

Taser Training Exposure Survey November 2007

The Albany Police Department surveyed member agencies of the California Police Chief's Association by asking for a response to the following question regarding policies or practices concerning Taser exposure during operator training:

Does your agency either:

- a. *mandate* trainee exposure
- b. *prohibit* trainee exposure, or
- c. allow *voluntary* trainee exposure

A total of 95 municipal police departments responded to this survey. The responses explained individual exposure requirements in varying levels of detail. Those agencies that either mandate or permit voluntary exposure during training utilized various methods of subjecting an officer to the electrical shock effects of the Taser including:

- live discharge of probes from a cartridge
- probes either taped or clipped to the trainee's clothing
- a "drive stun" (contact exposure) in lieu of

Mandated Trainee Exposure

Approximately 13.5% (13 of 95) agencies mandate exposure to the Taser during initial training.

Prohibited Trainee Exposure

Approximately 9.5% (9 of 95) agencies prohibit Taser exposure during training. Three agencies allowed for minor exceptions.

- One agency allows a single student to be exposed for the education of each class
- One allows limited exposure via a quick application of the drive stun.
- One allows for trainers to be exposed in the "train the trainer" course.

Eight of these nine responses cited either department or city concerns about injury as the primary reason for their decision to either prohibit or control exposures.

Voluntary Trainee Exposure

Approximately 77% (73 of 95) agencies reported that they allow for voluntary exposure during training. Those that specified their conditions stated they follow Taser's safety guidelines for voluntary exposures.

Although some responses gave no information, the most consistent theme in allowing exposure was the advantage of enhanced courtroom testimony by officers, followed by officer safety benefits.