

**TASER® NON-LETHAL WEAPONS:
SAFETY DATA AND FIELD RESULTS**

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Introduction

TASER International was founded in 1993 to develop non-lethal weapons in the belief that non-lethal alternatives to lethal force can reduce the incidence of death and serious injury from incidents involving violent interpersonal conflict. Over the past decade, TASER brand non-lethal weapons have been deployed at over 7,000 law enforcement agencies around the world. The early adoption of TASER devices was concentrated primarily in North America, although these devices are now deployed in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Korea, Singapore, and many other countries around the globe.

One of the challenges facing non-lethal weapons is the misinterpretation of the terms “non-lethal” and “safe.” Opponents of non-lethal weapons argue that the term “non-lethal” implies that the risk of fatality associated with non-lethal weapons must be zero. This logic is counterproductive, as the very nature of physical force confrontations involve a significant degree of risk, especially when traditional lethal force or even impact force weapons such as batons are utilized. The purpose of non-lethal weapons is to provide options that are intended to operate while minimizing the risk of serious injury or death, although this risk can never be completely eliminated. Accordingly, TASER International uses the term non-lethal in the context of the definition contained in United States Department of Defense Policy:

U.S. Department of Defense policy defines non-lethal weapons as "weapon systems that are explicitly designed and primarily employed so as to incapacitate personnel or materiel, while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury to personnel, and undesired damage to property and the environment. . ."

It is important to note that Department of Defense policy does *not* require or expect non-lethal weapons "to have a zero probability of producing fatalities or permanent injuries." Rather, non-lethal weapons are intended to *significantly reduce* the probability of such fatalities or injuries as compared with traditional military weapons which achieve their effects through the physical destruction of targets.