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Unclassified

RCMP Quarterly Report On Conducted Energy Weapons 2009-01-01 to 2009-03-31

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Executive Summary

This report on the RCMP's use of the conducted energy weapon (CEW) covers the period January 1, 2009, to March 31, 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 fourteen 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 195 CEW deployments on 192 subjects during the reporting period.
- 162 (83.1%) of these deployments were effective in controlling the subjects' behaviour.
- In 122 (62.6%) of all deployments, the CEW was presented only (i.e., displayed but not deployed in push stun or probe mode) and proved to be an effective de-escalation tool.
- Incidents of causing a disturbance and firearm complaints accounted for 69 (35.4%) of all occurrence types in which a CEW was deployed.
- Responses to mental health or suicidal subjects accounted for 23 (11.8%) of all deployments.
- In 80 incidents (41%), members deployed the CEW even though they reported facing a threat of death or grievous bodily harm.
- Out of the 195 total deployments, 94.8% of the individuals sustained no injury other than the immediate effect of the CEW, such as a slight burn or probe mark.
- One incident of death proximal to a CEW usage was reported during the reporting period. The cause of death in this incident was subsequently determined to be the result of gunshot wounds.
- Alcohol and/or use of other substances was suspected or confirmed in 151 incidents (77.4%).

Conducted Energy Weapon - Introduction

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, which was amended on 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.

(Note: As of February 3, 2009 the CEW Challenge was removed from policy, however, during the first month of this reporting period, the CEW Challenge was in effect. 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).

After each CEW usage, members are required by policy to notify their supervisor as soon as practicable and to complete the Form 3996-CEW Usage Report prior to the end of their shift. Form 3996 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 Section 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. Any outstanding reports are tracked nationally and updated as they are successfully uploaded to the data base.

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

- Use of Physical Control Hard (e.g. fighting, wrist lock, 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 Section continually reviews submitted reports to enhance and emphasize full and accurate CEW reporting.



Conducted Energy Weapon - Deployments

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

Table 1 Deployments by Division

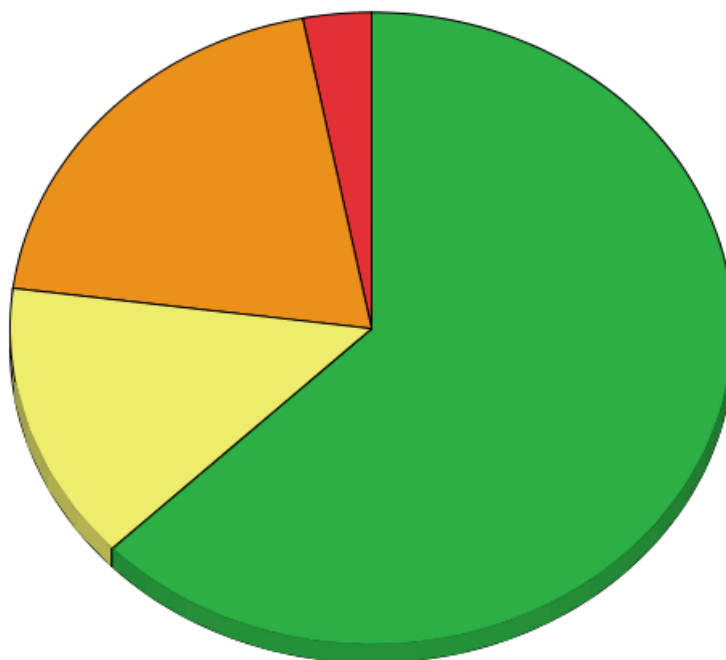
Province	Division	Month			
		January	February	March	Total:
NL	B	3	2	1	6
MB	D	6	3	3	12
BC	E	32	21	24	77
SK	F	9	14	7	30
NWT	G	1	1	2	4
NS	H	2	1	2	5
NB	J	6	3	5	14
AB	K	11	14	11	36
PEI	L	1	0	1	2
YK	M	0	5	0	5
NU	V	2	0	1	3
NHQ	NHQ	0	0	1	1
Total:		73	64	58	195





