RCMP Quarterly Report
On
Conducted Energy Weapons

2009-04-01 to 2009-06-30

Prepared By:
National Use of Force Unit,
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Executive Summary

This report on the RCMP's use of the conducted energy weapon (CEW) covers the period April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 and provides details on: deployment type, effectiveness, occurrence type, subject behavior, subject injuries, and perceived presence of alcohol and/or other substances. In the majority of cases, the CEW proved to be an effective intervention option in addressing subject behaviour. There were situations where the CEW was ineffective, due to factors such as: weapon malfunction, heavy or loose clothing worn by the subject, or ineffective probe deployments.

On January 19, 2009, the RCMP initiated a new Subject Behaviour/Officer Response (SB/OR) reporting database with 14 pilot sites across Canada. SB/OR reporting enhances police accountability and relevant training through a standardized method of recording subject behaviour and the use of intervention options. SB/OR was implemented throughout the RCMP on January 1, 2010.

The statistical information for this report was derived from the data contained in the RCMP's CEW database and the SB/OR database. Only CEW deployments reported in SB/OR were merged with the CEW Database data for this reporting period.

Key Findings:

- There were 193 CEW deployments on 187 subjects during the reporting period.
- 172 (89.1%) of these deployments were effective in controlling the subjects' behavior.
- In 116 (60.1%) deployments, the CEW was presented (i.e., displayed but not deployed in push stun or probe mode); 93.1% of those deployments were effective in controlling the subjects' behavior.
- Incidents of cause disturbance, domestic dispute and firearm complaints accounted for 89 (46.1%) of all occurrence types in which a CEW was deployed.
- Responses to mental health or suicidal subjects accounted for 18 (9.3%) of all deployments.
- In 37 incidents (19.2%), members deployed the CEW even though they reported facing a threat of death or grievous bodily harm*.
- Out of the 187 subjects on which the CEW was deployed, 174 (93%) of the individuals sustained no injury other than the immediate effect of the CEW, such as a slight burn or probe mark. 12 individuals (6.4%) received outpatient treatment.
- One incident of death proximal to a CEW usage was reported during this period. This incident is still under investigation; however, the primary cause of death was determined to be the result of acute cocaine toxicity.
- Alcohol and/or use of other substances were suspected/confirmed in 156 incidents (80.8%).

(Note: *This statistical data was derived from the number of subjects displaying the behavior of death or grievous bodily harm. See page 14.)

Conducted Energy Weapon - Introduction

Methodology:

- 213 CEW usage reports (Form 3996) and SB/OR pilot site reports were completed by RCMP members between April 1st, 2009 and June 30th, 2009.

- 20 reports were removed from the analysis for the following reasons:
    - eight duplicate reports;
    - eight reports where the subject was unaware of the presence of the CEW (not reportable as per policy);
    - one use of a CEW on an animal;
    - two unintentional discharges while spark testing; and
    - one report with the wrong occurrence date (the actual occurrence date was in 2008).

- Qualitative and quantitative analysis was completed on the remaining 193 CEW usage reports and SB/OR reports which were on 187 subjects (*N*=187 will be used for the analysis of injuries to avoid over reporting).

- Extracts from the CEW database and SB/OR database were entered into SPSS (statistical analysis software).

- Content analysis was completed on the narratives of the CEW usage reports to code for subject behavior [based on Incident Management Intervention Model (IMIM)], effectiveness, impediments, deployment type and injury/treatment. This was completed by a working group composed of subject matter experts, regular members and civilian members. The coding was then entered into SPSS.

- SB/OR contains fields for the aforementioned variables, which are filled out by the reporting member; therefore, manual coding was not required for SB/OR reports.

- SPSS was used to analyze the data and produce descriptive statistics.

- Bi-variate analysis was completed to correlate variables.

The activation or cycling of the CEW is possible in two different modes, namely:

- **Push stun mode:** pressing or pushing an activated CEW onto an individual's body, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that individual; or

- **Probe mode:** deploying an activated CEW by discharging two electrical probes, equipped with small barbs that hook onto a person's clothing or skin, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that person.

Usage of a CEW is articulated in Operational Manual (OM) Part 17, dated February 3, 2009. The "usage" of a CEW as an intervention option is explained in OM 17.7.2. and occurs when:

- The CEW is activated. Activation occurs when the safety is released on the CEW and/or the CEW is cycled in push stun or probe mode; or

- The CEW is presented. Presence is when the CEW is drawn from its holster (activated or not) or reference of its use is made in gaining control of a situation.

