

CHEMICAL AGENT - OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

PURPOSE: To give guidelines to officers for the use of O.C Spray/Foam.

POLICY: Following approval by the Chief of Police and the satisfactory completion of qualification training, Law Enforcement Officers may be armed with the Chemical Agent Oleoresin Capsicum (OC). The primary purpose of the OC is to create a visible deterrent to potential offenders. If deployed, the projector shall be held in the hand that is not used to hold the service weapon. The OC is a non-lethal weapon.

PROCEDURES:

I. WEAR AND USAGE

- A. The OC device shall be worn externally and in a holster. A certified user shall not normally pocket an OC device.
- B. Law Enforcement Officers shall use only that force that is objectively reasonable, given the totality of the circumstances, to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer or another.
- C. The OC device should not be drawn and used against an individual holding a firearm.
- D. When all reasonable efforts have failed to calm a person who is acting violently and presenting a definite danger to himself or others, a minimum burst or one (1) second stream may be fired at the person.
- E. When dealing with a passively resistant subject, the officer will attempt to gain compliance by giving the subject verbal instructions. If the subject refuses to comply with the verbal instructions given by the officer, the officer will use soft empty hand control on the subject to attempt to gain compliance. If the subject resists the officer's physical attempt to gain compliance, the subject will be considered to be actively resisting and other less lethal means may be used as circumstances dictate.
- F. The OC device will *not* be discharged in the immediate vicinity of an infant, unless the infant's life is endangered, because their respiratory system is small and especially sensitive to irritant vapors.
- G. The OC device will normally be discharged from a distance of at least six feet (6').
- H. The aiming point is the eyes.
- I. Firing will be limited to one successful hit, not exceeding one (1) full second on target and the termination of the violent or threatening behavior.

II. MEDICAL AID REQUIRED

- A. Following use, the affected arrestee will:
 - 1. Be hand-cuffed;
 - 2. Be assisted to a wash-up area;
 - 3. Flush contaminated area with water repeatedly in a ventilated area. The time between OC exposure and decontamination should, if possible, not exceed fifteen (15) minutes;
 - 4. If possible, replace contaminated clothing after wash-up;
 - 5. Only under conditions that represent an extreme hazard (immediate threat of serious injury or death to the officer or others) will the OC be used in the following manner: