE: When dealing with a person(s) displaying bizarre behavior, which could include agitated delirium or behavior influenced by drug use, use of an ECD should be combined with physical restraint techniques to minimize the total duration of the struggle and ECD stimulation. Agitated delirium is a potentially fatal condition caused by a complex set of physiological conditions including overexertion of the subject and inability for sufficient respiration to maintain normal blood chemistry. There are significant, and potentially fatal, health risks for subjects experiencing agitated delirium from further prolonged exertion and/or impaired breathing.

(6) If circumstances preclude restraint procedures during an ECD application, such as a single uniformed employee acting alone:

(a) The uniformed employee should attempt to minimize the uninterrupted duration and total number of ECD applications.

(b) If the subject refuses to comply after multiple ECD applications, the uniformed employee should consider whether additional applications are making sufficient progress toward compliance/restraint or if transition to a different force option is warranted.

(7) Ultimately, the decision to deploy an ECD, and the method in which it is employed, must be in accordance with Chapter 1, Use of Force, of this manual.

o. Probe Removal.

(1) The following options are available for probe removal after the subject has been taken into custody:

(a) Removal by trained on-scene emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.

(b) If transportation is practical, the subject may be transported to a medical facility to accommodate the removal of the probes by trained EMS personnel.

(c) If transportation is impractical because of the location of the probes, the uniformed employee may remove the probes on-scene using the following procedures:

1 While wearing protective gloves, the uniformed employee shall remove the probes from the subject in the manner which they were trained.

2 The probes shall be treated as sharp and should be inserted in the cartridge. The cartridge should be dealt with as a biohazard and booked into evidence. This shall exclude any cartridges and probes utilized for training purposes.

3 The probe area shall be swabbed with an antiseptic wipe, and a first aid adhesive strip applied.

(2) Uniformed employees shall not remove a probe from any of the following areas:

- (a) Groin.
- (b) Breast area on a female.
- (c) Head and eyes.
- (d) Neck.
- (e) Spinal column.
- (f) Joints.

(3) If probes are still imbedded in the subject, avoid transporting the subject in a position that would foreseeably further embed the probes into the subject.

(4) If the subject remains combative after being taken into custody and the uniformed employee is fearful of injury, treatment of ECD probe puncture wounds may be postponed until the subject is transported to a medical facility for treatment.

p. Medical Care Requirements.

(1) In addition to the medical care requirements outlined in Chapter 1 of this manual, when a subject has been exposed to an ECD, they shall receive a medical clearance from a medical facility prior to being booked into a detention facility.

q. Reporting Procedures.

(1) A supervisor shall be notified as soon as practical after an ECD has been discharged, on or off duty, other than for training or performing a spark test. The following procedures shall be followed:

(a) Comply with the reporting procedures and supervisory responsibilities specified in Chapter 1 of this manual.

(b) A supervisor should respond. Pictures shall be taken of the probe sites, drive stun sites, and any other injuries.

(c) The booking officer shall document the use of an ECD on the detention facility booking slip. Additionally, a copy of the medical clearance form shall be provided to the detention facility and attached to the arrest report.

(2) After an ECD has been discharged, on or off duty, other than for training or performing a spark test, the pertinent data shall be downloaded and reporting shall be thoroughly documented in accordance with HPM 100.86, Risk Management Manual.

(3) Regardless of actual use, all ECDs utilized for on-duty carry shall be downloaded each month and an audit shall be conducted at the Area/Division level to reconcile recorded activations with ECD deployment reports. Records shall be retained for the life of the ECD plus ten years. Electronic records (e.g., Cloud) will suffice.

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## ANNEX A

### AUTHORIZED ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE HOLSTERS

#### DUTY BELT HOLSTER

- Taser X2 Holsters

- HOLX0075TASXII3DRH2C      R/H    Matte Black (Blade – Tech)
- HOLX0075TASXII3DLH2C      L/H    Matte Black (Blade – Tech)

- Safariland Taser X2 Holster

The Safariland holster is approved in the following finishes: Basket Black, Plain Black, or STX Tac Black.

Uniformed employees are advised when ordering from Safariland to verify the product number to ensure the finish and the right- or left-hand holster is being ordered.

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