After each CEW usage, members are required by policy to notify their supervisor as soon as practicable and to complete the CEW usage report (Form 3996) or SB/OR report prior to the end of their shift. Each report documents the details concerning the use of the CEW in a given incident.

To address the issue of proper completion of Form 3996, the National Use of Force Unit provided all RCMP divisions with a template describing the information required to complete the form properly and reinforced the circumstances under which the report is required. Outstanding reports are tracked nationally and updated as they are successfully uploaded to the data base.

The detachments that were participating in the SB/OR pilot project were required to complete an SB/OR report if any of the following responses were used:

- Use of Physical Control Hard (e.g. strikes, carotid control, etc.);
- Intermediate Weapons (i.e., OC spray, baton, CEW);
- Lethal Force;
- Deployment of a Police Service Dog; or
- Use of Physical Control Soft resulting in an injury.

The National Use of Force Unit continually reviews submitted reports to enhance and emphasize full and accurate CEW reporting.

(Note: As of February 3, 2009 the CEW Challenge was removed from policy. Members are taught to use verbal intervention and conflict resolution when feasible, as well as use simple commands such as "police stop" to potentially de-escalate a subject's behaviour).

Conducted Energy Weapon - Deployments

Table 1 reports CEW deployments by division on a monthly basis for the reporting period. Table 2 outlines the types of deployments by division and Chart 1 shows the total breakdown of deployment types nationally.

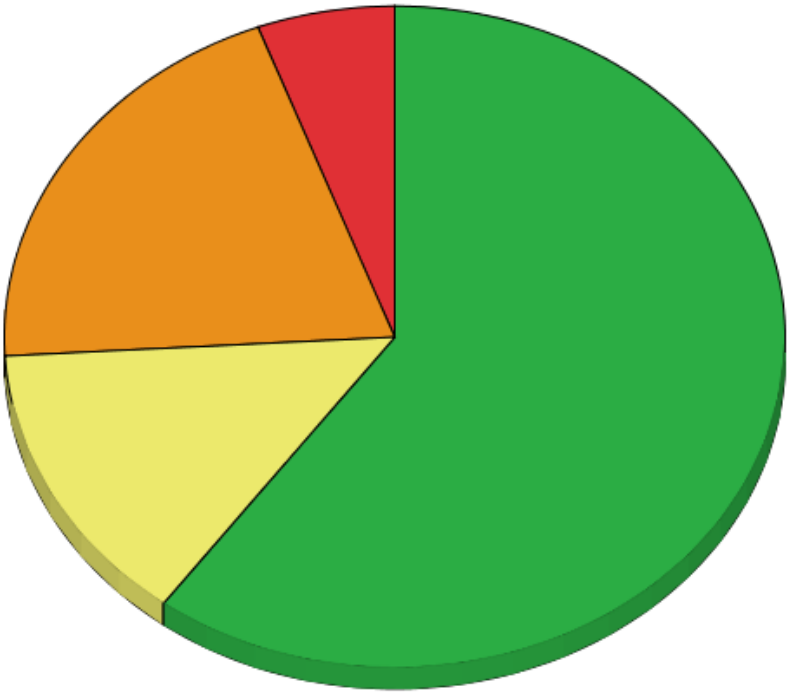
Table 1 Deployments by Division

Province	Division	Month			
		April	May	June	Total:
NL	B	1	1	0	2
MB	D	5	8	1	14
BC	E	27	18	25	70
SK	F	7	18	7	32
NWT	G	2	2	1	5
NS	H	1	2	0	3
NB	J	8	4	10	22
AB	K	16	14	6	36
PEI	L	0	0	2	2
YK	M	1	2	1	4
NU	V	2	0	0	2
NHQ	NHQ	0	1	0	1
Total:		70	70	53	193

Table 2 Types of Deployments by Division

Province	Division	Deployment Type				
		Presence/ Challenge Only	Push Stun	Probe	Both Push Stun & Probe	Total:
NL	B	0	2	0	0	2
MB	D	8	2	2	2	14
BC	E	40	12	14	4	70
SK	F	26	1	3	2	32
NWT	G	3	0	2	0	5
NS	H	3	0	0	0	3
NB	J	13	3	5	1	22
AB	K	21	6	8	1	36
PEI	L	0	0	1	1	2
YK	M	1	0	3	0	4
NU	V	1	0	1	0	2
NHQ	NHQ	0	1	0	0	1
Total:		116	27	39	11	193

