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<http://web.archive.org/web/20040729001221/http://www.taser.com/pages/pr/medical/incustodydeaths.doc>

Date	Location	Subject	Age	Scene	Medical Examiners Report
June 2001	Alachua County, FL	Mark Burkett	18	<p>Burkett was jailed June 13 when his mother called police to take him to a private mental health facility, police said.</p> <p>Burkett became violent as police took him to a car. He head-butted his father and nearly bit off the thumb of an officer, police said. Burkett was violent with jail staff and was subdued with an electric TASER gun. After a struggle with jail staff, he went into respiratory distress and subsequently died.</p>	<p>Medical Examiner William Hamilton said Burkett died of "acute exhaustive mania," described as the sudden inexplicable death of someone with psychotic disorders following violent outbursts.</p>
December 2001	Chula Vista, CA	Fetus (Female)		<p>The incident occurred about 11 a.m. Dec. 11 when police were called to a home on Monterey Avenue to investigate a domestic disturbance.</p> <p>According to police, the officers found a woman, her two brothers and a friend outside. The officers and witnesses described the woman as screaming and hysterical, Miesfeld said.</p> <p>When the woman saw the police, she attempted to go back inside. One of her brothers tried to stop her, the report said.</p> <p>Miesfeld said officers had received a report of an assault rifle at the scene. The owner of the house confirmed there was a weapon inside but would not allow police into the house, Miesfeld said.</p> <p>"They didn't know if she was trying to gain access to the weapon," Miesfeld said.</p> <p>The officers repeatedly ordered her to stop, but she refused, he said. When she attempted to go into the house, an officer told her to stop and raised a Taser gun, which fires darts that deliver a high-voltage electrical charge.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Miesfeld said, one of the men moved toward the officer with the Taser gun and was tackled by another officer. The officer fired the Taser gun, hitting Grippi in the back, the police report said. At that time, someone said she was pregnant.</p>	<p>After the incident, TASER was taken to a hospital and examined. The fetus had a heart beat, and Grippi was treated and released.</p> <p>The fetus was still born several days later. The autopsy did not link the miscarriage to the TASER. The county medical examiner's report stated there was a significant of methamphetamine in the fetus.</p> <p>TASER International subsequently conducted tests on two pregnant pigs to investigate the effects of the TASER. The TASER was applied directly across the uterus in "worst case" scenarios on both pigs. All 16 piglets were delivered healthy and without complication – indicating there was no direct TASER effect on the fetuses.</p> <p>Grippi was shot in the back, hence the TASER charge was even more remote than in the animal tests.</p>
December 2001	Coral Spring, FL	Steven Vasquez	Unk	<p>Shortly after midnight a bartender called to have Vasquez escorted from a Coral Springs bar. Officers arrived, Vasquez became aggravated and combative, striking officers several times. Vasquez was brought to Coral Springs Medical Center before being brought to the Broward County jail and charged with intoxication. Vasquez was released later that day and went home to his family. Vasquez was later found in his truck slumped over the wheel not breathing.</p>	<p>Broward County Medical Examiner listed the cause of death as accidental, due to a mix of pain medication that Vasquez took for his back.</p>

December 2001	Hamilton, OH	Marvin Hendrix	27	<p>A 27-year-old Forest Park man who died soon after Hamilton police stunned him with a Taser Monday morning had swallowed crack cocaine a few hours earlier, police said Tuesday.</p> <p>Marvin Hendrix was feeling sick Monday morning and called for help. But he began fighting with Hamilton Fire Department paramedics after they arrived, who called for Hamilton police. Hendrix was subdued after a struggle and being hit twice with a Taser, police said.</p> <p>He went into cardiac arrest in the ambulance and was pronounced dead at Fort Hamilton Hospital.</p> <p>Police investigators said Hendrix told a friend he had swallowed an "eight ball" - one-eighth of an ounce of crack cocaine - so police wouldn't find it during a traffic stop early Monday morning.</p> <p>Test results for blood cocaine levels were "off the scale" and a small plastic bag containing cocaine was found in his small intestine.</p>	<p>Butler County Coroner ruled "cocaine abuse" as the cause of death.</p> <p>Butler County Coroner Dr. Richard P. Burkhardt signed a death certificate listing Marvin Hendrix's cause of death as "cocaine abuse/accidental."</p>
February 2002	Philadelphia, PA	Anthony Spencer	35	<p>Police said that when officers arrived at the house, they found a formidable foe in Spencer, who was more than 6 ft tall and weighed about 280 pounds. Spencer was naked outside the house in sub-freezing weather and brandishing a 7-inch folding knife with the blade open.</p>	<p>Tests indicated Spencer died of a cocaine overdose and that shock delivered by the stun gun didn't contribute to his death, city Health Department spokesman Jeff Moran said Thursday, citing autopsy results.</p>
March 2002	Hollywood, FL	Vincent Del' Ostia	31	<p>Del' Ostia, who friends say was mentally ill and taking the prescription drugs Prozac and Ativan, walked into the lobby of the Entrada Resort Motel and acted erratically, flailing his arms and trying to break the lobby's windows.</p> <p>In the 911 call, a motel worker at the front desk urged police to get to the Entrada immediately. "We have a man on drugs, crazy," the worker said. "He is breaking down our door." When police arrived, Rode said, they ordered the man to the ground and he refused to comply. "He made moaning and groaning noises and never spoke English," he said. "It sounded and looked like he was under the influence of PCP." Officers attempted to subdue him with a TASER, but it was ineffective and he pulled the probes out of his chest. Several officers then wrestled him to the ground and handcuffed him. Subsequent to the struggle, he had trouble breathing, and subsequently died.</p>	<p>A Broward County medical examiner said a police TASER gun was not responsible for a Hollywood man's death.</p> <p>The examiner said 31-year-old Vincent Delostia died from a cocaine overdose.</p>

