

## Innocent Lives Lost and Destroyed by Tasers

✧ In February of 2007 a wheelchair bound woman died from electrocution from Tasers used by police. The police knew of 56-year-old Emily Marie Delafield's mental illness and poor physical condition. Yet she held a knife and a hammer and threatened police from her wheelchair - the police chose to electro-shock her, 10 times for a total of 121 seconds.

✧ In 2005 police officers in 5 states sued Taser International for injuries sustained during police training sessions. 1 police chief suffered heart damage and two strokes when he volunteered to be shocked while hooked up to a cardiac monitor as a way to demonstrate the safety of the Taser to his officers. Other officers suffered multiple spinal fractures, burns, shoulder dislocation, hearing and vision loss, and neurological damage—under controlled conditions.

### Face the Facts

- ✧ In Houston, fatal police shootings did not decrease after tasers were introduced.
- ✧ Over 70 people have died after being shocked by a taser in 2007 alone, bringing the number of deaths to more than 230 since 2001 in the US.
- ✧ In Seattle, over ¼ of the people tasered were unarmed and were not a threat to the police.
- ✧ In Houston, more than half of the taser incidents resulted from traffic stops, disturbance and nuisance complaints, and reports of suspicious people. And in more than 350 of the 900 taser incidents no crime was committed.
- ✧ Taser International has every reason to lie about the lethality of its gun – profit rules.
- ✧ Taser Intl has pressured coroners to not list the taser as a cause of death.
- ✧ Taser Intl has given lucrative stock options to police officers who then promote the technology in their respective cities.

### Sources & More Info

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## Tasers and the Police: A Deadly Combination

*Tasers do not decrease the likelihood that police will use deadly force. In fact, tasers are deadly force, yet are commonly used to ensure compliance. Let's use our tax dollars to properly educate and train police, not to electrocute our citizens.*

**The case against tasers**



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# The Taser Tragedy

## False rationale behind tasers

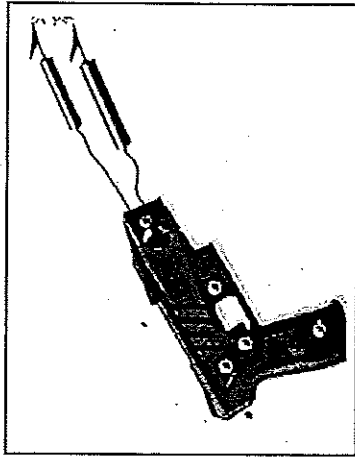
According to Taser International (the company that manufactures tasers), tasers are a non-lethal alternative to deadly force. This corporation states that tasers are an alternative to firearms, claiming they reduce the number of injuries to officers and suspects, such as incapacitating a suspect in the early stages of a confrontation. Actually, police already have numerous weapons such as chemical weapons, asps, batons, guns, rubber bullets, voice control, and physical restraints. Aren't there MANY better uses for our limited tax dollars than another violent weapon to be used against citizens? Let's support better training and oversight for police, rather than the electrocution of our citizens!

## How a taser works

Tasers are shaped like a pistol, and use compressed nitrogen gas to fire sharp barbed darts up to 21 feet. The darts can penetrate up to 2 inches of clothing and conduct 50,000 volts of electricity through small wires that are connected to a battery inside the gun. The electrical shock can continue for as long as the trigger is depressed, and multiple shocks can be inflicted as long as the darts are still in the subject. Police don't have to exert themselves and don't have to get their hands dirty. The shock induces a muscle spasm that causes a person to become temporarily paralyzed. Emergency staff are being trained to remove barbed darts stuck in the eyes, face, neck or genitals. Many injuries also result from falling. Tasers can also be used as stun guns. In stun mode they inflict pain through smaller electric shocks, but may not incapacitate

## What is it like to be tasered?

- ✦ "A shock wave of excruciating pain running through the body."
- ✦ "Like getting hit with a lightning bolt through the top of your head."
- ✦ "It locks you up like a board."
- ✦ "Paralyzed."
- ✦ "It feels as if a big bull is goring me over and over."



## The effects of being tasered

Lethal effects: Irregular heart beats, ventricular fibrillation (the heart muscles spasm uncontrollably), metabolic acidosis (upsetting pH balance of the body), restraint asphyxia (suffocation).

Non-lethal effects: Falling and severe head injuries, skin burns and piercing, broken bones and spinal fractures from convulsions and spasms, loss of bowel control, loss of memory & mental trauma.

## Unreliable Science

- ✦ No independently reviewed comprehensive scientific study has been conducted on this potentially lethal weapon.
- ✦ Taser International's primary safety studies on the M26 [taser] consist of tests on a single pig in 1996 and on five dogs in 1999 by company-paid researchers.
- ✦ A 1999 study by the Department of Justice on an electrical weapon much weaker than the Taser found that it might cause cardiac arrest in people with pre-existing heart conditions.
- ✦ A recent US study showed that tasers can cause the hearts of healthy pigs to stop beating.
- ✦ 2 of Homeland Securities largest departments, ICE and CBP, banned the use of tasers in 2003 due to safety concerns, and a lack of independent research

## At-risk groups for sudden death from tasers:

The elderly, children, pregnant women, those in ill-health, small people in general, those using drugs, the mentally ill, people who have come into contact with flammable liquids, or a flammable atmosphere, people in a position to fall to their death