Chart 1 - Deployment Type

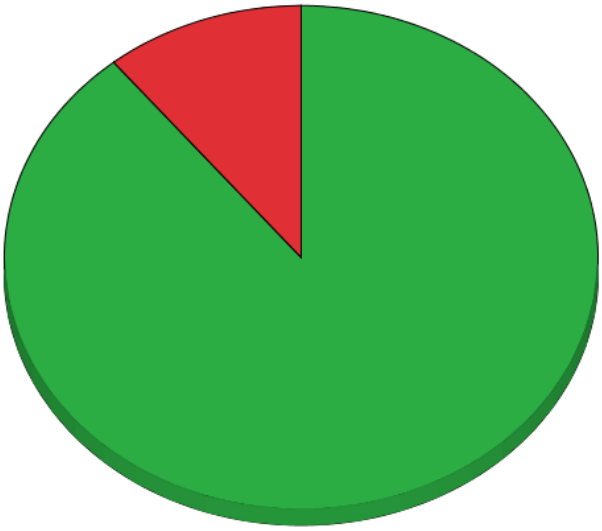


Deployment Type	Frequency	Percent
Presence/Challenge Only	116	60.1
Push Stun	27	14.0
Probe	39	20.2
Both Push Stun & Probe	11	5.7
Total	193	100.0

Conducted Energy Weapons - Effectiveness

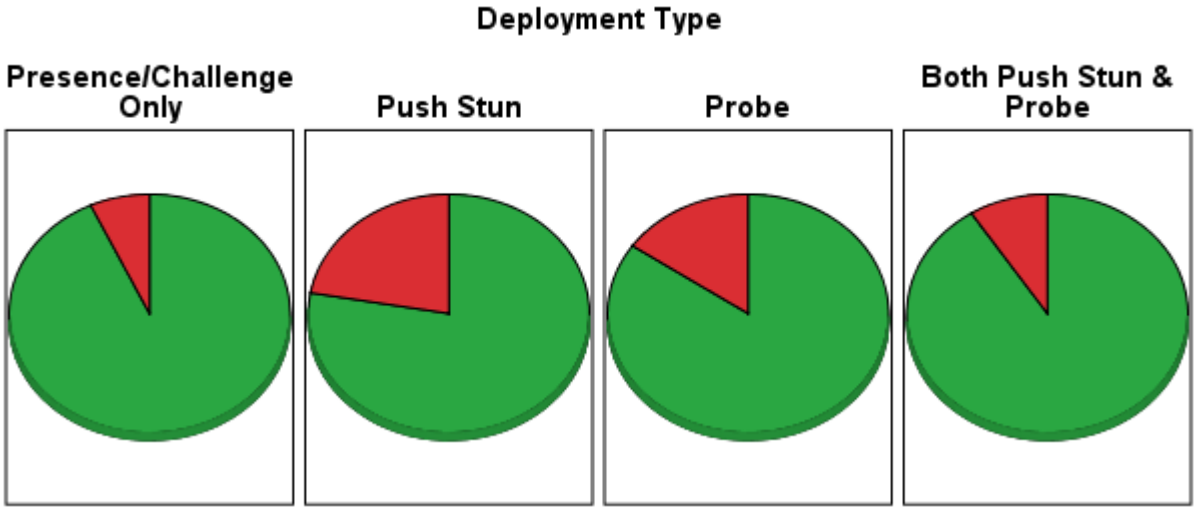
Chart 2 reports on the overall effectiveness of the CEW. For the purposes of this analysis "effectiveness" means that deployment of the CEW resulted in control or de-escalation of the subject's behaviour. Chart 3 provides a further breakdown of the CEW effectiveness in relation to the type of deployment. Chart 4 represents the analysis of 21 instances when the CEW was ineffective.

