

**Taser Report  
Grand Jury Case No. 04-45  
2003-2004**

**REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

The Stanislaus Civil Grand Jury was invited to attend a demonstration of the Taser use presented by the Sheriff's department.

**BACKGROUND**

The Taser is an electrical device designed to be used by officers in situations where deadly force is not required. The Taser has been put into operation in municipalities throughout the United States.

**PROCEDURES FOLLOWED**

1. Observed the Taser Demonstration.
2. Interviewed Sheriff's Department staff.
3. Requested and reviewed Taser specifications.
4. Requested and reviewed Police statistics in municipalities which have adopted Taser use.

**FINDINGS**

1. The Taser has a maximum range of 25 feet.
2. The Taser overrides the targets nervous system causing temporary incapacitation.
3. The Taser is not intended to replace the use of firearms in situations warranting their use.
4. Minor skin irritation may occur as a result of Taser use.
5. The Taser will not cause a heart attack or damage a pacemaker.
6. Statistics show that municipalities which have adopted Taser use have substantially lowered their incidents of officer and suspect injuries which have been caused primarily by use of pepper spray, batons, or hand to hand combat.
7. The cost of each Taser is approximately \$800.

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Taser is a humane, safe method of apprehension, which results in lower rates of injuries to both officers and suspects.
2. With no bullets or chemical sprays being used, there is less likelihood of accidental discharge adversely affecting the community.
3. Lower incidents of officer and suspect injuries would result in:
  - A. Lower workers compensation claims.

- B. Reduce the current amount of days officers spend recovering from injuries.
- C. Decreasing the amount of suspects injured, resulting in a lower liability of the County.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. All the Police and Sheriff's agencies within Stanislaus County should purchase and issue Tasers to all appropriate law enforcement staff.