

Conference Call Regarding TASER Training Bulletin

From: Jennifer Bliven [jennifer@taser.com]  
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2009 3:06 PM  
To: Johnson, Eric B.  
Subject: URGENT: Conference Call Regarding TASER Training Bulletin

Dear TASER Master Instructor,

As you may have seen, there are sensational stories running in the media regarding a recent training bulletin from TASER International. Unfortunately, the stories in the public media are wildly inconsistent, and do not accurately represent the bulletin, or the rationale behind it.

In order to provide more information on this topic, we are hosting two conference calls with our CEO, Rick Smith and our General Counsel, Doug Klint to provide factual information about the bulletin and to answer any questions your agency may have. The conference call times are:

Friday, 10/23 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US) Dial In #:

Monday, 10/26 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US) Dial In #:

The crux of what is being reported: Media is reporting that TASER is prohibiting chest shots because of a danger of cardiac arrest.

This is completely incorrect. TASER has RECOMMENDED slightly lowering the PREFERRED point of aim from center of mass to lower center of mass for shots to the front of the body. Aiming lower results in more effective TASER applications, further reduces the risk of accidental shots to the throat or eyes, and avoids the controversy over whether it is possible for the TASER to have an adverse effect on the "one in a million" person with a bad heart who is also high on drugs, etc - an impossible standard to meet, measure, or even quantify.

One media report inaccurately stated that the risk of cardiac arrest from a chest shot with the TASER is 0.25%. This is completely false. To put it into context how remote this possibility is, the most prominent expert witness hired by plaintiffs against TASER estimates the probability of Ventricular Fibrillation from a TASER strike to be 0.00061%, or 1 in 163,934. And that's the estimate from the plaintiffs!

Due to this sensationally inaccurate reporting, please make sure that you download the actual bulletin for yourselves at:  
[www.taser.com/training/Pages/TrainingResources.aspx](http://www.taser.com/training/Pages/TrainingResources.aspx)

And please join us for our conference calls listed above.

Thank you,

TASER International

Additional Backup Information:

" The preferred targeting is from the sternum down. The Neuro Muscular Effect has always had an increased ineffectiveness when the top probe hits the upper extremities while the bottom probe is in the lower extremities such as the pelvic triangle and legs. Deploying the probes to the back and splitting the belt line with exposures is the most effective deployment to achieve incapacitation and has been taught for many years now.

" TASER has long stood by the fact that our technology is not risk free and is often used during violent and dangerous confrontations. We have not stated that the TASER causes VF events in this bulletin, only that the refined target zones avoid

any potential controversy on this topic.

" There is no significant shift, just a slight change by literally a few inches when intentionally targeting the preferred target zone and is qualified by 'when possible' and 'unless legally justified'.

" Medical and field studies continue to demonstrate that the TASER® ECD carries a lower risk of injury than traditional force options, leading to lower officer injury rates and safer communities. We continuously update our technology, products and warnings to further maximize the safety and effectiveness of TASER device to help protect life. These recommendations are also intended to help our agency customers develop the most effective policies and training that are responsive to community concerns about how police officers can most safely respond to violent resistance.

" We continually seek to improve and refine our products and our training. Because of this, we occasionally modify recommendations and warnings to reflect a best practices approach for our customers to consider. These modifications take into account the most recent research data, customer feedback, and risk management knowledge. The recent release of our Training Bulletin should not be interpreted as a significant change in how our products should be used. The recommendations should be viewed as best practices that mitigate risk management issues resulting in more effective deployments while maximizing safety considerations such as avoiding face, neck, and chest/breast shots.

Law enforcement confrontations are not risk free. Neither is TASER device use. However, TASER devices have been demonstrated to carry lower risk of injury or death than any other force option - aside from pepper sprays which carry a similarly low risk, but with less effectiveness. These recommendations are intended to further increase effectiveness, and increase the safety margins for what is already an extraordinarily safe device for its intended use.