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World & Nation

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special report

Stun gun under fire

167 cases of death following stun-gun use

The Arizona Republic, using computer searches, autopsy reports, police reports, media reports and Taser's own records, has identified 167 cases in the United States and Canada of death following a police Taser strike since September 1999. In 27 cases, medical examiners said Tasers were a cause, a contributing factor or could not be ruled out in someone's death. In 35 cases, coroners and other officials reported the stun gun was not a factor. Below is a synopsis of each case. The Republic requested autopsy reports for all of the cases and so far has received 50.

- [The first 100 documented cases of fatalities](#)
- [Additional instances of death following stun-gun use](#)

Maricopa sheriff's office to test alternative to Taser

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office will begin testing 30 new stun guns as an alternative to Tasers.

- **The lowdown on the weapon**
- [Taser Q & A](#)
- [Specs on the Taser X26c.](#)
- [Electrical standards](#)
- [Ventricular fibrillation](#)
- [Skin effect](#)
- **Questionable practices**
- [Some Taser execs sold \\$91.5 million in stock](#)
- [Taser gave 4 police officers stock options](#)
- [Taser letter defends actions](#)
- **Attempts to regulate**
- [Taser hires company to check buyers' backgrounds](#)
- [Bill seeks to regulate stun guns](#)
- **Growing use**
- [More Tucson cops getting stun guns, along with strict policy](#)
- [Civilian stun gun introduced](#)
- [PV Council OKs Tasers for police](#)
- **Alleged dangers, risks**
- [Phoenix suspect dies after shocks by Taser](#)

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Taser to offer stun gun cameras

To help better examine how Tasers are used, manufacturer Taser International Inc. has developed a Taser Cam, which company executives hope will illuminate why Tasers are needed - and add another layer of accountability for any officer who would abuse the weapon.

ASU tightens guidelines for Taser use

Arizona State University is changing the way it uses Tasers to subdue rowdy football fans, almost a year after about two dozen were shocked with the stun guns following January's Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

Taser's role in 2 deaths examined

Two Valley men who died over the weekend after being shocked with Tasers in confrontations with police bring the number of deaths in the United States and Canada following stun-gun strikes to 147.

 Only on 12: Valley teen tasered at school

- Special report: Stun gun under fire

Taser faces class-action lawsuit

A class-action lawsuit has been filed against Taser International, alleging that the company misled police departments across the country about the safety of its stun guns and left them with weapons that are too dangerous to use on the street.

Taser tied to 'independent' study that backs stun gun

Taser International was deeply involved in a Department of Defense study that company officials touted to police departments and investors as "independent" proof of the stun gun's safety.

Taser shocks ruled cause of death

A Chicago medical examiner has ruled that shocks from a Taser were responsible

- Ind. police department dumps stun guns
- Father questions Taser's use on son
- Man, 24, dies after Taser shock
- Taser says newest stun gun fails to subdue some suspects
- LA autopsy report 9th to cite Taser use
- Safety claims about Tasers are challenged
- Rights groups taking aim at Tasers
- Taser gun is linked to death in Nevada
- Man dies in Phoenix after 3 Taser shots
- Autopsy links another death to Taser
- Suspect dies after Taser use by Mesa police
- Taser disputed as cause of death
- Claims for Taser safety based on pig, dog tests
- **Stun guns in schools**
- Campus cops add Tasers to arsenal
- Some school police are armed with Tasers
- Phoenix buying stun guns for school officers
- Tempe OKs Taser guns for 9 schools
- 167 cases of death following stun-gun use

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for the death of a man in February, marking the first time that the electronic stun gun has been named as the primary cause of death.

Man, 24, dies after Taser shock

A 24-year-old man, wanted in an assault on an officer, died Tuesday, shortly after Phoenix police shocked him with a Taser stun gun.

Mesa pays \$2.2 mil in stun-gun case

Mesa paid \$2.2 million to a man who fell out of a tree onto his head last year after he was hit with a Taser stun gun fired by a police officer.

