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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT

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Subject: MS9260 Law Enforcement General Order 39- Electronic Control Device

FOIA
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Letter:

1. Updates, supersedes, or rescinds:

Updates General Order (GO) 39- Taser - Electronic Control Device, Release 9-386. This version of GO-39 will be made available externally.

2. Explanation of Materials Transmitted:

This GO will provide external entities with the policy and procedures for use of electronic control devices by law enforcement officers within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) law enforcement program.

3. Reports Required:

None

4. Delegations of Authority Updated:

None

5. Filing Instructions: File as directed below.

REMOVE

All of MS 9260-39 (Rel. 9-386)
(Total: 6 Pages)

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All of MS 9260-39 (Rel. 9-449)
(Total: 6 Pages)

S:/ Eric A. Kriley
Director
Office of Law Enforcement and Security



ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE (ECD)

Order Number

39

Dated

March 24, 2026

Number of Pages

6

Issued by

Director, Bureau of Land Management Office Law Enforcement and Security

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and consistent framework that guides expectations of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) in use of Electronic Control Devices (ECDs). This General Order (GO) sets forth guidelines for the authorized configuration, duty carry, storage, and transportation of ECDs, as well as procedures for downloading data, reporting incidents, training, and the overall management of ECDs by BLM LEOs.

2. SCOPE

The scope of this policy applies to all BLM LEOs and their supervisors. It applies to all activities, processes, and practices related to ECDs. Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede applicable law, regulation, and/or Department of the Interior (DOI) policy. In the event of any discrepancies, the applicable laws, regulations, and policies of the DOI shall govern.

3. AUTHORITY

a. 43 U.S.C. § 1733

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- b. 44 U.S.C § 31
- c. 49 C.F.R § 175
- d. 49 C.F.R. § 1544
- e. 446 DM 22

4. DEFINITIONS

Cartridge: Refers to an ECD cartridge, which contains probes.

Electronic Control Device (ECD): ECD also known as Conducted Energy Weapon, Conducted Electrical Weapon, Electronic Control Weapon, or a Taser®, is a less-lethal hand-held device that discharges electrical pulses designed to temporarily incapacitate a person by inhibiting the person's neuromuscular control involving the direct application of the ECD to the subject's body.

ECD Deployment- Drive Stun Mode: The ECD is activated and applied in direct contact with the subject's body causing pain and discomfort to that immediate area of the body. This method will not normally incapacitate a subject unless the drive stun also completes the electrical circuit in conjunction with at least one wired probe that remains connected between the subject and the ECD.

ECD Deployment- Probe Mode: The ECD is fired at the subject with the intended effect of the two or more wired probes making separate contact with the subject's body to complete the electrical circuit and incapacitate the subject.

ECD Function Test: A pre-shift test conducted to ensure the ECD is functioning properly and that all electronic components are performing adequately. Also referred to as a spark test.

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC): OC is also known as pepper spray and is an irritant agent derived from various peppers.

5. FILE AND RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Law enforcement records will be maintained in accordance with the Law Enforcement GOs and Handbooks, and the Bureau Records Retention Catalog.

6. POLICY

6.1 ECD ISSUANCE TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

The Director, BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES) authorizes all law enforcement rangers and special agents who have approval from their Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) and have completed their ECD training to carry and deploy an ECD for law enforcement purposes.

6.2 AUTHORIZED ECD DEVICES

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The Taser® is the only ECD approved by the OLES for use within the BLM law enforcement program. Under no circumstance will a LEO be authorized to carry an ECD other than the ECD issued to them by the BLM's OLES.

6.3 ECD CONFIGURATION FOR DUTY CARRIAGE

BLM LEOs performing field duties must configure and carry the ECD as outlined in this policy and corresponding Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). LEOs are required to position the ECD on the side opposite their primary handgun. ECDs are not authorized to be carried without a firearm.

6.4 ECD CARRIAGE ON COMMERCIAL AIRLINES

OLES authorizes BLM LEOs flying armed to carry the ECD within the passenger compartment of the airplane in accordance with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and corresponding SOPs.

6.5 OTHER LESS LETHAL DEVICES

When carrying an ECD while in uniform, BLM LEOs must carry either a baton or Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray on the LEOs' persons in a manner consistent with training. If desired, LEOs may carry both a baton and OC spray. If BLM LEOs carry OC spray, it must be designated "Nonflammable and Electronic Immobilization Device Compatible."

6.6 OFF-DUTY ECD CARRIAGE

BLM LEOs are not authorized to carry ECDs off-duty.