Chart 2 - Overall Effectiveness of the CEW



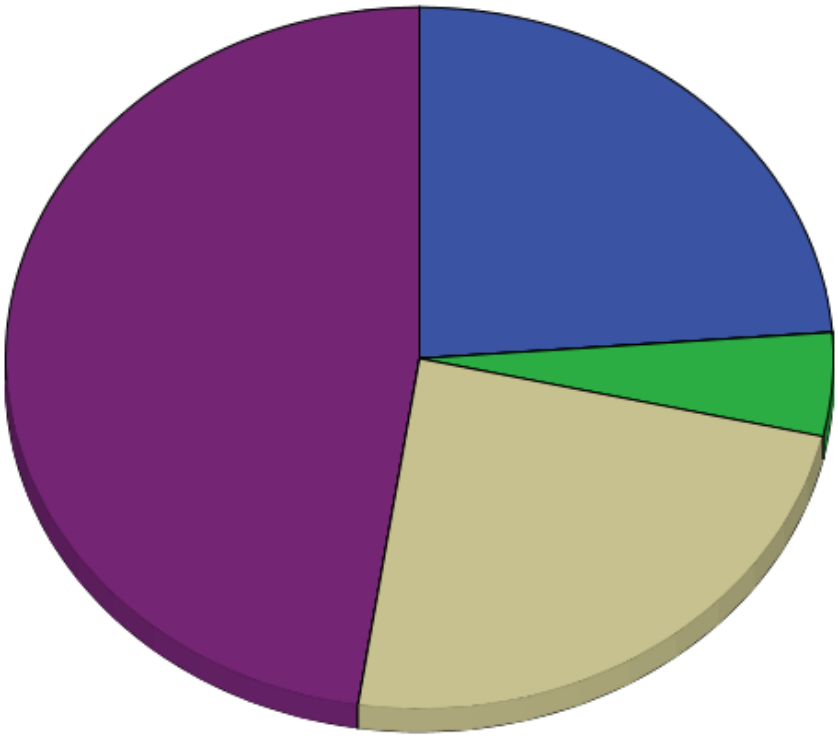
CEW Effectiveness	Frequency	Percent
Effective	172	89.1
Not Effective	21	10.9
Total	193	100.0

Chart 3 - Deployment Type Effectiveness



CEW Effectiveness	Deployment Type									
	Presence/ Challenge Only		Push Stun		Probe		Both Push Stun & Probe		Total	
	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
Effective	108	93.1%	21	77.8%	33	84.6%	10	90.9%	172	89.1%
Not Effective	8	6.9%	6	22.2%	6	15.4%	1	9.1%	21	10.9%
Total	116	100.0%	27	100.0%	39	100.0%	11	100.0%	193	100.0%

Chart 4 - Impediments to Effective Outcomes



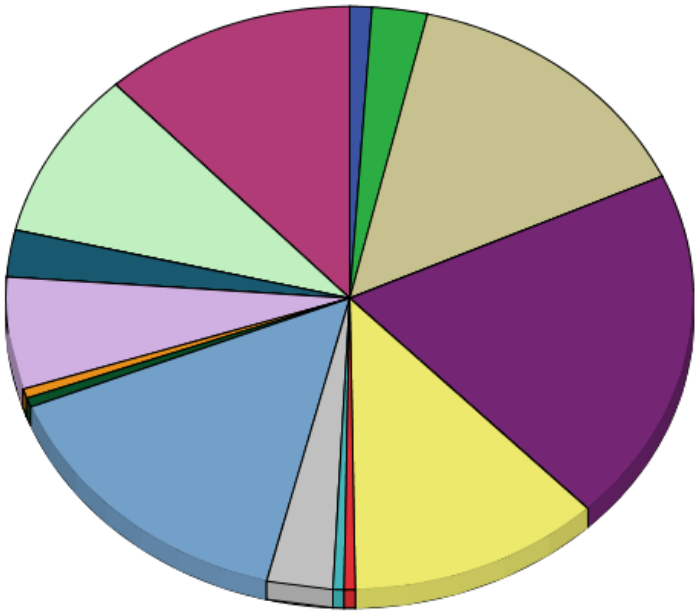
Impediments	Frequency	Percent
Moving Target	5	23.8
Operator Error	1	4.8
Clothing	5	23.8
Subject Not Affected (compliance was not obtained as a result of CEW deployment)	10	47.6
Total	21	100.0

(Note: “Effective Outcomes” means that deployment of the CEW resulted in control or de-escalation of the subjects’ behavior).

Conducted Energy Weapon - Occurrence Type

Chart 5 outlines the occurrence type of the initial call for service in which a CEW was deployed. There are fifteen different occurrence types used to describe a call for service that a member either observes or is dispatched to attend. Although the circumstances and situational factors may change during an occurrence, the initial occurrence type is the category that members are instructed to select for their report.

Chart 5 - Occurrence Type



Occurrence Type	Frequency	Percent
Arrest Warrant Execution	2	1.0
Assault (non-domestic)	5	2.6
Cause Disturbance	28	14.5
Domestic Dispute	38	19.7
Firearms Complaint	23	11.9
Gen. Patrol-no complaint	1	.5
Impaired Driving	1	.5
Mental Health	6	3.1
Prisoner Escort	29	15.0
Robbery	1	.5
Search Warrant Execution	1	.5
Suicidal Person	12	6.2
Traffic Stop	5	2.6
Weapons (non-firearm)	18	9.3
Other	23	11.9
Total	193	100.0

(Note: The “Other” category includes incidents for which there is no occurrence type such as Mischief and Threats.)