Table 2 Types of Deployments by Division

Province	Division	Deployment Type			
		Presence/ Challenge Only	Push Stun	Probe	Both Push Stun & Probe
NL	B	4	1	1	0
MB	D	8	1	2	1
BC	E	44	13	19	1
SK	F	21	5	3	1
NWT	G	4	0	0	0
NS	H	4	0	1	0
NB	J	9	3	2	0
AB	K	20	5	9	2
PEI	L	2	0	0	0
YK	M	4	0	1	0
NU	V	1	0	1	1
NHQ	NHQ	1	0	0	0
Total:		122	28	39	6



Chart 1 - Deployment Type



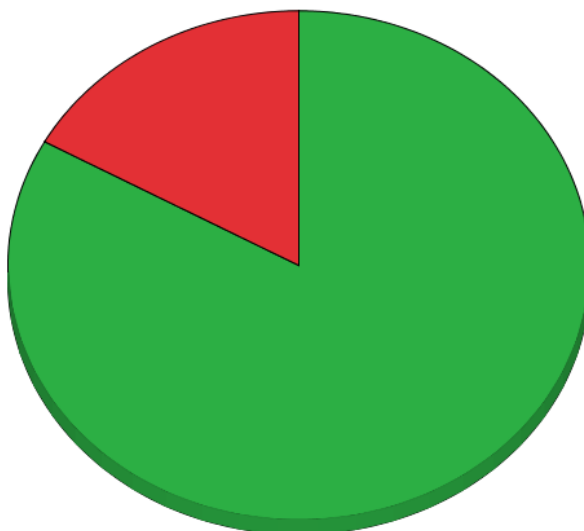
Deployment Type		Frequency	Percent
	Presence/Challenge Only	122	62.6
	Push Stun	28	14.4
	Probe	39	20.0
	Both Push Stun & Probe	6	3.1
Total		195	100.0



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 33 instances when deployment of the CEW was ineffective.

Chart 2 - Overall Effectiveness of the CEW

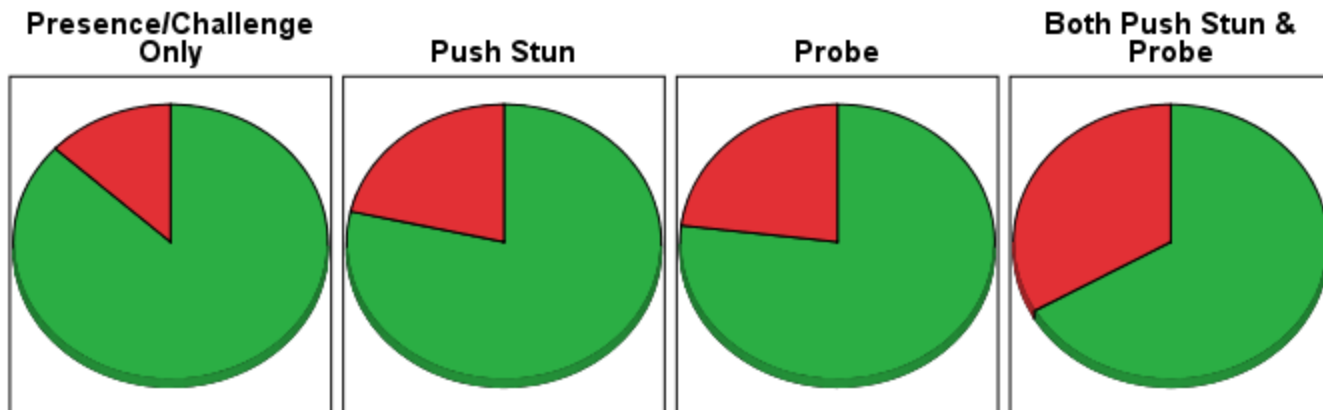


CEW Effectiveness	Frequency	Percent
Effective	162	83.1
Not Effective	33	16.9
Total	195	100.0