March 2002	Nassau, FL	Henry William Canady	46	Nassau County deputies were serving a drug warrant on Canady when they said he ran from them. They chased him and ended up in an abandoned home where they used a (TASER sic) to subdue Canady.	Shock from a TASER gun wasn't what killed a Nassau County man, the Duval County Medical Examiner has ruled. The death of Henry William Canady, 46, was caused by cocaine toxicity, with coronary heart disease a contributing factor, the examiner said.
May 2002	Pueblo, CO	Richard Joseph Baralla	36	Police received calls of a man jumping out in front of moving cars in at about 9:30 p.m. When officers responded, Baralla jumped in front of a police car, Gravatt said. Officers chased him, he resisted arrest. During the struggle, he was zapped twice with a TASER. He subsequently lost consciousness and died.	Pueblo County Coroner James Kramer said on Tuesday "chemical impact on the heart" caused by the exertion of being restrained was the cause of Baralla's death. "There's certainly evidence (on Baralla's body) where the TASER was used," Kramer said. "This man had what looks like a sudden cardiac arrest based on agitation and exertion. In talking with the forensic pathologist (who conducted the autopsy), there's no indication that the TASERs themselves had any bearing." Cause of death: "Sudden death occurring with agitation during necessitated restraint.
June 2002	Los Angeles, CA	Eddie Alvarado	Unk	Mr. Alvarado's parents called police to a domestic disturbance. The 911 call described a male, violent, mental, possible drugs. Mr. Alvarado was behaving in a bizarre fashion, agitated and irrational. He was having difficulty breathing. He subsequently fought with fire department personnel (first on scene), had a seizure before police arrived, then fought with police officers. He was subdued with a TASER four times, but became immediately violent as soon as the TASER was off. Officers then "swarmed him" (a procedure where multiple officers physically overpower the subject). He subsequently stopped breathing.	Drugs found in blood toxicology at autopsy: Methamphetamine = 1.1 ug/ml (blood) Amphetamine = 0.14 ug/ml (blood) Amitriptyline = 0.07 ug/ml (blood) Benzoyllecognine = 0.21 ug/ml (blood) Cocaine = 4.5 ug/ml (urine) Benzoyllecognine = > 4.0 ug/ml (urine) Cause of Death: "Sequelae of methamphetamine intoxication and cocaine use status post restraint including TASER use."

June 2002	Mobile, AL	Clever Craig	46	<p>A 46-year-old Mobile man, described by relatives as a mental patient, died Friday morning, shortly after he struggled with Mobile police who shot him twice with Taser guns capable of emitting 50,000 volts of electricity.</p> <p>However, officers said they were not actually able to administer a full shock to the man.</p> <p>Mobile police Deputy Chief Lester Hargrove said Friday he didn't think the Tasers -- billed as less-than-lethal force -- killed Clever Craig during the pre-dawn altercation but that he died instead from a pre-existing heart problem. Only an autopsy can determine that for sure, Hargrove said.</p>	<p><i>Oral discussions with department personnel indicate cause of death was cardiovascular bivalve heart disease. One valve was bad. With the struggle, the Cardiovascular collapse caused the death. No final report available.</i></p>
June 2002	Oklahoma City, OK	Jason Nichols	21	<p>Police were called by an uncle, who said his nephew was "drunk and fighting with him," at 3 a.m. a police report said. Nichols, 21, would not comply with police orders, and was sprayed in the face with pepper spray and a TASER was deployed. Nichols was "very noncompliant, very violent, very aggressive" and constantly "struggled against his restraints," said Capt Phillips. "They did follow the use-of-force continuum, but at best, all of their efforts were only momentarily successful." Nichols was "very noncompliant, very violent, very aggressive" and constantly "struggled against his restraints," Phillips said.</p> <p>"Due to Jason Nichols' aggressive and combative behavior, and for the protection of paramedics, an officer, rather than EMSA drove him to Presbyterian Hospital (OU Medical Center) for evaluation and any necessary medical treatment," said Capt Cummins. Nichols, went into cardiac arrest five minutes after arriving at a hospital and later was pronounced dead.</p>	<p>The medical examiner determined that Nichols died of head trauma suffered during a fight with his uncle.</p>

