



**City of Winchester
Fire & Rescue Department
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**



Section:	EMS Operations	SOP:	9.2
Subject:	Taser Probe Removal	Executed:	4/28/2010
		Revised:	9/12/2012
 Approved: C. E. McClellan Jr., Deputy Chief		 Approved: Christopher Turnbull, MD, OMD	

PURPOSE

To establish a guideline to assist the Winchester Police Department (WPD) in the removal of probes from individuals that is subjected to the use of the less than lethal Taser.

INTRODUCTION

The WPD has certified and issued their field supervisors Tasers for use as an alternative method of less than lethal submission. The WPD General order 2-65 states that *“Only emergency medical personnel or other trained personnel shall remove probes from subjects”*. The role of Winchester Fire & Rescue will be for the removal of the probes that will be impaled into the subject. Our Operational Medical Director has reviewed this information and has granted us permission for the removal of the probes.

PROCEDURE

Upon being dispatched to assist the Winchester Police Department in the removal of barbed probes from subjects, the following guideline shall be utilized:

1. Incidents of this nature shall be treated like any other EMS incident in which patient care and proper documentation will be required for all individuals. (i.e. Patient refusals or patient transports)
2. Providers need to be cognizant of secondary injuries due to falls after being tazed. Individuals subjected to this will experience complete immobilization and will seek the lowest point, ground, due to gravity.
3. The WPD Tasers emit two probes that are guided by wires to the individual. These probes will impale themselves approximately 1/2 inch into the body.

4. Each probe has a barb at the end similar to a fishing hook. A notch in the side of the probe body indicates the location of the barb at the tip.
5. When pulling the probe out it is advised to use one gloved hand to stabilize the area by spreading out clothing and/or skin, and then with the other gloved hand pull the probe with force.
6. The wounds will be similar to a bee sting with little or no blood visible. Dressing may or may not be necessary.
7. The probes should be given to the officers once removed for evidence collection. Pictures of the wound sites will be performed by the WPD.

Unless specifically requested, the subject will be transported to jail by the WPD. Again, this is considered a patient and EMS **guidelines** remain in **effect**.