

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.401	<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/1/2013
<b>Title:</b>	Response to a Tasered Patient	<b># of pages:</b>	2
<b>Category:</b>	Emergency Medical Response	<b>Classification:</b>	Yellow

1. **PURPOSE:** To ensure the safety of EMS personnel and proper patient care when responding to a patient that a Taser has been used on.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

Taser definition: A Taser is a hand held device utilized by law enforcement to provide an electrical charge to offenders by means of a battery in the device through two wires connected to barbs which are shot into the patient. Taser is a brand name and similar procedures are utilized for other brand name devices. This is a non-lethal system but adverse reactions may be possible depending on patient history.

Routine Patient Care

**Ensure the officer has disconnected the wires from the hand-held unit before contact with the patient in order to prevent possible energization of the rescuer.**

Confer with the officer and determine the patient's condition from the time of the Taser discharge until EMS arrival.

Obtain history from the patient including date of last tetanus shot and any cardiac history. If *any* of the probes are embedded in the following areas *do not remove* them and transport the patient to an emergency department: Face, Neck, Bone, Groin, or Spinal Column.

Removal of Probes by EMS Providers

If the probes are located in an area not excluded previously, it may be removed. To remove: Place one hand on the patient where the probe is embedded and stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site. Place your other hand firmly gripping the probe. In one quick fluid motion pull the probe straight out of the puncture site. Repeat this procedure with all other probes. Removed probes should be handled and disposed of like a contaminated sharps in a sharps container.

Treatment and Follow-up Instructions

Clean puncture sited and bandage. If patient has not had a tetanus shot in the last 5 years, they should be advised to get one. Transport decisions regarding patients subdued by a Taser should be based on patient condition. If transport is indicated based on patient condition and the patient refuses treatment and/or transport they should be advised to seek medical attention immediately or contact EMS if they experience any abnormal signs and symptoms. Exceptions to the right to refuse may be altered mental status due to alcohol or drug intoxication or under arrest by police. In that event coordinate with local law enforcement.

Advanced Treatment

IV access, administer fluid to maintain systolic blood pressure > 90 mmHg. EKG monitor for cardiac abnormalities.

Paramedic Treatment

If patient is greater than 35 years old, consider 12-lead evaluation. Consider pain management if necessary and appropriate. Follow Maine EMS pain management protocol

3. REFERENCES:

- Maine EMS Protocols

By Order Of:

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