1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines for the use and deployment of authorized chemical agents.

2. DEFINITIONS

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC): OC is classified as an inflammatory agent and is a derivative of micro-pulverized cayenne peppers. OC will typically cause an involuntary closing of the eyes, intense burning sensation to the skin, and impair the person's breathing. OC works best when inhaled. A reaction to OC usually occurs within one to five seconds. Application targets are the face, eyes, nose, and mouth.

Ortho-Chlorobenzylidene Malononitrile (CS): CS is considered an irritant. CS exposure to a person can produce an extreme burning to the eyes, copious tears, coughing, and tightening of the chest. Target areas for humans are the nose and mouth.

3. GENERAL

3.1 Authorized Equipment & Members

A. SABRE 5.0 or SABRE Red:
   1. These are the standard Department-issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) devices.
   2. Either SABRE 5.0 or SABRE Red are issued to authorized Department members by the Evidence & Supply Section upon completion of training as authorized by the Training Division.
   3. All sworn members working in a patrol function or working in a uniformed off-duty capacity shall carry their Department-issued SABRE 5.0 or SABRE Red OC.
   4. Various professional staff members, including Detention Officers, Civilian Investigation Specialists (CISs), Teleserve Officers, Police Service Officers (PSOs) and Park Rangers may be authorized to carry OC.
   5. The carrying of OC is optional for detectives.

B. SABRE Red MK9:
   1. SABRE Red MK9 OC devices are issued to Department members by Division Coordinators upon completion of SABRE Red MK9 Familiarization Training as authorized by the Training Division.

C. Other chemical agents:
   1. CS chemical agents and smoke grenades are only authorized for SWAT and Mobile Field Force use.

2. Pelargonylvanillylamide (PAVA) is used with the Pepperball Tactical Semi-Automatic Launcher. See DPM 2.1.70 Pepperball Tactical Semi-Automatic Launcher (TAC-SA).

3.2 Authorized Use [ALEAP 1.8A]

A. Chemical agents may only be used in a manner consistent with Department-approved training.
B. Chemical agents should only be used when objectively reasonable:
   1. As outlined in DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force.
      a. Chemical agents can be used on subject(s):
         - To disrupt or defuse a subject who is displaying active resistance or a higher level of resistance. Some examples for use may include, but are not limited to, when there are articulable facts to support that hands-on control tactics would be ineffective, or other force options would be likely to cause greater injury to the member or subject.
         - When an authorized member or a third party is placed in reasonable apprehension of immediate or imminent (non-deadly) physical injury.
      b. Chemical agents can be used against vicious animals to deter an attack or to prevent injury to persons present.

3.3 Deployment

A. Deploy per Use of Force and Training guidelines.
B. Whenever practical and reasonable, members should issue a verbal warning prior to using chemical agents against a subject.
C. Deploy and assess.
   1. If necessary, make repeat applications.
D. Members must consider the possibility and take steps to avoid contaminating other members, third parties, or themselves.
E. Standard SABRE 5.0 and SABRE Red:
   1. Optimum distance for the cone delivery is eight to 10 feet.
   2. Optimum distance for both the stream and gel delivery is 15 to 20 feet.
   3. The chemical agent should be applied at a distance of three or more feet for one-half to one second in an upward motion toward the subject's bridge of the nose.
      a. This will allow the product to atomize in the air and provide maximum effects on the respiratory system and minimize cross-contamination with the member.
      b. If the deployment of the chemical agent is less than three feet, members should attempt to avoid applying directly to a subject's sensitive areas, such as eyes, nose, and ears.

F. SABRE Red MK9:
   1. Optimum distance is 10 to 15 feet, with a minimum distance of six feet.
   2. Spray as a one-half to one second burst to the facial area.
   3. Members in the immediate area should wear protective masks.
   4. One member acts as cover for the deploying member.
      a. The cover officer remains with the deploying member until subjects are in custody.
   5. Do not use if Standard SABRE 5.0 or SABRE Red is sufficient.