June 2002	Phoenix, AZ	Unknown	Unk	<p>The scuffle broke out after officers responded to a domestic disturbance call about 3 a.m. Thursday at a home near 80th Avenue and Osborn Road. When they arrived, they found a man all bloodied in the driveway. As they attended him, however, they say he became combative.</p> <p>Phoenix police say they tasered and wrestled with the man. At one point, six officers tried to take him into custody but said the man seemed to have superhuman strength.</p> <p>The violent fight ended with the man collapsing and later dying.</p> <p>Police say the first officer on the scene found the 39-year-old suspect lying in the driveway covered in blood. When the officer tried to tend to him, the suspect got up and began acting strangely. A second officer tried to talk to the man, but he continued to pace around.</p> <p>When he became combative, they tasered him and he fell to the ground. When he got back up, officers tried to cuff him, but he fought back.</p> <p>They eventually got him into custody, but when paramedics arrive, he went into cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. He later died at Maryvale Hospital.</p>	<p>Oral communications with police department personnel indicate the cause of death was a drug overdose and was not caused by the TASER. No final document publicly available.</p>
July 2002	Gardena, CA	Johnney Lozoya	Unk.	<p>Communications indicate that Lozoya was behaving in a strange manner as reported to police from concerned witnesses. Lozoya unconscious when police arrived. Lozoya was transported to hospital when he became violently combative with medical staff attempting intervention. TASER deployed in drive stun mode which allowed officers and staff to gain control of Lozoya. Lozoya exhibited respiratory distress approximately 15 minutes later and then passed away.</p>	<p>Communications with the department indicate the coroner had completed this case. The causes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hypoxic Encephalopathy · Cardio Pulmonary Arrest · Sequel of Cocaine Intoxication <p>(TASER not a cause)</p>

July 2002	Orange, FL	Gordon Randall Jones	37	<p>When he refused to leave, deputies tried to arrest him, according to an incident report. When he tried to pull away from deputies, deputies used a TASER. Jones rolled onto his back and began kicking and swinging his arms, according to the report. Compton fired his TASER nine more times. Jones had consumed a large amount of cocaine and run up a \$500 bar bill, records show.</p>	<p>Strapping Gordon Randall Jones facedown on a stretcher was still a contributing factor but not the cause of his death in July, according to an opinion released Thursday by the Orange-Osceola Medical Examiner's Office.</p> <p>Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, a nationally recognized forensic pathologist and lawyer, also concluded that Orange County deputy sheriffs did not contribute to Jones' death by shocking him 11 times with a TASER stun gun.</p> <p>"Mr. Jones did not go into cardiac arrhythmia/arrest until at least 15 to 20 minutes after the last time he was TASERed," Wecht wrote. He is coroner of Allegheny County, Pa., and president of the American Board of Legal Medicine.</p> <p>"Although he had tachycardia [fast heartbeat] prior to arresting, it is my opinion that this related to his agitated state, continuing to fight against his restraints, and the presence of cocaine." Death by cocaine was primary cause of death. The secondary cause of death was his own fighting against the restraints.</p>
September 2002	Fontana, CA	Fermin Rincon	24	<p>Rincon was stunned with a TASER gun, punched and put in a chokehold before collapsing, according to an autopsy report.</p>	<p>Coroner officials determined Rincon died from acute cardiac arrhythmia due to years of methamphetamine abuse. He was under the influence of the drug at the time of his death.</p>
September 2002	Volusia, FL	Frederick Webber	44	<p>A witness found Webber, the report said, Webber was fighting with an unidentified man. Miller told investigators as he tried to break up the fight, an unidentified woman kicked Webber in the head and he stopped breathing. Miller told investigators he revived his friend with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.</p> <p>According to the report, Webber became combative when deputies arrived.</p>	<p>Volusia County Medical Examiner's report indicated the cause of death was cardiac arrhythmia, which is a change in the regular beat of the heart, with cocaine delirium as a contributing factor.</p>

November 2002	Olympia, WA	Stephen Edwards	59	The first officer to arrive found the suspect fighting with a security guard in a grocery store parking lot. The officer used his TASER once "and that didn't seem to do any good," Machlin said. And the fight continued. "It was plain old wrestling, when you got down to it." The suspect weighed more than 300 pounds and died sometime after being handcuffed and placed in a police car.	Stephen L. Edwards died of a heart attack not from the police use of a TASER, according to a report released by the Thurston County Coroner's Office.
March 2003	Albuquerque, NM	Unknown	31	A police officer was flagged down by someone from the neighborhood, Sonntag said. Officers were directed to a man who was jumping on cars and breaking windows. "(The man) had cuts on his arms from breaking windows. That, and the Mace, is the reason the rescue squad was called, and he still fought with them. The man was totally combative. Pepper spray was used, to no avail. Other officers arrived and a baton was used, also with no results. A TASER was used, it was partially effective, but the subject managed to break the wires. He was subsequently subdued by physical force from multiple officers. He was conscious for at least 6-8 minutes after the incident and was screaming at officers. He lost consciousness and died in the ambulance during transportation.	The 31 year old male died of mixed drug and ethanol intoxication. Toxicology screen was positive for amphetamines, cocaine and cannabinoids and indicated a blood alcohol level of 0.62. One week prior the subject was treated at ER for rhabdomyolysis and death suggests an extended period of stimulant use.
April 2003	Burnaby, Canada(BC)	Terrance Hanna	51	On Saturday, April 19th, 2003 at approximately 11:00pm, Terry HANNA entered the North Burnaby Inn situated in the 4100 block of Hastings Street wielding a knife and a hammer. Police were summoned to the scene. The subject resisted arrest and the Police Taser Device was used in order to subdue the subject. Shortly there after HANNA went into cardiac arrest. The incident is being investigated by the RCMP's Major/Serious Crime Unit from "E" Division Headquarters. An autopsy was performed and police are expecting results in approximately 3 weeks.	Communications with Police Agency Indicate preliminary cause of death is cocaine OD. No final report publicly available.

