



# POLICY AND PROCEDURE

# NO.400.2

## OC Aerosol Spray Guidelines

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The department has sole approval as to the type and brand of OC to be issued and may change from time to time as the needs of the department change. Officers shall carry only department approved O.C. Officers will be trained and must successfully complete the departmentally approved OC training program prior to being issued O.C.

### DEFINITIONS:

Oleoresin Capsicum is classified as an inflammatory and is a derivative of cayenne pepper, a common food spice. OC exposure generally has the following characteristics:

- A. Symptomatic effects may last up to forty-five (45) minutes.
- B. There are no documented long lasting harmful effects to the person who is sprayed with OC.

### TRAINING AREAS IN TACTICAL USE AND APPLICATION:

Primary target areas:

- A. Face
- B. Eyes
- C. Nose
- D. Mouth

Specific topics including:

- A. effects of OC use,
- B. duration of application (see "Procedures", below),
- C. use against attacks,
- D. vehicle extractions, and
- E. fight intervention

OC training will be documented and include:

- A. names of trainers,
- B. date of training,
- C. hours of training,
- D. names of program participants,
- E. training location, and
- F. written test scores (if test is given)

### PROCEDURES:

OC will be routinely carried by trained and certified sworn law enforcement officers within the performance of their duties. It may be used in situations where suspect has been identified as a "Resistant (Active) Subject" (Level Three) on the Use of Force Model (see policy # 400, Use of

Force).

Duration of Application:

- Short bursts of spray.
- **One second or less.**
- Two or Three ¼ or ½ second bursts are practical.
- Not a long, sustained spray (except in a Tactical Response for situations such as Demonstrations, riots, etc.).
- Longer sprays lead to a higher concentration of carrier being sprayed on the subject. This may create a delay in how the OC affects certain areas.
- Slightly longer bursts may be necessary:
  - When a subject is farther away.
  - When environmental conditions are working against the Officer (i.e. wind and rain)

An officer should avoid the use of OC when:

- A. Its use could reasonably and foreseeable cause a panic, e.g., spraying OC in a darkened movie theater.
- B. A person sprayed with OC could walk into the path of oncoming traffic or walk off an elevated area, e.g., roof, bridge, etc., causing unreasonable injury.
- C. In enclosed areas such as hospital emergency rooms or other areas with closed ventilation systems.

An officer shall never use OC for:

- A. a means of punishment or interrogation,
- B. any illicit-unlawful purpose, or
- C. Engaging in horse play.

If an officer is confronted by an attacker, suspect, or assailant holding, wielding or threatening the officer with an OC aerosol, the officer shall make reasonable efforts to minimize the amount of self defense force applied:

- A. If the officer can reasonably retreat safely to a distance outside the foreseeable range of the OC (a minimum of twenty-five feet) the officer should do so, provided that the retreat does not create substantial additional risk of harm/injury to others.
- B. If an officer, confronted by a person wielding/threatening the officer with OC, cannot reasonably and safely retreat from the scene, or if there are not sufficient backup/support officers present to reasonably and safely protect the officer from attack/injury after OC exposure, the officer may use reasonable force to defend himself/herself.

## **DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES:**

After control has been established, and/or resistance has ceased, the officer will make reasonable efforts to allow the OC affected subject relief from the discomfort associated with the application of OC.

Reasonable OC decontamination efforts may include (as practical under the circumstances of the exposure):

- A. Removing the affected person from the spray area to an area of fresh air or some other form of ventilation;
- B. Keeping the person calm by calmly informing the person of the anticipated effects of OC

- exposure;
- C. Instructing the affected person to blow his/her nose to remove lodged OC particles;
  - D. If the affected person is not breathing, give artificial respiration;
  - E. Allowing the affected person to flush the affected area with saline solution or clear water, if available, to relieve the inflammation to the eyes and skin;
  - F. Arrange for professional medical treatment at a medical facility unless the affected person is treated at the scene by qualified medical personnel (EMT, doctor, nurse, etc.).

**REPORTING PROCEDURES:**

The use of OC is a reportable Use of Force (IDC). See policy # 400, Use of Force (section X, Reporting Use of Force Incidents).

Per:



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(Policy # 416 Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Aerosol Spray, Sept. 10, 1993, changed to Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Aerosol Spray Guidelines, #400.2 and revised April 12, 2007) (“Decontamination Procedures” section “G” taken out, 6 May 2008. Referred to Positional Asphyxia/Excited Delirium)