



NEWS RELEASE

Lakeport Police Department
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July 5, 2006

For further information contact Chief Kevin Burke, or Sergeant Brad Rasmussen.

For the first time since Lakeport police officers began carrying Tasers, officers used the device to subdue a suspect. The Incident took place in front of numerous witnesses that were celebrating the 4th of July in Library Park. At approximately 6:18 p.m. officers observed a man exposing himself near one of the piers. Officers ordered the suspect to stop and attempted to take him into custody. As officers approached the suspect he resisted arrest and a physical altercation ensued. When this occurred, Sergeant Brad Rasmussen deployed the Taser and discharged it at the suspect, striking him.

The suspect, 39-year old Justin Lazard of Desert Hot Springs, was then taken into custody and arrested for Indecent Exposure, and Resisting Arrest. Neither the suspect, nor arresting officers were injured. Tasers work by firing two probes. When these probes make contact with the skin or clothing, wires transmit 50,000 volts of electricity for five seconds. Since Tasers were approved for use by the City Council earlier this year, all Lakeport police officers have been issued a Taser and trained in their use. Tasers provide officers with an effective non-lethal option for taking combative suspects into custody.

Kevin Burke
Chief of Police