May 2003	San Diego, CA	Joshua Hollander	22	<p>A man who died after a violent struggle has been identified as Joshua Hollander, 22.</p> <p>Police officers found Russell dead of stab wounds in the bathroom of her apartment May 8. Hollander was found in the bathroom with slashed wrists and was pronounced dead at a hospital after a struggle with police.</p> <p>San Diego police homicide Lt. Jim Duncan said Hollander slit his wrists.</p> <p>Hollander, who was under the influence of methamphetamine, fought with officers and had to be subdued with a carotid restraint and a Taser gun, Duncan said. Paramedics then took him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.</p>	No final report available. Significant time between TASER incident and death consistent with non-TASER causes.
June 2003	Springfield, MO	Timothy Sleet	44	<p>911 call "Please help me, my Dad is killing my Mom," boy pleaded with dispatcher.</p> <p>Twenty-seven-year-old Cortney Eden was stabbed to death in front of her son in the home she shared with her boyfriend, 44-year-old Timothy Sleet. Police on Monday night found Sleet only a few feet from his slain girlfriend, belligerent and uncontrollable. Police hit the suspect several times with a TASER gun (which was ineffective), doused with pepper spray, and struck him with a baton. They also shot him multiple times with beanbag ammunition before they could subdue him.</p>	"At this point there's no conclusive cause of death," Greene County deputy medical examiner Ron Yoder said Tuesday. "But we did rule out his death being caused by the Springfield Police Department. "They did not kill this man," Yoder said.
July 2003	Prince George, Canada(BC)	Clay Willey	33	<p>The coroner's office is investigating the death of a Prince George man one day after he was wrestled down and tasered by RCMP for allegedly resisting arrest.</p> <p>Godwin said police had asked an ambulance to meet them at the RCMP detachment so the man's "irrational" behaviour could be assessed, but he struggled when police officers tried to place him in the ambulance. "When he got out of the police car, he was very aggressive and confrontational and wouldn't take verbal commands and had to be tasered," he said. Godwin couldn't say whether alcohol or drugs were involved.</p>	<p>PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. - Crown counsel say no charges will be laid against RCMP officers in connection with the death of an aboriginal man who died in police custody in Prince George last summer.</p> <p>Thirty-three-year-old Clayton Willey died on July 22, 2003 about 16 hours after he was physically restrained by police following an altercation at a downtown mall.</p> <p>Police have said that Willey continued to behave irrationally and an ambulance was called.</p> <p>Officers had to physically restrain Willey again at the cells – this time with a taser gun – as he was being transferred to the ambulance.</p> <p>Willey died later in hospital.</p>

August 2003	Amarillo, TX	Troy Nowell	51	<p>Nowell allegedly assaulted two women and a man outside Carpenters Local 665 and police were called. A struggle ensued and officers struck Nowell with a metal baton and used a TASER electrical stun device as he resisted arrest.</p>	<p>A preliminary autopsy shows a suspect who died in police custody earlier this week was not killed by a TASER. Autopsy results show Nowell suffered cardiac arrest during his struggle with police. The autopsy states he had hypertensive heart disease that led to the heart attack.</p>
August 2003	Sacramento, CA	Gordon Rauch	38	<p>The county coroner has identified a man who died in custody Sunday as 38-year-old Gordon Rauch, authorities said. Deputies responded to a report of a man acting bizarrely and threatening his parents in the 5600 block of San Juan Avenue, said sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Lou Fatur.</p> <p>Fatur gave the following account: After a female officer was punched by Rauch, another deputy fired a Taser stun gun at the him, but he continued to lunge at deputies. The Taser was fired again and Rauch fell. When officers handcuffed him, he went limp. They called for medical assistance and then initiated CPR. Rauch was taken to Mercy San Juan Medical Center, where he died.</p> <p>Rauch -- 6 feet and more than 280 pounds -- had a history of acting violent toward authorities, Fatur said.</p> <p>An autopsy was conducted Monday but the cause of death is pending the outcome of a toxicology report</p>	<p>Published reports indicate psychotropic drugs may have played a role in the death. No autopsy on file.</p>