Chart 3 - Deployment Type Effectiveness

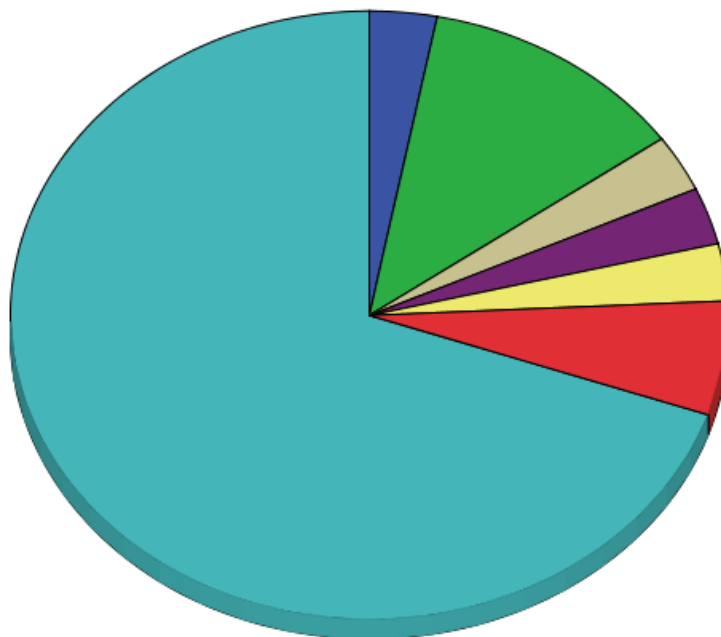
Deployment Type



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	106	86.9%	22	78.6%	30	76.9%	4	66.7%	162	83.1%
Not Effective	16	13.1%	6	21.4%	9	23.1%	2	33.3%	33	16.9%
Total	122	100.0%	28	100.0%	39	100.0%	6	100.0%	195	100.0%



Chart 4 - Impediments to Effective Outcomes



Impediments	Frequency	Percent
Outside Distance Parameters	1	3.0
Moving Target	4	12.1
Deflection (Foreign Object)	1	3.0
Malfunction	1	3.0
Clothing	1	3.0
Insufficient Power	2	6.1
Subject Not Affected (compliance was not obtained after CEW deployment)	23	69.7
Total	33	100.0

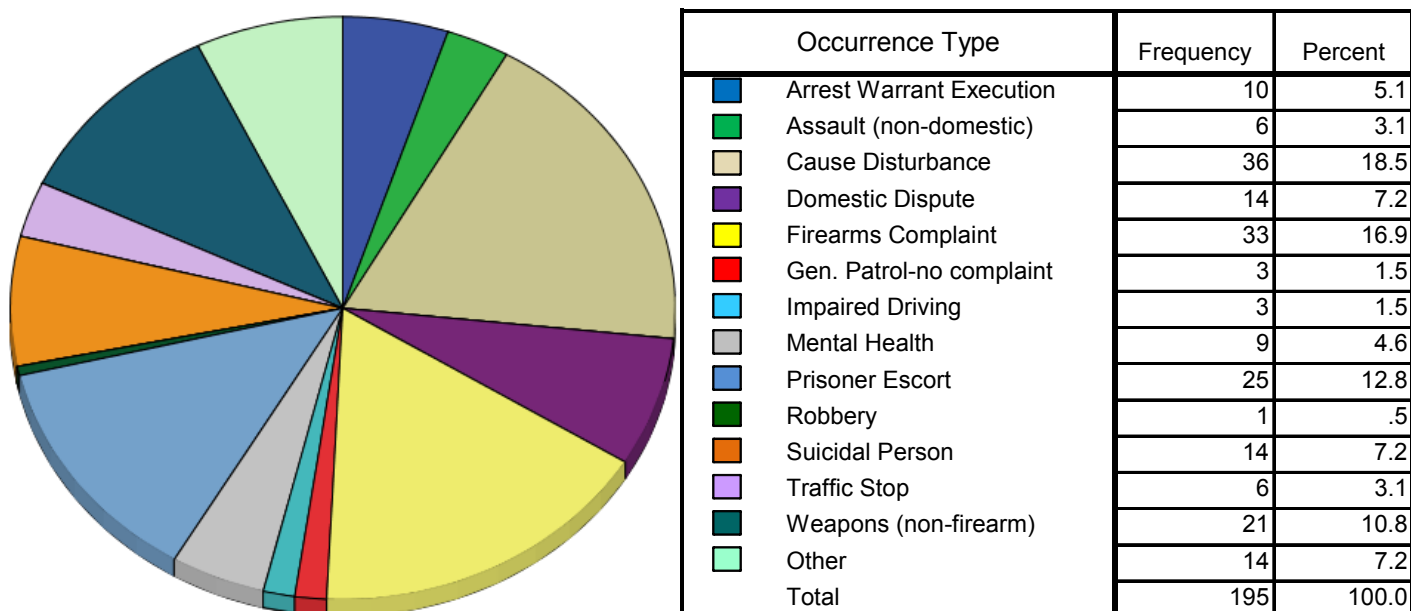
(Note: “Effective Outcomes” means that deployment of the CEW resulted in control or de-escalation of the subjects’ behavior).



