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El Paso County Schools Get TASER Guns

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El Paso, CO -- School Resource Officers in El Paso County are going to be equipped with some extra gear starting in the fall; they will now start carrying TASER guns.

"Parents will wonder, 'why do the deputies need to carry TASER's,'" said Sheriff Terry Maketa.

Sheriff Maketa says don't worry, they're not for the kids. They're for potential intruders.

"Fortunately we don't have a lot of problems in our schools," said Lt. Cliff Northam.

But officials say they can see why parents might be worried.

"Some people may be concerned about putting TASERs in the schools but people need to remember that TASERs are meant to save lives," said Sheriff Maketa.

El Paso County is able to buy the TASERs thanks to Mountain View Electric Association who granted the county with some extra dough to expand on safety.

"We were awarded a check for \$5,000," said Sheriff Maketa.

With that \$5,000 grant, El Paso County will be able to buy six TASER guns. They'll be given to S.R.O's in county high schools like Widefield High School.

Authorities say the new life saving and protective devices are no different than what S.R.O's already carry around.

"They have their weapon, they have other tools and this is just one other option," said Lt. Northam.

Parents who are concerned or have questions about the TASER guns can call Lt. Cliff Northam at the sheriff's office at (719) 520-7244.