August 2003	Zilwaukee, MI	John Thompson	45	<p>Carrollton Township police, Saginaw County Sheriff's Department officials and a team of detectives from outside the county are investigating the death of a 45-year-old Saginaw man involved in two fights with officers.</p> <p>Saginaw County Medical Examiner Dr. Kanu Virani is awaiting results of toxicology testing before he will make his final report on the death, but Carrollton Police Chief Craig A. Oatten said preliminary results do not indicate Thompson suffered significant injuries that might have caused his death during the altercations with police.</p> <p>A Zilwaukee police officer jolted Thompson with a taser at least two times after he refused to leave the apartment and attempted to topple a large screen television on the officer, Oatten said.</p> <p>Thompson then fought with intake guards at the jail before they could move him into an isolation cell, Oatten said.</p> <p>Thompson did not respond to jail officers while sitting in the cell later that night, and jail officials called for a medical personnel to take him to Covenant Medical Center, Oatten said.</p>	No autopsy on file yet. Significant time between TASER (in apartment) and death subsequent to struggle at jail facility.
September 2003	Gwinnet, GA	Ray Austin	25	<p>The incident on Sept. 24 began when Austin was put into a maximum security cell for disciplinary problems, authorities said. Austin --- who had a history of mental illness --- began banging on the cell door, and authorities determined that he needed medication. Austin then struggled with deputies who accompanied a nurse into his cell.</p> <p>During the struggle, Austin, who was in jail on a charge of obstruction of a police officer, bit off a portion of a deputy's ear. He was then shocked with a stun gun three times, medicated with psychotropic drugs and restrained in a chair. Austin lost consciousness shortly afterward.</p>	<p>Ted Bailey, chief forensic investigator at the medical examiner's office.</p> <p>We could not determine if it was homicide, natural causes or an accident," Bailey said.</p> <p>In the report Bailey wrote: "The possibility remains that physical restraint may have impaired breathing by inhibiting chest wall and diaphragmatic movement; this can be neither confirmed nor refuted by the autopsy procedure."</p>
September 2003	Glendale, CO	Glenn Leyba	37	<p>Police released the audio from the 911 conversation, and the following is an excerpt:</p> <p>Dispatch: "Glendale 911"</p> <p>Caller: "Hi. Yeah.. uh.. we need.. he's banging up the house right now."</p> <p>Caller: "Hey you better calm down, ok? You better calm down. You better calm down. What's wrong with you?"</p> <p>Dispatch: "Tell me what's going on."</p> <p>Caller: "Are you ok? Something's wrong with this guy. We need an ambulance."</p> <p>Glendale police and paramedics said they arrived to find Leyba out of control, so an officer fired her TASER to subdue him.</p>	An autopsy concluded Leyba died from a heart attack suffered while in the throes of a drug-induced delirium. Test results showed that Leyba had cocaine in his bloodstream. Arapahoe County Coroner Michael Dobersen said Monday the death was consistent with other fatal cases of acute cocaine intoxication.

September 2003	Whitehorse, Canada(YT)	Clark Whitehouse	34	<p>Whitehouse refused to stop running and “exhibited combative behaviour.” While the officer was pursuing Whitehouse, the officer could observe him ingesting a substance police believe to be cocaine. More of the drug was found at the scene where he was arrested.</p> <p>The officer used his M-26 Taser to subdue Whitehouse and arrest him. At that point, Whitehouse didn’t exhibit any ill effects from the Taser’s use, said Egan.</p> <p>It wasn’t until several minutes later when he’d walked back to the police cruiser and was sitting in the back seat that he started showing signs of medical distress, the sergeant said. White froth had started to develop at Whitehouse’s mouth. The policeman called for an ambulance and performed CPR until ambulance attendants arrived. Whitehouse was taken to hospital by Emergency Medical Services, where he was pronounced dead.</p> <p>The RCMP’s major crimes unit and the coroner’s office are investigating.</p>	Waiting for autopsy report. Sequence of events consistent with toxic cocaine ingestion.
October 2003	Brea, CA	Roman Pierson	40	<p>A man died after police shot him twice Tuesday morning with an electric stun gun designed to be non-lethal, officials said. Police officers had responded to calls about 8 a.m. that a man was running around in traffic, Conklin said.</p> <p>Witnesses said the man, who appeared to be in his 40s, had run into a service station, complained he was hot and thirsty, and ran out again, Conklin said. The man later returned and rubbed ice on his face, he said.</p> <p>When officers confronted the man, he refused orders to lie down in the street, Conklin said, and he was shot once with an Advanced Air Taser.</p> <p>He continued to struggle with police, Conklin said, and officers shot him with the Taser a second time.</p> <p>He was handcuffed, and a minute later, officers noticed the man was not breathing, Conklin said. Paramedics treated him and took him to the hospital, where he died.</p> <p>The Orange County district attorney's office is investigating the incident.</p>	Waiting for autopsy report.

