



# MIAMI TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO *PROCEDURE PROTOCOLS*

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## TASER EMERGENCIES

### Historical Findings

1. History of being shot by a Taser.

### Physical Findings

1. Patient's level of consciousness is not altered. If there is alteration in level of consciousness, assess and treat for hypoglycemia and overdose per protocol.
2. If patient complains of chest pain, treat per the acute coronary syndrome protocol.

### Background & Significance

1. Subjects who have been subdued maybe combative. The primary reason for the Taser is for a subject who is unruly or combative.
2. If the patient is combative refer to the Psychiatric Emergency protocol, and the Restraint protocol.

### Protocol

1. Assess and secure the patient's airway and provide oxygen per the airway, oxygen and ventilation protocol.
2. Ensure the patient is adequately restrained per the Restraint protocol.
3. Obtain vital signs.
4. Carefully assess the patient's neurological status. The patient should be closely examined for signs of head injury and/or other injuries caused by a fall.
5. Ask about and look for signs of seizure activity following the Taser strike.
6. Immobilize the C-Spine if indicated.



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7. Place patient on EKG monitor and obtain a rhythm strip. If dysrhythmia is present, proceed to the appropriate protocol (if the taser itself did not cause the dysrhythmia, the most probable causes are stress, physical exertion, and/or drug/alcohol use).
8. **UNLESS PROBE IS EMBEDDED IN THE EYE** , Remove the Taser probe. The probe is a sterile modified #8 McGill and Wright fish hook, and will only penetrate  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch. **If probe embedded in eye treat with EYE INJURY Protocol.**
9. Secure the probe by placing it in a patient medication bag. Give the probe to the Police Department.
10. Dress and bandage the wound.
11. Carefully document on the EMS report any injuries and/or medical problems, or lack thereof, related to the Taser strike. Also document older injuries that occurred prior to the Taser strike.
12. If the EMS is going to transport the patient, a police officer **MUST** accompany the crew and ride in the patient compartment of the ambulance to the hospital.
13. Monitor the patient frequently.
14. Notify the receiving hospital.