

*Зубкова А.*, курсант ННІ № 1  
Національної академії  
внутрішніх справ Консультант з  
мови: Грабовська Н. А.

### **ELECTROSHOCK WEAPON IN NORWAY**

An electroshock weapon is a weapon, what delivers an electric shock aimed at temporarily disrupting muscle functions and/or inflicting pain without causing significant injury.

Many types of these devices exist. Stun guns, batons (or prods), and belts administer an electric shock by direct contact, whereas Tasers (conducted electrical weapons) fire projectiles that administer the shock through thin flexible wires. Long-range electroshock projectiles, which can be fired from ordinary shotguns and do not need the wires, have also been developed.

Electroshock Weapons have been in use since the early to mid 1900s, starting with the cattle prod. The concept of using electricity for self-defense has been in place since the 1800s, but has been implemented for civilian use until only just recently in the 1980s and 90s. During these periods, products as the stun gun and the TASER were born.

Police in a number of Norwegian districts will be given electroshock weapons as part of a trial from next year. The weapons will be used in the Oslo, Ost, Sorvest and Troms police districts, NRK reports.

The National Police Directorate began looking into the possibility of using the weapon type last year and has now decided to implement the trial in the four districts from January 1st, 2019, according to the report. Similar weapons are already used by police in the United States, United Kingdom and Finland. "We consider this a resource police in other countries have made use of with good results. It results in less injury than the weapons police traditionally use," National Police Directorate response director Knut Smedsrud told NRK. "One way in which this could be used is as an alternative in the many instances in which police currently use firearms. That happens thousands of times per year, so it is absolutely interesting for us to look at electroshock weapons as an alternative. It could also be an alternative to batons or gas weapons in certain instances," Smedsrud added.

Concern over the weapon type, which can fire a charge of 50,000 volts, has been raised by NGO Amnesty International, which said that it should be treated as potentially lethal implement.

"It is important to be aware those electroshocks weapons can leave inflict very serious injuries. They can even cause death. They should be managed in the exact same way as firearms, and only be

used in the same situations as firearms - and nothing more,” Amnesty International political advisor Gerald Folkløve told NRK.

Self-defense comes in many forms. You can utilize hand-hand tactics to subdue an attacker, dose them with scorching pepper, rumble their ear drums with the power of sound, hit them with the blunt force of a metal stick OR "light them up "like a light bulb. By far the most interesting option is the last.

In conclusion I can say that tasers are electroshock weapons used for incapacitating aggressive persons by disrupting superficial muscle functions through administering electric shocks. The number of taser users and also taser related deaths are increasing every year. Taser effects on humans vary a lot depending on taser associated factors (voltage, wave-length, and firing distance, type of use - contact or from the distance) but also on human variability (skin thickness, salinity, associated pathology, etc). A single discharge usually is not usually associated with severe adverse reactions or death, but these can happen in various risk groups (pregnant women, elderly, small children). This review presents the spectra of clinical signs and symptoms associated with taser use and a synthesis of the suggested protocols for the management of forensic cases.

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