October 2003	Oklahoma City, OK	Dennis Hammond	31	<p>A man shot with a police taser weapon and a beanbag device this morning later died at an Oklahoma City hospital. Authorities are investigating the cause of Dennis Duane Hammond's death.</p> <p>Police say the 31-year-old man was delusional and bleeding from his feet, calves and chest when they found him sitting on a Brick mailbox.</p> <p>Officers used an electronic taser to stun him after he refused to listen to their commands. Police say Hammond pulled out the taser darts.</p> <p>Officers later shot him with a beanbag device and were able to handcuff him.</p> <p>Hammond died at a hospital.</p> <p>The medical examiner's office is investigating the death.</p>	Waiting for autopsy report.
October 2003	Orange, FL	Louis Morris	50	<p>Morris had confronted two deputy sheriffs who wanted to take him for a mental-health evaluation Morris had run there after acting strangely and fleeing from another deputy at a nearby Winn-Dixie supermarket, reports said.</p> <p>Deputies shot a TASER at Morris while trying to subdue him with help from another Deputy.</p> <p>"While on the ground and restrained, the man began to struggle again and started to bang his head on the parking lot," said Jim Solomons, a sheriff's spokesman. "Deputies attempted to roll the man over in an attempt to keep him from purposely striking his head. . . At that time, the man appeared to be in serious distress."</p>	<p>A preliminary autopsy at the Orange-Osceola Medical Examiner's Office found that neither the TASER use nor any other actions by the deputies contributed to his death. A forensic pathologist has basically ruled out the TASER as being in any way connected to the death," Allen said. "She found no significant internal injuries." Toxicology results are pending, and investigators suspect Morris may have overdosed on cocaine, based on witnesses' accounts that he foamed at the mouth, sweated profusely and paced back and forth.</p>
November 2003	Aurora, CO	Jamaal Allan Bonner	20	<p>"We learned from the coroner that none of the electrical probes (from the TASER) penetrated the skin of the suspect," Herrera said.</p>	<p>Fatal officer-involved shooting. It appears the TASER did not effectively connect to the subject.</p>

November 2003	Oklahoma City, OK	Michael Sharp Johnson	32	Johnson died after officers used a taser weapon, handcuffs and leg restraints while arresting him. Police say Johnson broke into two homes in western Oklahoma City on Sunday. Officers found him sitting in the family room of the second home and yelling. Police Captain Jeffrey Becker says Johnson would not calm down or follow officer's orders . Johnson didn't respond when Webb commanded him to get on the ground, and Johnson attacked Webb. Webb shocked Johnson five times with a taser, and three officers helped gain control of Johnson and handcuff him. Then, Johnson's breathing slowed and stopped.	"He died the next day of acute congestive heart failure due to cocaine-induced cardiac arrest."
November 2003	Pembroke Pines, FL	Kerry Kevin O'Brien	31	Numerous witnesses and police said O'Brien was pounding on cars and terrorizing motorists about 7:30 p.m. at an intersection. Police said his behavior led to a scuffle between O'Brien, police and fire-rescue workers during which police used the TASER.	The death of a Pembroke Pines man who was shot with a TASER stun gun and hog-tied by police last November was ruled an accident this week, Broward County Medical Examiner Joshua Perper said Tuesday. Kerry Kevin O'Brien, died of positional asphyxiation, Perper said.
December 2003	Peach County, GA	Curtis Lawson	40	A Unadilla man died after being stunned with a police Taser gun after he allegedly tried to abduct a woman in Houston County. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation in Perry has been called in to investigate the death of Curtis Lawson, 40, of 186 Lawson Road, Unadilla, who died after he was shocked twice with the stunning device. An investigation by GBI is not uncommon when a suspect dies while being arrested and Maj. Terry Deese of the Peach County Sheriff's Office said there is no indication of wrongdoing by any of the officers involved.	The death of a Unadilla man, who died after police shocked him twice with a Taser, has been ruled accidental. A Georgia Bureau of Investigation autopsy determined that Curtis Lawson, 40, died on Dec. 9 because he had cocaine in his bloodstream and not because of the shocks delivered by the Taser. The medical examiners report states Lawson had an enlarged heart, which contributed to his death.