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



(Note: The "Other" category includes incidents for which there is no occurrence type such as Mischief, Break and Enter 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. The Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SB/OR) reporting form, 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 will be implemented throughout the RCMP on January 1, 2010, after which the current CEW database will no longer be populated.

In this reporting period, the CEW was used on three subjects displaying passive resistance and on four 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. All seven incidents involved only the unholstering and displaying the CEW by the member; there were no push stun or probe mode deployments of the CEW on these subjects. All seven incidents occurred within the first two months of this reporting period and five occurred prior to the current policy's implementation.

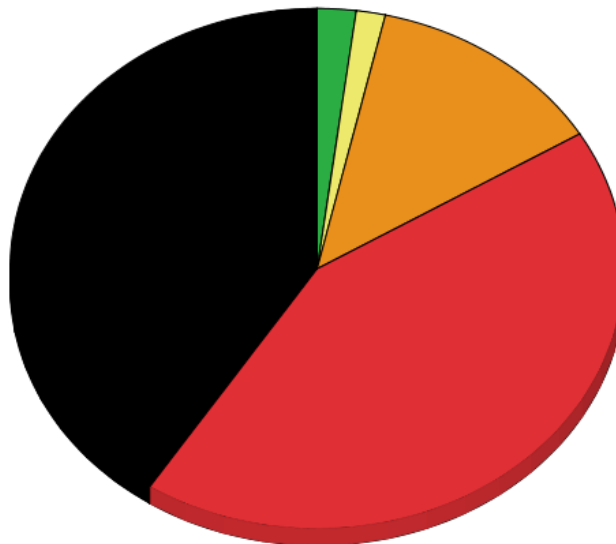
The situational factors and threat cues that assisted the member(s) in formulating their risk assessment in these cases include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the subject was armed;
- the subject was known to the member and had displayed combative behavior on the previous three nights;
- multiple suspects were believed to be in the possession of weapons;
- the subject assaulted a police officer previously and verbally told members he was not going back to jail.

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

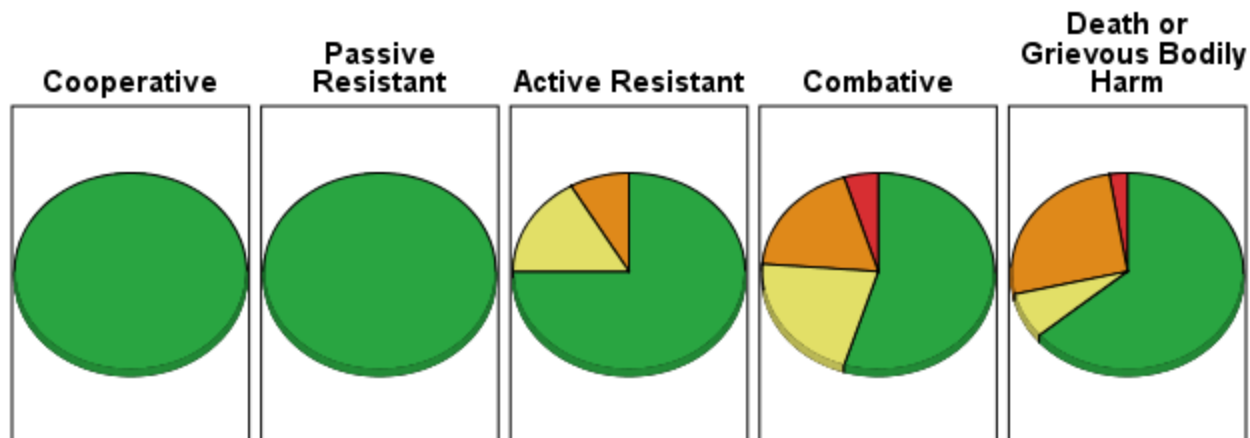


Subject Behaviour	Frequency	Percent
Cooperative	4	2.1
Passive Resistant	3	1.5
Active Resistant	24	12.3
Combative	84	43.1
Death or Grievous Bodily Harm	80	41.0
Total	195	100.0



