

	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number TRA-013
	Subject Chemical Agents	
	Special Instructions Replaces TRA-013 dated August 18, 2023	Effective Date April 29, 2024

I. PURPOSE

To provide training to the Department’s police and motor carrier inspector (MCI) personnel in the use and application of chemical agents.

II. POLICY

Police (Troopers and Capitol Police Section (CPS) officers) and MCI employees using chemical agents shall adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in this SOP.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Chemical agent/belt unit.

1. Department police and MCI employees may use the aerosol device (belt unit) issued by the Department as an intermediate weapon.
2. The chemical agent when carried on the duty belt should be in the issued holster. The chemical agent may be carried on or off duty.
3. The aerosol device (belt unit) shall be issued to all enforcement and MCI personnel.

B. Custody of chemical agents.

1. Chemical agents assigned to Mobile Field Force (MFF) shall remain in the custody of the MFF commander, assistant commander, squad leaders, and/or grenadiers.
2. SWAT members shall maintain issued chemical agents with their assigned SWAT equipment and supplies.
3. All other issued chemical agents shall remain in the possession of the individual police/MCI employee.

C. Use of chemical agents.

1. Chemical agents are considered intermediate weapons and may be used when warranted by the totality of the circumstances.
2. The Department police/MCI employees should not continue use of chemical agents when the individual is no longer a threat or when resistance has ceased.

3. Chemical agents should not be applied to a subject who is in custody, properly secured, and is not actively resisting.

4. Police employees assigned to MFF or SWAT operations, who are properly trained, and authorized to dispense chemical agents shall do so upon the order of the MFF or SWAT commander, the commander's designee, or a higher authority. Circumstances for dispersing chemical agents shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Minimize unlawful behavior;
- b. Control violent behavior;
- c. Disperse an unlawful assembly*;
- d. Control the movement of an unlawful assembly*;
- e. Barricaded subject(s); and/or
- f. Hostage(s) situation.

*NOTE – Chemical agents should not target individuals when used solely to disperse or control an unlawful assembly.

5. Police employees who have been issued a chemical agent delivery system and are properly trained, may utilize these during the course of their regular duties when:

- a. The totality of the circumstances warrants;
- b. Cover/arrest officer(s) are present; and
- c. Suspect's ability to operate a motor vehicle is not readily accessible.

6. Chemical agents are not recommended for use on the driver of an operational vehicle who refuses to emerge, unless the officer believes the subject may cause harm to himself or other persons and/or property.

7. Unless exigent circumstance exist, chemical agents should not be dispensed in the immediate vicinity of infants or the elderly.

8. If appropriate, chemical agents may be used against aggressive animals in lieu of deadly force.

D. Chemical agent training.

1. Police and MCI employees shall be trained, issued, and authorized to carry chemical agents.

2. Initial training for use of chemical agents shall occur in recruit training.

E. Medical aid after exposure to chemical agents.

1. Subjects in custody to whom a chemical agent has been applied shall be placed in a position that allows unrestricted breathing.

2. Subjects showing signs of difficulty breathing, the officer shall call for assistance from medical personnel or transport the subject to the nearest medical facility.

3. It shall be called to the attention of the jailer/booking officer that a subject had chemical agent applied to them. It shall also be noted in the officer's report to include the type of first aid given.

4. Police/MCI employees contaminated by chemical agents to the extent that normal functions are impaired shall also receive medical treatment.

F. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.