6.7 ECD INSPECTION

An ECD inspection and function test must be conducted prior to the start of every shift to verify that the ECD's core electronics are working properly.

6.8 ECD STORAGE

BLM LEOs are responsible for the safeguarding of their ECDs in a secure location when not in use. LEOs must keep their assigned ECDs and authorized components secured at all times and must store them in a locked container that is not visible to the public.

6.9 ANNUAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

The ECDs will be inspected on an annual basis by an ECD instructor.

6.10 ECD INVENTORY

ECDs are accountable property and are subject to annual inventory requirements of the BLM OLES.

6.11 ECD DISPOSAL

Obsolete and unserviceable ECDs will be returned to the BLM OLES Equipment Specialist.

6.12 ECD DEPLOYMENT PARAMETERS

ECDs are considered less lethal weapons and LEOs will deploy them in accordance with GO 14 (Use of Force), corresponding SOPs, and the parameters set forth below.

6.12.1 VERBAL WARNINGS

Prior to deploying an ECD, and when feasible, LEOs must issue a verbal warning and allow a reasonable amount of time for the subject to comply, unless doing so would increase the risk of injury to LEOs, the subject, or others. When practical, LEOs should also notify assisting officers of their intention to deploy the ECD.

6.12.2 ECD AND FLAMMABLE COMPONENTS

ECDs can arc and ignite flammable components present in some defense sprays. When deploying the ECD, BLM LEOs must consider the potential flammability of defense sprays used by other law enforcement personnel on the scene.

6.12.3 ECD DEPLOYMENT AND POLICE CANINE

LEOs must take care to avoid exposing police canines to the effects of the ECD. If a police canine has engaged or is preparing to engage a subject, the LEO should obtain the canine handler's approval prior to deploying the ECD, whether in drive stun or probe mode.

6.12.4 ECD DEPLOYMENT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- a. Except in clearly articulated extenuating circumstances, ECDs should not be used when the LEO perceives the use of an ECD may result in secondary injuries, including but not limited to situations when:
 1. A subject may fall from a significant height.
 2. A subject is operating a moving vehicle or machinery.
 3. A subject is in or near a body of water which presents a risk of drowning.
 4. A subject is believed to be contaminated by or otherwise near flammable or explosive materials; or
 5. A subject is believed to be at an increased risk for secondary injuries (e.g., the very young, the very old, the infirm, or the pregnant).
- b. LEOs must not intentionally target sensitive areas (e.g., head, neck, genitalia) unless deadly force is justified, and such targeting is necessary to neutralize the imminent danger.

6.13 ECD POST DEPLOYMENT

When LEOs deploy the ECD they must implement the following procedures, as applicable:

6.13.1 SUBJECT CARE

As soon as reasonably possible after the use of an ECD and when the scene is secure, LEOs must provide and/or obtain appropriate medical assistance to the affected subject as needed. The following applies:

- a. Subjects must be carefully evaluated in the field to determine whether they should be transported to a medical facility for evaluation. Officers should exercise their sound judgment when determining whether an individual should be transported to a medical facility for evaluation. Personnel conducting medical evaluations must be made aware that the suspect has been exposed to an ECD application so they can evaluate the need for further medical treatment.
- b. Subjects that have received an ECD application should be monitored regularly while in custody even if they have received medical care. Notification of the ECD exposure must accompany the subject when transferred to jail personnel or until the subject is released from custody.
- c. ECD probes must be treated as a biohazard when processed as evidence. Only medical personnel should remove probes that have penetrated a subject's sensitive areas (e.g., head, neck, genitalia) or are difficult to remove. Probes should be inspected to ensure that they are intact following removal from a subject.

6.13.2 EVIDENCE PRESEVATION

Once the subject is secure and the scene is safe, BLM LEOs must collect physical evidence related to the ECD deployment.

6.14 ECD DOWNLOADING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Each time an LEO activates the ECD, recording begins immediately. The recorded data must be downloaded in accordance with this policy and/or corresponding SOP, including periodic, post-deployment, and unintentional discharges.

Specific reporting requirements include ECD deployments resulting from a use of force, unintentional discharges, as well as instances of damage, loss, or theft. Reporting must adhere to specific policy guidelines and supervisory notifications, including the requirement to report lost or stolen ECDs to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

6.15 ECD RELATED USE OF FORCE INVESTIGATIONS

All ECD related uses of force resulting in death or serious bodily injury will be investigated by the appropriate entity. The BLM's Office of Professional Responsibility will investigate all allegations of

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excessive use of force by BLM LEOs.