

Abstract Submitted
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Electroshock weapons can be lethal! MARJORIE LUNDQUIST, Bioelectromagnetic Hygiene Institute, P. O. Box 11831, Milwaukee, WI 53211-0831 USA — *Electroshock weapons* (EWs)—stun guns, tasers, riot shields—are electroconductive devices designed to *safely* incapacitate healthy men neuromuscularly, so they are called *nonlethal* or *less-lethal*. EW firms seeking large *nonmilitary* markets targeted law enforcement and corrections personnel, who began using EWs in prisons/jails and on public patrol in 1980 in the USA. This shifted the EW-shocked population from healthy soldiers to a heterogeneous mix of both sexes, ages 6-92, in a wide variety of health conditions! An EW operates by disrupting normal physiological processes, producing transient effects in healthy people. But if a person's health is sufficiently compromised, the margin of safety can be lost, resulting in death or permanent health problems. 325 people have died after EW shock since 1980. Did the EW *cause* these deaths? Evidence indicates that EWs **do** play a causal role in most such deaths. EWs can be lethal for people in diabetic shock¹ (hypoglycemia), which may be why Robert Dziekanski—a Polish immigrant to Canada—died so quickly after he was tasered at Vancouver Airport: not having eaten for over 10 hours, he likely was severely hypoglycemic. The EW death rate in North America is 30 times higher than need be, because EW users have **not** been properly trained to use EWs on a **heterogeneous** population **safely!**

¹J. Clinical Engineering **30**(3):111(2005).

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