Chart 7 - Subject Behaviour Associated with Deployment Type

Subject Behaviour



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 %
<div></div> Presence/Challenge Only	4	100.0%	3	100.0%	18	75.0%	46	54.8%	51	63.8%	122	62.6%	
<div></div> Push Stun	0	.0%	0	.0%	4	16.7%	18	21.4%	6	7.5%	28	14.4%	
<div></div> Probe	0	.0%	0	.0%	2	8.3%	16	19.0%	21	26.3%	39	20.0%	
<div></div> Both Push Stun & Probe	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	4	4.8%	2	2.5%	6	3.1%	
Total	4	100.0%	3	100.0%	24	100.0%	84	100.0%	80	100.0%	195	100.0%	

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 the deployment of the CEW.

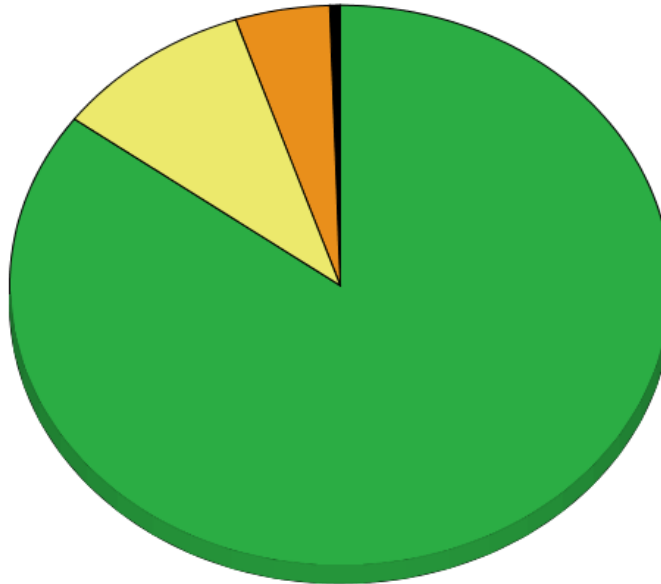
Chart 8 indicates that of the 195 CEW deployments, no injuries were sustained in 166 (85.1%), minor primary injuries were sustained in 19 (9.7 %), nine (4.6%) deployments resulted in outpatient treatment, and one death occurred proximal to a CEW usage. Of the nine incidents reporting outpatient treatment, seven were precautionary to have the area checked where the CEW probes made contact. Of these seven, one subject was monitored by a doctor for an elevated heart rate and released approximately two hours later and two subjects were treated for head injuries due to falling during a CEW deployment (one subject received a laceration to the forehead and the other lost consciousness after hitting her head on the floor). All nine of the subjects were treated and medically cleared to be incarcerated.

The incident of death proximal to the CEW usage involved a subject displaying death or grievous bodily harm behaviour. During the incident, a member attempted to control the subject with two probe deployments, however, another member had to use lethal force against the subject. Once the subject was under control, medical attention was initiated. The subject later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. The Coroner's Report stated the cause of death as "gunshot wound to the abdomen".

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



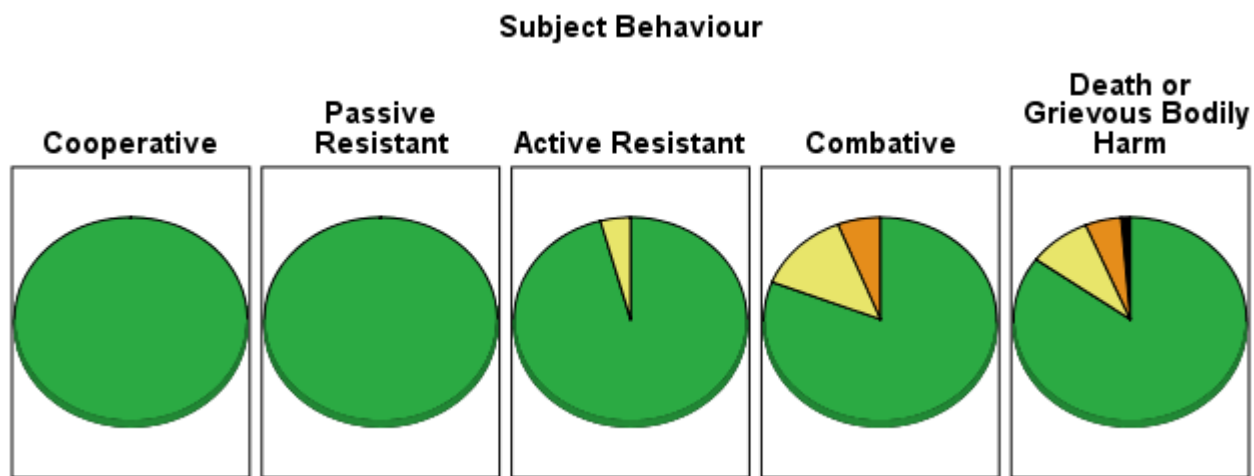
Chart 8 - Reported Injuries Associated with CEW Usage