Firm paid Phoenix councilman to push stun guns

A council member who pushed to make Phoenix the first major city in the country to arm all of its police officers with Tasers was paid \$3,500 last year to help Taser sell stun guns to another city.

Scrutiny mounting on Taser use

A growing number of deaths involving Tasers is fueling a debate among law enforcement officers, legislators, and state and federal regulators, who are asking if the electric stun gun is as safe as they were led to believe.

Stun gun expert's opinion vs. Taser's

- Issue: Irregular heartbeat
 - Issue: Effect on skin
 - Issue: Electrical standards
 - Special report: Stun gun under fire
-

Police chiefs to seek stun-gun study

The largest association of police chiefs within 10 days will urge police departments to review the use of stun guns because of reports that the weapons may be related to numerous deaths.

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Taser doctor's credibility questioned

The credibility of Taser International's medical director is being questioned over concerns that his research was "potentially biased" and that he may have misled a judge about his financial relationship with the company during a high-profile court case.

Police get new Taser alert

Taser International has warned police departments that its newest electric stun gun, the X26, has recently failed to subdue some people.

Autopsy links Taser to death in Mesa

The Maricopa County medical examiner says shocks from a Taser stun gun contributed to the death of a man in Mesa, marking the 12th case nationwide linked to the weapon.

Some Taser execs sold \$91.5 million in stock

NEW YORK - Top Taser executives and directors sold \$91.5 million of stock in the stun-gun maker in the final three months of 2004, a time when some securities analysts say the company appeared to struggle to make year-end sales targets.

Taser safety claims draw state scrutiny

On the same day news of a federal inquiry sent Taser International stock into a sharp decline, the Arizona Attorney General's Office said it is looking into claims made by the electric stun gun company.



Feds look at Taser actions

Taser International, the Scottsdale company that has armed nearly a fifth of

America's police departments with electric stun guns and made millions for investors, is being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

- [Check stock status](#)
-

Officer's injury tied to Taser

The makers of Taser electric stun guns say their claims of safety are backed by more than 100,000 police officers who have been shocked during training sessions without suffering a single serious injury.

Amnesty International urges ban on Taser use

Taser electric stun guns are being used by police officers to routinely shock people who are mentally disturbed or who simply refuse to obey commands, according to an Amnesty International report released today.

- [LA autopsy report 9th to cite Taser use](#)
-

Taser ad blitz touts consumer stun gun

Just in time for the holiday season, Scottsdale-based Taser International is marketing a consumer version of an electric stun gun carried by police officers nationwide.

- [Specs on the Taser X26c](#)
 - [More details: How does it work?](#)
-

Police expand use of Taser

Tasers have replaced batons, chemical spray and physical restraint as the weapons of choice for Phoenix police.

 [Legal issues loom for personal Taser](#)

- [Officers point to lives Tasers saved](#)
-

Officers point to lives Tasers saved

Faced with new questions about the safety of Taser stun guns, some police departments across the country are beginning to restrict the way the guns are

used.

Taser stun guns approved for use on airplanes

WASHINGTON - Korean Air last week became the first carrier to receive U.S. government permission to equip jets with electric stun guns as a defense against terrorists.

- [Police expand use of Taser](#)
 - [Officers point to lives Tasers saved](#)
 - [Legal issues loom for personal Taser](#)
 - [Special report: Stun gun under fire](#)
-

Taser safety claim questioned

Thousands of police departments, including every major law enforcement agency in the Valley, buy Tasers on a claim that the electric stun guns will instantly take down suspects without inflicting harm.

- [Safety claims based on pig, dog tests](#)
-

Taser CEO fights death claims

PHILADELPHIA - Taser International Inc. executives Tuesday rebutted recent reports that the company's weapons have killed people in police custody. The Scottsdale maker of stun guns also reported strong sales and profit growth for the second quarter.

Coroner: Taser pushed for revision of autopsy

A South Carolina coroner says stun-gun manufacturer Taser International is pressuring his office to reverse an autopsy that found a Taser contributed to the death of a man last week.

- [Man dies in Phoenix after 3 Taser shots](#)

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