



GENERAL ORDER

Oleoresin Capsicum

Purpose and Scope

This order sets forth the Probation Department's guidelines governing the use of the chemical agent Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) by officers.

Affected Personnel

All sworn officers

Authority

Administrative Directive
California Board of State & Community Corrections Title 15
California Penal Code §§ 22820, 22825

Effective Date

September 1, 2023

Definitions

Chemical Agent: Any chemical that can rapidly produce sensory irritation or disabling physical effects in humans, which disappear within a short time following termination of exposure. For purposes of this policy, the term is limited to pepper spray or oleoresin capsicum.¹

I. Approved Chemical Agent

- A. The approved chemical agent for use by the Sacramento County Probation Department is Oleoresin Capsicum, also known as OC.
- B. OC Spray is a defensive instrument.

II. Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray²

- A. OC is to be used only in those situations where the statutes allow peace officers to use necessary and reasonable force, in accordance with the [Use of Force General Order](#).
- B. When feasible, officers shall issue a verbal warning prior to deploying OC.

¹ Penal Code §13652(d)(2)

² Penal Code §13652

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- C. A supervisor commanding the incident must authorize the use of OC in a riot or civil disorder. However, such prior approval is not required in an extreme emergency dictating the necessity for immediate action.³
- D. The facts and circumstances of an incident may dictate an officer using a facial swipe or re-deployment of OC.
- E. Once an individual has been subdued and is under control, OC is not to be administered.
- F. Unless exigent circumstances exist, which outweigh the possible ancillary effects of its use, officers should avoid using OC when:
 - 1. The use could increase the risk of unreasonable injury to the individual (e.g. walking off a roof, bridge, etc.).
 - 2. Located within any enclosed areas, including but not limited to hospital emergency rooms, or other areas with enclosed ventilation systems, except for the Youth Detention Facility (YDF).
 - 3. Located within the immediate vicinity of an infant.
- G. Officers may use OC only when they believe its use would terminate the threat from an animal that is displaying threatening or aggressive behavior or is otherwise endangering the safety of any person or domestic animal.

III. Aftercare

- A. Following deployment of OC, officers shall not leave the individual unattended until the individual is decontaminated and is no longer suffering the immediate effects of OC or has been cleared by trained medical personnel.
- B. First aid is to be rendered to an individual who is exposed to OC as soon as it is safe to do so.
 - 1. Remove exposed person from the contaminated area to an open, well-ventilated area.
 - 2. Decontaminate the affected area with cool water.
 - 3. Provide medical care as needed to a contaminated individual.
 - 4. Monitor the individual for breathing and consciousness until the effects of the agent have dissipated.
 - 5. Additional medical treatment should be obtained if the individual displays physical symptoms for more than 30 minutes.
 - 6. Aftercare for individuals at YDF is governed by the [YDF Use of Force Operations Order](#).
- C. When booking an individual to whom OC has been applied, the officer should notify the receiving agency.

IV. Documentation and Reporting

- A. Every incident involving the use of OC requires thorough, accurate, and timely reporting.

³ Penal Code §13652.1

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- B. Depending on the circumstances, specific reports shall be completed when OC is used:
 - 1. Institutional Incident Report (IIR)/Event Reporting System (ERS): An incident report is required for each individual who has been subjected to an application of OC.
 - 2. OSHA Report: An OSHA report form will be completed for any officer who is subjected to the application of OC.
 - 3. Crime Report: If a crime report is required, any use of OC will be included.
- C. Storage and inventory of OC is outlined in the Inventory of Assets Professional Standards Procedures.

V. Training⁴

- A. All officers shall receive initial and update training, at least bi-annually, in use of force and OC that addresses:
 - 1. Known medical and behavioral health conditions that would contraindicate certain types of force;
 - 2. Acceptable OC and the methods of application;
 - 3. Signs or symptoms that should result in immediate referral to medical or behavioral health;
 - 4. Instruction on the constitutional limitations of use of force; and
 - 5. Physical training force options that may require the use of perishable skills.

VI. Maintenance, Storage, and Distribution

- A. Each officer is to test their OC canisters periodically to ensure the propellant has not dissipated, and thereby rendering the device ineffective. This is to be done in an open-air area, away from buildings and people.
- B. The Assistant Chief Deputy assigned to the Training unit, or designee, shall:
 - 1. Train officers on the use of OC and conduct updates.
 - 2. Maintain an adequate supply of OC.
 - 3. Issue the OC to qualified officers.
 - 4. Properly store the OC.
 - 5. Properly dispose of empty OC canisters.

Attachments

Chemical Agent Inventory and Request Form

Amends/Replaces Previous Procedure

Chemical Agent: Oleoresin Capsicum Policy and Procedures dated June 2005

Authorized By _____



Marlon Yarber, Chief Probation Officer

Date _____

8/9/23

⁴ California Board of State & Community Corrections Title 15 Section 1357(c)

County of Sacramento



Probation Department

**Chemical Agent Inventory and
Request Form**

Date: _____

Program / Institution / Facility: _____

Canisters in Use: _____ Canisters in Inventory: _____

Canisters for Disposal: _____ Canisters Needed for this Quarter: _____

Forward to the Rangemaster by January 1st, April 1st, July 1st & October 1st