

OCEAN SHORES POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Chief of Police Richard W. McEachin

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The Ocean Shores Police Department has recently added a new tool to their arsenal, the Taser. The Taser is a less than lethal projectile type instrument that fires an electrical charge rather than a bullet. As a less-lethal weapon, it was created to allow for an alternative to deadly force when dealing with potentially dangerous individuals.

Generally most police departments, including the Ocean Shores Police, have policies that dictate an escalating use of force in dealing with persons. Law enforcement in past years only had a handgun or baton available to them when dealing with potentially dangerous subjects. Chemical sprays, such as MACE, were later developed and refined to the current OC Spray.

Three years ago the Ocean Shores Police added a Sage gun to their list of tools. The Department only has one Sage gun. The Sage gun, considered less-lethal, is a rifle that expends a rubber baton giving the police an option other than deadly force.

The Ocean Shores Police received a \$5000 federal grant that allowed for the purchase of the Tasers. The Taser, which will be carried by all uniformed officers, provides another less than lethal option. The Taser immobilizes an individual by means of an electrical current. The current temporarily affects the central nervous system, incapacitating the individual. The Taser's electrical output is such that it will not effect pacemakers and its effects subside when the electrical charge is extinguished.

Ocean Shores officers recently participated in a training course on the use of the Taser. The class culminated with several officers actually being exposed to the Taser to experience its effects. To view our recent training go to our web page at <http://osgov.com/police> and select "Taser training".

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