Conducted Energy Weapon - Subject Behaviour

Chart 6 outlines the reported behaviour of individuals who were subject to CEW usage. Chart 7 associates subject behavior with CEW deployment type.

The CEW database does not currently have a specific data field for recording subject behaviour. Information from the summary narratives on completed Forms 3996 is used to determine subject behaviour. SB/OR reporting, however, does require the member to identify the subject's behavior. Information from the 14 pilot sites was used in the creation of this report. The SB/OR reporting database was implemented throughout the RCMP on January 1, 2010, after which the CEW database was no longer populated.

Subject behaviors are categorized, as per the IMIM, as follows:

- Co-operative: The subject responds appropriately to the officer's presence, communication and control.
- Passive Resistant: The subject refuses, with little or no physical action, to cooperate with the officer's lawful direction. This can assume the form of a verbal refusal or consciously contrived physical inactivity. For example, some subjects will go limp and become dead weight.
- Active Resistant: The subject uses non-assaultive physical action to resist an officer's lawful direction. Examples would include pulling away to prevent or escape control, or overt movements such as walking away from an officer. Running away is another example of active resistance.
- Assaultive: The subject attempts to apply, or applies force to any person; attempts or threatens by an act or gesture, to apply force to another person, if he/she has, or causes that other person to believe upon reasonable grounds that he/she has the present ability to effect his/her purpose. Examples include kicking and punching, but may also include aggressive body language that signals the intent to assault.
- Grievous Bodily Harm or Death: The subject exhibits actions that the officer reasonably believes are intended to, or likely to cause grievous bodily harm or death to any person. Examples include assaults with a knife, stick or firearm, or actions that would result in serious injury to an officer or member of the public.

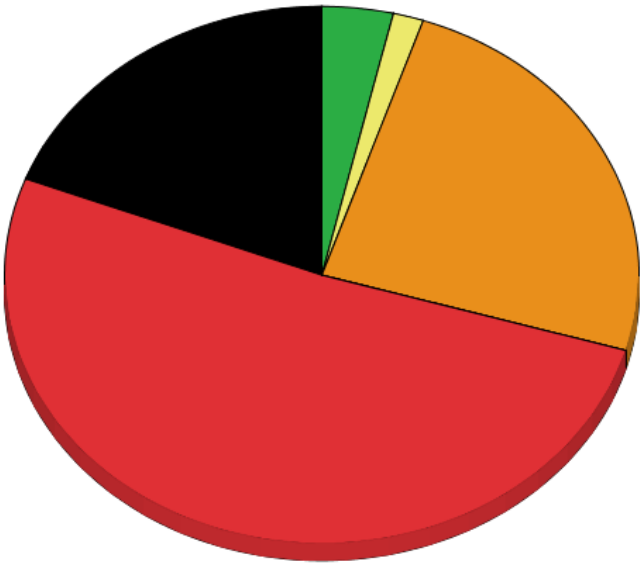
In this reporting period, the CEW was used on three subjects displaying passive resistant behavior and on seven subjects displaying cooperative behavior. All incidents were reviewed and it was confirmed that the members' decision to utilize the CEW was based on perceived threats and situational factors. All ten incidents involved the presentation or reference to the CEW by the member. There were no push stun or probe mode deployments of the CEW on these subjects.

The situational factors and threat cues that assisted the member(s) in formulating their risk assessment in these cases included, but were not limited to, the following:

- force used to enter a residence in response to an occupant in distress and an intoxicated subject encountered;
- the subject indicated the intent to commit 'suicide by police' and was possibly armed with a knife;
- force used to enter residence to respond to a suicidal and possibly armed subject;
- multiple subjects with weapons and wanted for assault;
- tending to a stabbing victim and the whereabouts of the suspect was unknown.

Though this is not a comprehensive list of all the situational factors and threat cues perceived during a member's risk assessment of a particular situation, it does provide insight as to the totality of the circumstances observed or perceived during CEW deployments.