December 2003	St. Augustine, FL	Lewis King Sanks	39	<p>"It's a routine traffic stop for an inoperative taillight," St. Johns County Sheriff's Office spokesman Kevin Knawels said Tuesday. "All it was going to be was getting a written warning for it, and then it escalated to this."</p> <p>Authorities say 265-lb Lewis King put a deputy's life at risk by speeding away , dragging the officer with him. The deputy got off when King's SUV slowed to make a turn and had only minor injuries, but King was perused, then a Taser gun was used to subdue him as he was captured. King then drove into a wooded area and left his car. He was subdued a few minutes later by deputies, one of whom fired two 5-second bursts from his Taser gun when King refused to comply with instructions.</p> <p>After his arrest, King (pictured, right) complained of breathing problems, then died on the way to a hospital. An autopsy is being performed to determine the case of death.</p> <p>Perry said the medical examiner told him King's body showed evidence of heart disease and a "massively enlarged heart."</p> <p>The coroner said the Taser does not appear to have been a contributing factor in the death, according to Perry.</p>	<p><u>King's cause of death was later ruled as cardiac arrest, according to the medical examiner's office.</u> Here is the text of the news release from the Medical Examiner's Office: "According to Dr. Terrance Steiner, Medical Examiner, District 23, preliminary investigation and autopsy findings on Lewis King indicated that he suffered cardiac arrest following police restraint. The deceased had evidence of severe heart disease with a massively enlarged heart.</p> <p>"(The medical examiner) believed, based on the evidence from the autopsy, that Mr. King got excited, his heart was in bad shape, and he had a heart attack from that excitement," Perry told Channel 4. "Obviously he did get excited He was in an agitated, excited condition when the deputies approached him."</p> <p>Perry denied the claim that the stun gun could have killed King.</p> <p>"The Taser didn't have anything to do with it. This guy was Tased, but he didn't die for a pretty good while. He died of a heart attack, and the medical examiner clearly says that here," Perry said.</p>
February 2004	Minneapolis, MN	Raymond Siegler	40	<p>A man hospitalized after being shocked by a police taser has died. Raymond Leo Siegler, 39, died Thursday morning at Hennepin County Medical Center, <u>about a week after he was hit by a taser</u> at the Andrews Residence group home on the 1200 block of S. 9th St. Minneapolis police said the man was behaving violently when they came to the group home on Friday. After other attempts to subdue him failed, they said officers shocked him with a taser. He died several days later.</p> <p>The Hennepin County medical examiner's office said a cause of death will be released following an autopsy.</p> <p>The sheriff's department is investigating the incident</p>	No autopsy report on file.

February 2004	Monroe County, IN	James Borden	47	<p>James Borden, 47, died on the evening of Nov. 6, 2003, while being processed in the Monroe County Jail. Borden had been arrested by city police earlier that evening for violating his probation. While at the jail, Borden was reported as acting "uncooperative and combative."</p> <p>Three separate shocks from a taser gun were given to Borden by Officer D. Shaw, according to a police document. Officer D. Shaw said in a statement he shocked Borden for not pulling up his pants and for being uncooperative. "Inmate was being combative ... I asked Borden to lift up his foot to remove the shorts, but he was being combative and refused. I drive (sic) stunned Borden in the lower abdominal area ... We got Borden into the booking area. Borden was still combative and uncooperative. I drive stunned Borden in the buttocks area." Borden subsequently died.</p> <p><u>Circumstantial Summary from Actual autopsy:</u> James Borden was a 47 year old white male who collapsed while being transferred from a police car to the Monroe County Jail on the evening of November 5, 2003. According investigators, he had been in arrested by Lawrence Co. officers, and upon arrival at the Monroe Co Jail became combative. During the course of the initial arrest he was reportedly agitated. He struggled with officers, who then use a TASER electrical device multiple times to subdue him. He collapsed, and an ambulance was summoned. He was transported to Bloomington Hospital in full arrest, where aggressive resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. Past medical history is remarkable for bipolar disorder, diabetes, and congestive heart failure. Due to the circumstances of his death, the Coroner was notified and an autopsy authorized.</p>	<p>The Forensic Pathologist of Monroe County, IN Roland M. Kohr MD's autopsy report lists the cause of death as: Consistent with cardiac dysrhythmia secondary to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, pharmacologic intoxication and electrical shock. Manner of Death: Accidental. Toxicology: Serum 2700 ng/ml (Ther 35-120) and Serum Promethazine: 2880 ng/ml (Ther 5-150)</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Subsequently, Dr. Cyril Wecht, MD, JD released an independent autopsy report reviewing the case of Mr. James Borden. The report concludes: "With regard to the possible effects of the TASERS on Mr. Borden, it is important and highly relevant to note that the autopsy clearly showed he was struck in the lower abdomen and buttocks... It is difficult for me to perceive how the electrical effects of the TASERS would have been able to permeate these heavy layers of fatty tissue and produce an adverse effect upon Mr. Borden's cardiovascular system. "Therefore, it is my opinion based upon a reasonable degree of medical certainty that Mr. Borden's death was directly and causally attributable to his underlying cardiovascular pathology, namely, cardiac dysrhythmia secondary to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and pharmacological intoxication. "There is no sound pathophysiological basis upon which to conclude that Mr. Borden's death was caused or contributed to by the effects of the TASERS," concluded Dr. Wecht's report. (Click to view entire report.)</p> <p>Dr. Wecht is a one of the world's leading experts in forensic pathology and author of <i>Cause of Death, Grave Secrets, Who Killed JonBenet Ramsey, and Mortal Evidence.</i></p> <p>Serum levels of Ephedrine were 2700 ng/ml which was 22 times the maximum therapeutic dose. Serum levels of Promethazine were 2880 ng/ml which was 19 times the maximum therapeutic dose.</p> <p>Several cases of death have occurred with serum levels in the 350ng/ml range with Promethazine.</p>
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February 2004	Silverdale, WA	Curt Rosentangle	44	<p>Curt Rosentangle died Feb. 21 after a struggle with three sheriff's deputies at a Silverdale apartment complex in which he was shot twice by a Taser gun. The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office says Rosentangle was breaking glass and banging on doors near his Silverdale apartment. A deputy arrived to stop him, and was forced to use her taser, but deputies say it didn't stop Rosentangle's rage.</p> <p>"He was stabilized, taken to Harrison Hospital, where he subsequently died sometime later," said Wilson.</p> <p>Arndt, who was helping Rosentangle conquer his addictions, says the story leads her to her own conclusion.</p>	<p>A man who stopped breathing after a struggle with deputies last month in Silverdale died from heart failure related to cocaine use, not police action, the Kitsap County coroner has determined.</p>
March 2004	Edmonton, AB Canada		28	<p>This is a classic excited delirium case. Subject jumped from 3rd floor and shattered his ankle. Was kicked out of a party and whacked in the head and ribs with a stick (possibly his own crutch) as he was going crazy. Two EPD officers responded to the fight, and effectively used several drive stuns to stop his combativeness. The suspect stopped fighting after each drive stun, but then began to become worked up again and again after each drive stun while officers tried to control and hobble the man. EPD was immediately concerned with excited delirium and was urging him to calm down, but he fought the whole way to the hospital and even in the ER where another drive stun was used there. EPD even removed the hobble to ease the stress. He then "crashed" and went into cardiac arrest about an hour after the incident where doctors worked for 15 minutes to bring him back on life support. The man later died after life support was pulled. Thus far, homicide investigators see this as a clear cut excited delirium case. The number of drives stuns and locations were not known at this time.</p>	<p>No autopsy on file.</p>

