

NEW LONDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Incident type: Suicidal Subject – Electronic Control Device used

Location: Lima Street, New London

Date/Time: Saturday, March 8 @ 10:22 p.m.

Details: NLPD officers were dispatched to a call of a subject who had made suicidal statements in his home. Officers found broken glass at the home, but were initially unable to locate the resident. He was eventually found in a porch area, where he had locked himself in and would not allow officers to enter. The man held a very large screwdriver to his own throat and threatened to kill himself. He then discarded the screwdriver and picked up a razor blade cutter/scrapper.

Officers created a distraction, then forced entry and utilized an electronic control device to cause the subject to drop the razor and comply. He was then handcuffed and transported to a treatment facility. No criminal or municipal charges are being sought against him.

Electronic control devices, sometimes referred to by the brand name "Taser," are an approved part of Wisconsin law enforcement's force continuum – the range of control options available to officers to overcome resistance or aggression. Those options range from dialogue to deadly force, depending on the level of threat presented.

New London Police Chief Kevin Wilkinson stated, "This case is a good example of proper deployment of the electronic control device. Videos of questionable or improper use of these devices tend to get a lot of viewer attention, but the vast majority of deployments are proper. In this instance, well-trained officers used the device properly and were able to safely subdue an armed subject without injury to him or us. ECD's have had many, many livesaving applications. This may have been one of them."

For further information contact: Chief Kevin Wilkinson, NLPD