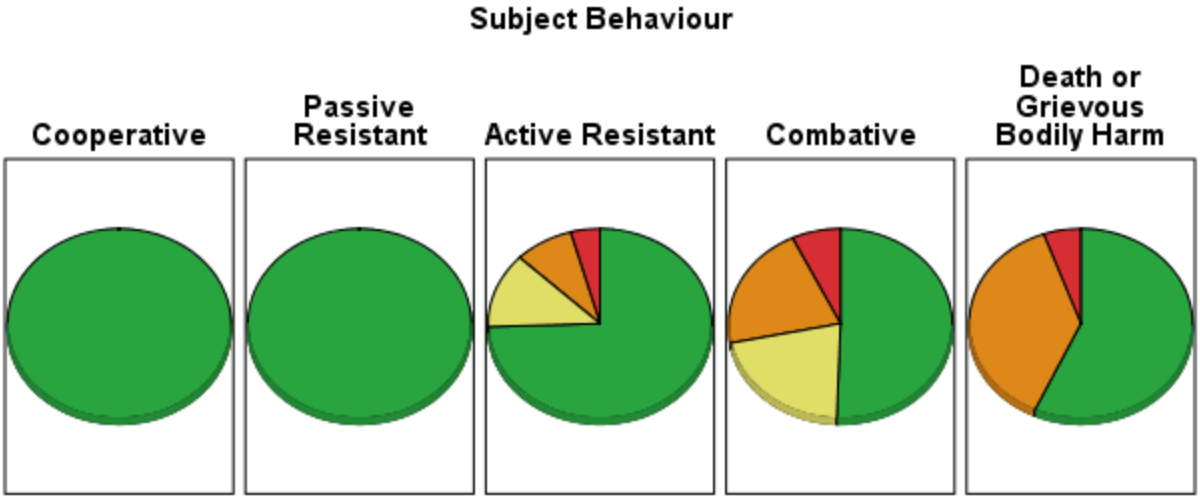
Chart 6 - Subject Behaviour



Subject Behaviour	Frequency	Percent
Cooperative	7	3.6
Passive Resistant	3	1.6
Active Resistant	47	24.4
Combative	99	51.3
Death or Grievous Bodily Harm	37	19.2
Total	193	100.0

(Note: Rationale explaining CEW deployment on cooperative and passive resistant subjects can be viewed on page 13)

Chart 7 - Subject Behaviour Associated with Deployment Type



Deployment Type	Subject Behaviour											
	Cooperative		Passive Resistant		Active Resistant		Combative		Death or Grievous Bodily Harm		Total	
	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
Presence/Challenge Only	7	100.0%	3	100.0%	35	74.5%	50	50.5%	21	56.8%	116	60.1%
Push Stun	0	.0%	0	.0%	6	12.8%	21	21.2%	0	.0%	27	14.0%
Probe	0	.0%	0	.0%	4	8.5%	21	21.2%	14	37.8%	39	20.2%
Both Push Stun & Probe	0	.0%	0	.0%	2	4.3%	7	7.1%	2	5.4%	11	5.7%
Total	7	100.0%	3	100.0%	47	100.0%	99	100.0%	37	100.0%	193	100.0%

(Note: Rationale explaining CEW deployment on cooperative and passive resistant subjects can be viewed on page 13)

Conducted Energy Weapon - Subject Injuries

Chart 8 reports the types of injuries sustained by individuals who were exposed to CEW deployment(s).

Injuries associated with CEW usage are categorized as follows:

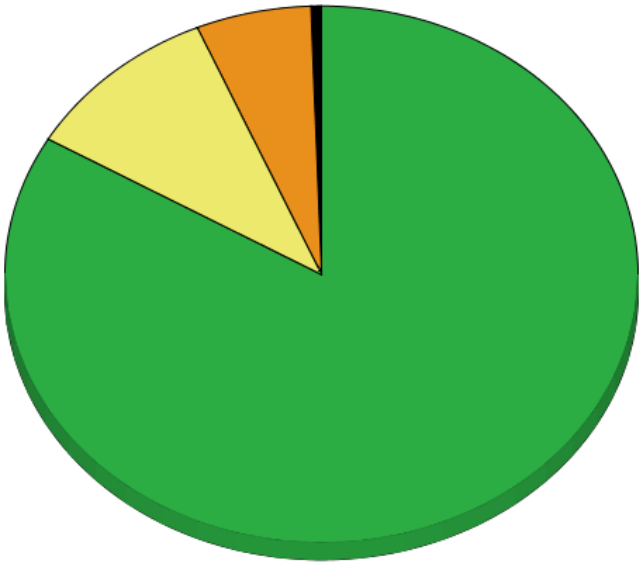
- No injury
- Minor primary injury - includes the immediate effects of CEW usage, such as slight burns, probe marks or slight bruising and cuts due to falls or physical struggles with police.
- Outpatient injury - any instance where a subject received medical attention related to the use of a CEW deployment.
- In-patient injury - any instance where an injury related to the use of a CEW resulted in the subject being admitted to a health care facility.
- Death proximal to CEW usage - death occurring after a recent deployment of the CEW.