G. CS and Smoke Grenades:
   1. Refer to Tactical Team and Field Force System training and procedures.

4. POST-DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

4.1 Exposure

A. Immediately after spraying a subject, members shall be alert to any indications the subject needs immediate medical care. This includes, but is not limited to, breathing difficulties, gagging, profuse sweating, or loss of consciousness.
   1. Upon observing these or other medical problems, or if the subject requests medical assistance, the member shall immediately request emergency medical aid.

B. Continue to monitor the subject closely, and under no circumstances leave the subject alone.

4.2 Restraining

A. The effects of OC are only temporary; handcuff the subject as quickly and safely as possible after the contaminated area clears.

B. When a subject is exposed to OC, properly handcuffed, and brought under control, complete the following steps unless the subject refuses treatment and it appears that treatment is not needed:
   1. Remove the subject from the area of exposure and closely monitor.
   2. Tell the subject to breathe deeply.
   3. Reassure the subject that the effects of OC are temporary and that the discomfort will diminish in a short time.
   4. Once exposed to OC, place the subject in a seated position or recovery position on their side as soon as possible.
   5. If maximum restraints are necessary, do not leave the subject on their stomach.
   6. Ask exposed subject(s) if they suffer from asthma or pre-existing medical conditions, such as heart disease or respiratory conditions.
      a. If the member learns of such conditions, request medical attention.

4.3 Decontamination

A. If decontamination procedures are administered by the Department member:
   1. As soon as possible, flush the subject's eyes, face, and other contaminated skin areas with cool water and/or apply a wet towel to the affected areas.
   2. Repeat flushing at short intervals, if necessary, until symptoms of distress subside.
   3. Ice applied to the face will also assist in diminishing discomfort.
   4. If burning persists, apply a non-oil-based soap and cool water, followed by plain cool water and/or ice.
   5. In all cases, if a subject's symptoms have not dissipated within one hour (other than redness of the skin), ensure appropriate medical attention.

5. RESTRICTIONS

A. Unauthorized or indiscriminate use of chemical agents may result in disciplinary action.
B. OC spray should not be used when the subject is operating a motor vehicle and the engine is running or is on a bicycle, motorcycle, or scooter in motion.
C. Handcuffed or otherwise restrained subjects should not be OC sprayed except to control assaultive behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other safer fashion.
D. If possible, avoid using OC spray on subjects with known respiratory conditions.

6. NOTIFICATION & DOCUMENTATION

A. Any time OC spray is deployed (except in training activities), the member shall notify a supervisor and document the incident in a departmental report (GO).
B. If OC is discharged inside a building or vehicle:
   1. Ensure the owner or responsible party is notified.
   2. Inform the responsible party of the effects of OC and decontamination procedures.
   3. If a responsible party cannot be located, complete DPM 2.1F1 Contaminated Area Warning and post at all accessible entries into the building or vehicle.
C. The officer's written report documenting the incident shall:
   1. Describe the method of OC application and decontamination procedures followed.

2. Include the name of the responsible party and method of notification in the GO.

D. A supervisor shall complete the **BlueTeam Report** as outlined in DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force. [ALEAP 1.6B]

E. If arrested and transported to the Holding Facility, notify the MPD Detention Staff that the suspect has been sprayed with OC so they are monitored consistent with Department policy.

7. CARRYING & SECURITY

A. Only members certified in the use of OC spray are authorized by MPD to carry and use.

B. Only Department-issued OC spray may be carried by authorized members.

C. All OC spray devices shall be maintained in operational condition by assigned members.

D. Replacements for damaged, inoperable, expired, or expended (less than half full) devices are the responsibility of members to whom they are issued.

E. Replacement SABRE 5.0 and SABRE Red devices are available at the Evidence & Supply Section or from Division Coordinators.

F. Replacement SABRE Red MK9 is issued by Division Coordinators, who can obtain replacement devices from the Evidence & Supply Section.

8. TRAINING [ALEAP 1.8B,C]

A. All authorized members shall be certified with standard Department-issued OC, as well as the Department-issued MK9, and attend recertification by the MPD Training Division.

1. Recertification shall take place every 3 years at a minimum and must be provided by a certified defensive tactics instructor.

REFERENCES

- DPM 2.1F1 Contaminated Area Warning
- DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force