

	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number TRA-013
	Subject Chemical Agents	
	Special Instructions Replaces TRA-025 dated January 1, 2012	Effective Date January 15, 2015

I. PURPOSE

Assure the public's and Department's police and motor carrier (MCI) personnel maximum personal safety by providing training in the 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 issued to individual police employees shall be carried in the issued holster on the support side of the pistol belt. 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 TIP (Tactical Intervention Platoons) shall remain in the custody of the TIP commander, assistant commander, TIP 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 shall be used as an intermediate weapon or when variables affect the resistance control continuum.
2. The use of chemical agents fall into the category of intermediate weapons and may be used when empty hand techniques are inadequate and deadly force is not warranted, or when the

totality of the situation (variables based on size of the subject, environmental conditions, reaction time, etc.) warrants.

3. Prior to the application of chemical weapons or any force, police/MCI employees shall use interpersonal communications techniques in an effort to resolve the situation whenever possible.

4. Issued chemical agents may be used by police/MCI employees when circumstances dictate the use of lawful force, e.g., attempting to subdue an attacker or a violently resisting violator.

a. Chemical agents shall not be used indiscriminately.

b. Chemical agents shall not be applied to any subject once secured and properly in custody.

5. Department issued chemical agents shall be applied as necessary to control and/or restrain unlawful or violent behavior. At no time shall Department police/MCI employees apply more chemical agent than necessary.

6. Police employees assigned to TIP or SWAT operations and authorized to dispense chemical agents shall do so upon the order of the TIP 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. Dispense crowds;

d. Control crowd movement;

e. Barricaded subject(s); and/or

f. Hostage(s) situation.

g. Individual members may use personal (belt carried) chemical agent within the resistance continuum and its variables without command authorization.

7. Chemical agents are not recommended for use on subjects who have confined themselves in closed vehicles and refuse to emerge, unless the officer believes the suspect may cause harm to himself or other persons and/or property.

a. Removal of subjects from the vehicle shall be accomplished, as quickly as possible, after dispersing the chemical agent into the interior of the vehicle.

b. Police/MCI employees applying chemical agents to a subject in a vehicle shall not allow the subject to exit from the vehicle on the side closest to the traffic.

8. Chemical agents should not be dispensed in the immediate vicinity of infants or the elderly.

9. Chemical agents should be used against aggressive animals in lieu of deadly force unless the officer reasonably believes that deadly force is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury to themselves or another party.

D. Certification/recertification for use of chemical agents.

1. Police and MCI employees shall be trained, issued, and authorized to carry chemical agents.
2. Initial certification for use of chemical agents shall occur in recruit school.
3. Recertification shall occur semi annually at each district during defensive tactics portion of Phase I or II training at that district.
4. Officers assigned to general headquarters and working at the Government Center complex should receive recertification training during Phase I defensive tactics training each year.
5. Officers assigned to general headquarters but working outside of the Government Center (e.g., in an area or district, throughout the state), shall receive recertification training at their respective district of residence.

E. Medical aid after exposure to chemical agents.

1. Subjects in custody to whom a chemical agent has been applied shall be given first aid as soon as the situation allows; it is imperative the subject be placed in a position that allows unrestricted breathing.
 2. First aid shall be administered at the scene or as close thereto as possible, whenever the circumstances permit.
 3. When applying first aid to a subject contaminated with chemical agents, the officer shall have the subject in custody with the hands cuffed behind the back unless the situation dictates otherwise.
 4. In cases where on-scene first aid treatment fails to provide relief prior to the booking process or the subject shows signs of difficulties in breathing; personnel will transport the subject to the nearest medical facility or call for assistance from medical personnel.
 5. In each case where a subject in custody has been subdued by chemical agents, this fact shall be noted on the booking sheet and called to the attention of the jailer or booking officer. This fact shall also be noted in the officer's report to include the type first aid given.
 6. 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.