Chart 8 indicates that of the 187 subjects, on which the CEW was deployed, no injuries were sustained by 156 (83.4%) subjects, minor primary injuries were sustained by 19 (10.2 %) subjects, and 12 (6.4%) subjects received outpatient treatment. Of the 12 incidents reporting outpatient treatment, five were precautionary, with four of the five subjects complaining of chest pains. Two subjects required attention by a medical professional due to minor probe injuries. Five subjects were treated for injuries due to falling during a CEW deployment. All 12 of the subjects were treated and medically cleared.

The incident of death proximal to the CEW usage involved a suspect who attempted to forcibly enter a residence. The final reports on the matter have not been issued as of this reports publication date. During the members' struggle to control the subject, the CEW was deployed twice in push stun mode with no apparent effect on the subjects' behavior. The attending members eventually gained control of the individual, at which point medical attention was initiated by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, who had been waiting in a nearby ambulance. The subject was transported to the hospital, where he later died. The subsequent medical investigation determined that the primary cause of death was the result of acute cocaine toxicity.

Chart 9 shows the correlation between subject injuries and their reported behaviour.

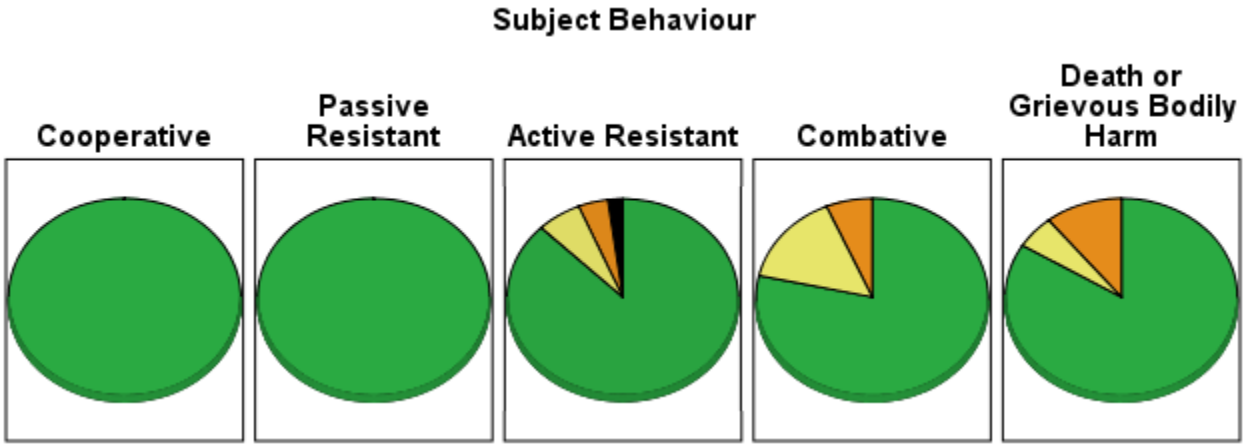
Chart 8 - Reported Injuries Associated with CEW Usage



Subject Injury/Treatment	Frequency	Percent
No injury	155	82.9
Minor Primary Injury	19	10.2
Outpatient	12	6.4
In-patient	0	.0
Death Proximal	1	.5
Total	187	100.0

[Note: The circumstances describing the subject whose death was proximal to the CEW can be found on page 16; *N* = 187 (number of subjects) is used for analysis of injuries to avoid over reporting.]

