

StunGun.com's President Sees Mounting Evidence That Many Deaths Blamed On Stun Guns Actually Trace To Drug Use

(BOSTON, Massachusetts - StunGun.com - March 23, 2005) Autopsies as well as unofficial reports of victims' behavior suggest that many people who have died following stun gun shocks lost their lives because cocaine or other drugs were in their bodies at the time of the stuns. Findings such as these, according to a nationally recognized security expert, build the case for the overall safety of stun gun technology and help to refute the accusations of various public watchdog groups.

"Stun technology has been around for a long time," said Robert Siciliano, president of StunGun.com. An expert in personal security and identity theft, Siciliano is author of "The Safety Minute: 01." He has been featured on CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, and CNBC. "Only in recent years has the stun technology industry introduced stun *guns* that actually shoot stuns in a way that loosely mimics firearms shooting bullets. This can scare people."

The Feb. 11 edition of The New York Post mentioned in its business pages the marketing value of the domain name "StunGun.com." KDKA Radio in Pittsburgh interviewed Siciliano on March 8 about the safety of stun guns and StunGun.com's pertinence to the industry. In a March 13 column, Jim Kouri, CPP, vice president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police, drew on Siciliano's commentary about law enforcement's use of stun guns.

According to recent news reports, autopsies and other reports suggest that drug use has caused many of the deaths originally thought to stem from the effect of a stun gun shock:

--On March 8, *The Associated Press* reported on a 30-year-old burglary suspect in Deland, Fla., who died on the way to the hospital after withstanding three stun gun shots following a struggle with police, who said the man told them he had been using cocaine earlier in the day.

--*The Associated Press* reported on March 15 a medical examiner's conclusion that a 32-year-old Auburndale, Fla. man shot with a stun gun by police later died from "excited delirium," a condition that sudden withdrawal from the prescription drug Xanax causes. The story notes many deaths following stun gun shots actually trace to drug use on the part of the victims.

--On March 16, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported an autopsy conclusion that a 35-year-old man shot with a stun gun in Columbia, Ill., on Dec. 16, 2004, "actually died of a cocaine overdose."

"We are beginning to see that many of the deaths supposedly attributable to 'less-than-lethal' technology have actually been the result of cocaine and other illegal drug use," said Siciliano.

"As police departments increase their employment of stun guns," Siciliano added, "the use of the weapons conjures images of capital punishment and crude electric chairs. Hype over deaths has only perpetuated this fear even though stun guns are meant to drastically reduce needless deaths courtesy of law enforcement."

“Stun *guns* have drawn impetuous, negative reactions from public watchdog groups,” Siciliano continued. “They see the weapons as dangerous. No weapon is completely safe, but stun gun technology is ‘less-than-lethal,’ which means the recipient of the stun has an extremely high chance of surviving unscathed. The notion of guns shooting stuns seems barbaric to some people, but the end result is something far more humane than what a bullet can cause.”

Arizona-based Taser International is the largest manufacturer of stun guns. Another stun gun manufacturer is North Carolina-based Law Enforcement Associates Corporation

Stinger Systems, a second North Carolina stun gun firm, has commenced production of its own stun gun, according to a March 21 company press release. As reported by the *Boston Business Journal*, Stinger Systems has nixed plans to relocate to Springfield, Mass., home of the venerable firearms manufacturer Smith and Wesson. According to another Stinger Systems press release this week, former Smith and Wesson executives who had joined Stinger earlier this year are now leaving the company, and Stinger System's co-founder, Robert Gruder, will continue in his role CEO.

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Siciliano is available to speak with the media about stun gun technology and what it means for civilians as well as law enforcement. Featured on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, CNBC, "ABC News with Sam Donaldson," "The Montel Williams Show," "Maury Povich," "Sally Jesse Raphael" and "The Howard Stern Show," Siciliano has earned critical praise nationwide for his workshops and seminars.

Certified as an instructor of safety and security by dozens of state governing boards, he teaches people how to avoid and escape assaults. Numerous industry associations have certified his programs to provide their members with security training. He has been quoted in Reuters, RealtyTimes.com, Woman's Day, Good Housekeeping, Mademoiselle, The New York Post, The New York Times, The Washington Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Christian Science Monitor, and elsewhere.

Siciliano can be reached at 1-800 STUNGUN (788-6486). The URL www.stungun.com leads to his Web site. His blog is located at www.1800stungun.blogspot.com.

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