March 2004	Madison, IL	Terry L. Williams	45	<p>Terry L. Williams, 45, collapsed about 11:30 p.m. Sunday while an officer was driving him to the police department, authorities reported Monday. He was taken to Gateway Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead about 12:10 a.m.</p> <p>The Illinois State Police Public Integrity Unit is handling the investigation, said Lt. Mark Bramlett, interim commander for Zone 6 in Collinsville.</p> <p>Bramlett said that Madison police were called to Williams' house late Sunday for a domestic dispute between Williams and his girlfriend. When Williams became combative, Bramlett said, the two officers used a taser to subdue him and then arrested him on suspicion of domestic battery.</p> <p>Williams lost consciousness en route to jail, Bramlett said. An autopsy performed Monday morning failed to identify what had led to Williams' death.</p> <p>But Bramlett said that, based on the autopsy and interviews with witnesses, it appeared unlikely that the taser or Williams' treatment by the police led to his death.</p> <p>"We can only wait for the toxicological tests to come back and see what's in there," Bramlett said.</p>	No autopsy on file.
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March 2004	Portland, OR	James Perez	28	<p>Twenty-four seconds elapsed between the time that a Portland officer radioed the traffic stop of James Jahar Perez Sunday to an officer's radio call that shots were fired, Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth disclosed Thursday.</p> <p>The first radio call may have come as the officer had already stepped from his car and was approaching Perez in the parking lot of the Lucky Day Cleaners & Laundry, Foxworth said.</p> <p>Officer Jason Sery, 29, and his partner, Officer Sean Macomber, 30, pulled over Perez at 5:07 p.m. Sunday at North Fessenden Street and North Burr Avenue for failure to signal within 100 feet of making a turn. In less than 30 seconds, Sery had fired three shots from his 9 mm at Perez because Sery believed the motorist was armed, police said.</p> <p>Perez, 28, died from a wound to the chest.</p> <p>Macomber, who had been struggling to remove Perez from the front seat of the car after he failed to produce a driver's license or identification, then fired his Taser gun at the driver.</p>	<p>The 28-year-old man who was fatally shot by Portland police Sunday during a traffic stop had a near-lethal amount of cocaine in his system, as well as two plastic bags of what appeared to be drugs in his mouth, according to autopsy and toxicology results released Friday.</p> <p>The results show that James Jahar Perez died of three gunshot wounds to his left chest. One of the gunshots perforated his heart. The tests also show that he had ingested cocaine shortly before his death.</p> <p>"This is such a high level that it would kill most people," said Dr. Larry Lewman, deputy state medical examiner.</p> <p>Lewman said tests showed the cocaine was taken shortly before Perez died because it had not been metabolized by his liver. Cocaine can cause a high within minutes of ingestion, but Lewman said he did not know how Perez was behaving when police stopped him in North Portland. He also said that people tolerate the drug differently and that long-term addicts need much more to stimulate a high.</p> <p>Cocaine is a powerful stimulant of the central nervous system; it can cause symptoms including hyperactive behavior, restlessness, irrational and unpredictable behavior, and paranoid and psychotic thoughts.</p> <p>Additional tests revealed "more chronic use" of cocaine and marijuana, including that Perez had taken those substances within the previous day or two, Lewman said.</p>
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