Subject Injury/Treatment		Frequency	Percent
■	No injury	166	85.1
■	Minor Primary Injury	19	9.7
■	Outpatient	9	4.6
■	In-patient	0	.0
■	Death Proximal	1	.5
Total		195	100.0



Chart 9 - Reported Injuries Associated with Subject Behaviour



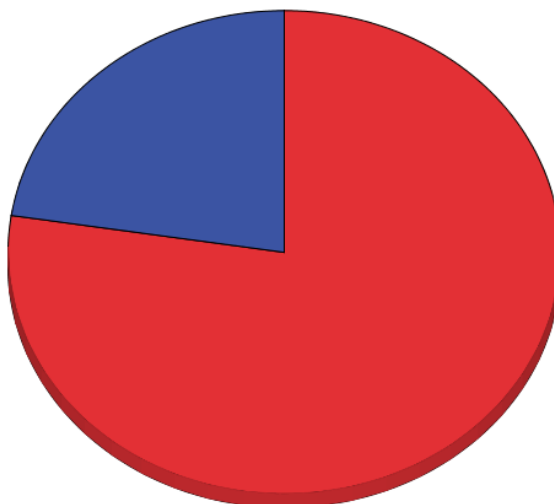
Subject Injury/Treatment		Subject Behaviour											
		Cooperative		Passive Resistant		Active Resistant		Combative		Death or Grievous Bodily Harm		Total	
		Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
<div></div> No injury	4	100.0%	3	100.0%	23	95.8%	68	81.0%	68	85.0%	166	85.1%	
<div></div> Minor Primary Injury	0	.0%	0	.0%	1	4.2%	11	13.1%	7	8.8%	19	9.7%	
<div></div> Outpatient	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	5	6.0%	4	5.0%	9	4.6%	
<div></div> In-patient	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	
<div></div> Death Proximal	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	0	.0%	1	1.3%	1	.5%	
Total	4	100.0%	3	100.0%	24	100.0%	84	100.0%	80	100.0%	195	100.0%	



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. The presence of alcohol or other substances was reported in 141 incidents or 77.4% of this period's CEW deployments. The 22.6 % reported as "No" does not mean alcohol or other substances were not present, but rather that they were not perceived 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	151	77.4
No	44	22.6
Total	195	100.0

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APPENDIX A

Province Division		CEW Types Procured per Division January 1 to March 31, 2009		
		M26	X26	Total:
OTTAWA	A	0	0	0
NL	B	0	0	0
QC	C	0	0	0
MB	D	0	3	3
BC	E	0	54	54
SK	F	0	28	28
NWT	G	0	1	1
NS	H	0	3	3
NB	J	0	8	8
AB	K	0	62	62
PEI	L	0	7	7
YK	M	0	0	0
HQ	N	0	0	0
ON	O	0	5	5
REGINA	DEPOT	0	0	0
NU	V	0	0	0
Total:		0	171	171

Province Division		CEW Disposed per Division January 1 to March 31, 2009		
		M26	X26	Total:
BC	E	1	3	4
AB	K	0	1	1
Total:		1	4	5



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			
North West	102			
NHQ	14			
Central	4			
Atlantic	6			
Total:	177			

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			
North West	477			
NHQ	51			
Central	1			
Atlantic	86			
Total:	672			

*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			
North West	0			
NHQ	0			
Central	0			
Atlantic	0			
Total:	23			



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