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.

**Sources & More Info**

The Taser Tragedy

False rationale behind taser
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 Security’s 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.