Chart 9 - Reported Injuries Associated with Subject Behaviour



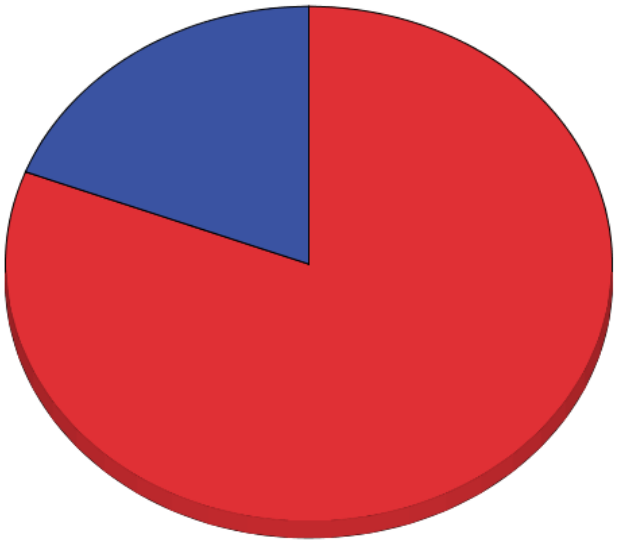
Subject Injury/Treatment	Subject Behaviour											
	Cooperative		Passive Resistant		Active Resistant		Combative		Death or Grievous Bodily Harm		Total	
	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
No injury	7	100.0%	3	100.0%	41	87.2%	73	78.5%	31	83.8%	156	83.4%
Minor Primary Injury	0	.0%	0	.0%	3	6.4%	14	15.1%	2	5.4%	19	10.2%
Outpatient	0	.0%	0	.0%	2	4.3%	6	6.5%	4	10.8%	12	6.4%
In-patient	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
Death Proximal	0	.0%	0	.0%	1	2.1%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%
Total	7	100.0%	3	100.0%	47	100.0%	93	100.0%	37	100.0%	187	100.0%

[Note: The circumstances describing the subject whose death was proximal to the CEW can be found on page 16. Rationale explaining CEW deployment on cooperative and passive resistant subjects can be viewed on page 13; $N = 187$ (number of subjects) is used for analysis of injuries to avoid over reporting.]

Conducted Energy Weapon – Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances

Chart 10 reports the perceived presence of alcohol or other substances in the subject. Nationally, the presence of alcohol or other substances was reported in 156 incidents or 80.8% of this period's CEW deployments. The 19.2% reported as "No" does not mean alcohol or other substances were not present, but rather that they were not detected by the reporting member in his/her interaction with the subject.

Chart 10 - Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances



Alcohol or Substance Noted	Frequency	Percent
Yes	156	80.8
No	37	19.2
Total	193	100.0

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APPENDIX A

Province	Division	CEW Types Procured per Division April 1st to June 30th, 2009		
		M26	X26	Total:
OTTAWA	A	0	0	0
NL	B	0	1	1
QC	C	0	0	0
MB	D	0	5	5
BC	E	0	83	83
SK	F	0	20	20
NWT	G	0	0	0
NS	H	0	3	3
NB	J	0	1	1
AB	K	0	13	13
PEI	L	0	0	0
YK	M	0	0	0
HQ	N	0	1	1
ON	O	0	0	0
REGINA	DEPOT	0	0	0
NU	V	0	0	0
Procured:		0	127	127

Province	Division	CEW Disposed per Division April 1st to June 30th, 2009		
		M26	X26	Total:
SK	F	0	1	1
ON	O	3	0	3
Disposed:		3	1	4

APPENDIX B

Region	Number of Members Trained on the CEW User Course (000028) between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009			
	January 1 to March 31, 2009	April 1 to June 30, 2009	July 1 to September 30, 2009	October 1 to December 31, 2009
Pacific	51	46		
North West	102	56		
NHQ	14	0		
Central	4	0		
Atlantic	6	31		
Total:	177	133		

Region	Number of Members Recertified on the CEW * (000279) between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009			
	January 1 to March 31, 2009	April 1 to June 30, 2009	July 1 to September 30, 2009	October 1 to December 31, 2009
Pacific	57	178		
North West	477	304		
NHQ	51	2		
Central	1	69		
Atlantic	86	159		
Total:	672	712		

*Includes Both Users and Instructors, as there is no Instructor's recertification Course at present

Region	Number of Instructors Trained on the CEW Instructors Course (000029) between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009			
	January 1 to March 31, 2009	April 1 to June 30, 2009	July 1 to September 30, 2009	October 1 to December 31, 2009
Pacific	23	0		
North West	0	0		
NHQ	0	0		
Central	0	0		
Atlantic	0	0		
Total:	23	0		

APPENDIX C

Divisions

HQ - Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario	**H - Nova Scotia**
A - Ottawa, Ontario	**J - New Brunswick**
B - Newfoundland	**K - Alberta**
C - Quebec	**L - Prince Edward Island**
D - Manitoba	**M - Yukon Territory**
E - British Columbia	**O - Ontario**
F - Saskatchewan	**T - Depot**
G - Northwest Territories	**V - Nunavut**