

DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)

Training Manual

I. OC

A. Characteristics

1. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) is an inflammatory agent that is naturally produced from cayenne peppers. The active ingredient can also be synthetically manufactured.
2. When applied to a person's eyes, OC causes involuntary closing of the eyes, swelling of the mucus membranes, shortness of breath, and discomfort to exposed skin.
3. OC can be effective when used against an individual with a "reduced sensitivity to pain", it may also be effective against animals, and the effects are temporary.
4. Generally, decontamination consists of exposure to fresh air and application of cool water.
5. A person who has been exposed to OC can be handcuffed and helped from one location to another without contaminating others. The OC does not evaporate into surrounding air, as do other types of chemical agents. After touching a subject who has been sprayed with OC officers should take care not to rub their own eyes until after washing with soap and water.

B. Application

1. To discharge OC, hold the canister in an upright position, place the thumb between the shield and the plunger at the top of the can, aim the canister at the forehead, and depress the valve with your finger. It may be necessary to redirect the stream when discharging the agent. The OC must be sprayed directly into the face of the subject. The target area is the forehead or between the eyes. If the subject is wearing glasses, aim for the forehead and allow the agent to run down into the eyes of the subject.
2. When possible, you should have the "position of advantage" and remain at least three feet (3') from the subject. You should take evasive action after application and maintain a safe distance until after the OC takes effect.
3. OC may be used from closer than three feet (3') only under **extreme circumstances**, including but not limited to, active physical close quarter combat. OC is not to be used in riots, demonstrations, or other civil disorders except under the direction of a supervisor or command officer.
4. Officers must make a conscious effort to keep OC away from their eyes and the eyes of other officers.

C. Precautions

1. OC can be used pursuant to PP 3.05, Use of Force.
2. Caution should be used prior to using OC on suspects who are in proximity to other officers or bystanders.

3. Care should be used when discharging OC in windy conditions.
4. Care should be taken in the mode of carry to avoid accidental discharge.
5. Some OC agents contain a flammable carrier and should not be used where exposure to open flame or spark may cause ignition (Department issued OC contains a non-flammable carrier).
6. Officers should recognize the limitations of OC, especially in situations where attackers are armed or particularly violent.

D. First Aid

1. First aid should be given as soon as practical. Once the suspect is sprayed the following steps should be taken:
 - a. Tell the subject to calm down and relax.
 - b. The subject should be handcuffed and told to breathe “normally.”
 - c. Move the subject to fresh air.
 - d. Flush the contaminated area with cool water. If water is not available, determine whether fire or ambulance should respond.
 - e. Do **NOT** cover the contaminated area with salves or ointments.
 - f. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be afforded a medical examination by competent medical personnel. **Subjects who are experiencing ill effects from the use OC shall be continuously monitored until medical treatment is provided.** Careful consideration shall be given to not place the person in a position that would restrict breathing.

E. Documentation

The use of OC shall be documented pursuant to **Policy and Procedure 3.05**, Use of Force.

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