O.C. Spray (Oleoresin Capsicum) (Title 15, Section 1324 and 1357)

Effective Date:	8/1/25
Revised Date:	8/1/25
Issuing Authority: Chief Probation Officer	

414.1 PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) spray.

414.2 DEPARTMENT-ISSUED OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (O.C.) SPRAY CANISTER TYPES:

SABRE Red MK-4: Officers are issued a 3 oz. canister that disperses a narrow stream.

SABRE Red MK-6: Officers working in an office setting may be issued a .69 oz. canister that disperses a narrow stream.

SABRE Red MK-9 Cell Buster Fogger Spray: A 16 oz. or 18.5 oz. "Fogger" canister which is only utilized in the JDACs/TFs. These are primarily reserved for situations that involve mass youth altercations where there is concern regarding the inability to control the incident sufficiently using staff's individual-issued OC spray.

Hose & Puncture Wand Attachment: A hose and wand attachment for deploying the MK-9 Cell Buster Fogger Spray underneath doors, in air vents, and other hard to reach places.

414.3 RESPONSIBILITIES:

I. All Officers Issued O.C. Spray:

- A. Shall complete the required training before being issued O.C. spray.
- B. Shall not use O.C. spray for punishment, discipline, retaliation, or treatment.
- C. Shall only use O.C. spray in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, local laws, Department procedures, etc.
- D. Should attempt to manage detained youth, make all arrests, and perform other enforcement actions in a manner that minimizes the need for O.C. spray by using de-escalation techniques, including defusing the situation through warnings and verbal persuasion to maximize compliance.
- E. Are only authorized to carry O.C. spray products approved and issued by the Department.

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F. Shall follow the manufacturer's recommended precautions regarding disposal and exposure of O.C. canisters to excessive heat.

G. Shall not carry department-issued O.C. spray while off duty. With the exception of Managers and Administrators performing administrative functions, officers in armed positions, who have qualified and been issued/are carrying an assigned Department duty weapon, shall wear their Department-issued O.C. spray in conjunction with their duty weapon pursuant to the Arming procedure.

H. Shall periodically check the expiration date of the O.C. canister, inspect the condition of the canister, and periodically shake the canister.

I. Shall store O.C. spray canisters in a locked/secured shaded area.

J. Shall comply with the requirements in all applicable department procedures.

II. Officers working in a Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (JDAC) or Treatment Facility (TF):

A. O.C. spray shall not be used on pregnant youth.

B. If O.C. spray is used near a pregnant youth, or in the same unit/area as a pregnant youth, the pregnant youth shall be immediately removed from the contaminated area and immediately assessed by medical staff.

C. O.C. spray shall only be used when there is an imminent threat to the youth's safety or the safety of others and only when de-escalation efforts are unsuccessful or are not reasonably possible (e.g. when youth fail to follow verbal commands to stop fighting, take a physically threatening action toward staff, or any other immediate/exigent circumstance that threatens the safety of staff, youth, or others).

D. O.C. spray may be used to stop assaultive conduct by youth. It is recognized that such use may be better than allowing the assault to continue or having a more serious injury inflicted on an officer, detained youth, or subject.

E. O.C. spray may be used for situations that involve mass youth altercations within the JDACs and TFs.

F. Officers should remain aware of any known medical conditions that would contraindicate the level of force used and be alert to any signs or symptoms that should result in immediate referral to medical or behavioral health staff.

G. When possible, make a reasonable effort to verbally persuade compliance.

H. Whenever practical and reasonable, issue a verbal warning before using O.C. spray on a youth and allow a reasonable amount of time for the youth to comply with the warning.

I. Officers may use O.C. spray without warning during circumstances where momentary delay might result in further injury.

J. O.C. spray incidents within the JDACs and TFs should be videotaped according to the Electronic Recording of Incidents in JDACs and TFs as applicable.

K. Application:

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1. Announce a code red when O.C. spray is applied to a youth.
2. Handcuff and escort the youth to a safe area.
3. Handcuff all youth directly involved in an incident where O.C. spray is used, irrespective of their level of involvement. Handcuffs shall be removed as soon as the safety and security of the youth and others permit.
4. When the scene is safe, immediately notify a nurse.
5. Check any youth affected by O.C. spray for breathing and signs of injuries.
6. Summon medical aid for any injuries or difficulty breathing that appears more severe than what would be expected following inhalation of O.C. spray.
7. Shall not leave any youth exposed to O.C. spray unattended until they are fully decontaminated or no longer suffering the effects of the chemical agent.

L. Decontamination:

1. Begin the decontamination process as soon as possible.
2. Place the youth in a safe, fresh-air environment.
3. Place an operating fan in front of the youth when necessary (e.g. when a fresh air environment is not available).
4. Mist the youth's face with cool water or use cool water from a hose, if available, until the youth reports the irritation has decreased. Blot, do not rub, the youth's face dry using a clean towel.
5. Continue the decontamination process until the youth is fully decontaminated or is no longer suffering the effects of the O.C. spray and requests decontamination to end.
6. Provide clean clothing and exchange linen as needed.
7. Provide new meals or snacks if meals or snacks were affected by the O.C. spray.
8. If the youth refuses decontamination, counsel the youth, and encourage the decontamination process.
9. Force shall not be used to decontaminate. If the youth continues to refuse decontamination, document in Caseload Explorer (CE) the counseling and other efforts made.
10. The officer who completes the decontamination process shall complete an incident report, noting the decontamination process was completed per procedure.
11. The officer operating the camera shall capture the decontamination process, including the youth's statement to stop decontamination. When multiple youths are being decontaminated, additional officers shall operate a camera to capture the decontamination process.

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M. After decontamination is complete, secure the youth in a room and place them under constant supervision until the facility nurse completes a medical evaluation. Thereafter, the youth shall remain on a 5-minute safety check for one (1) hour.

N. If a nurse is not available, notify the area supervisor and ensure the youth remains under constant supervision until a medical evaluation is completed. Place the youth's name on the nurse's list.

O. Notify the Forensic Adolescent Services Team (FAST) as soon as possible to evaluate the behavioral/mental health needs of the youth. If a FAST staff member is not available, the officer shall submit a completed FAST Service Request form.

P. Complete an incident report as required. Include a complete description of the youth's decontamination and any medical treatment and/or referral(s).

Q. When applicable, submit a Uniform/Equipment Request to the Training Unit to exchange expired, used, defective, or partially depleted (if it is believed to not contain an adequate amount of O.C. to be effective) or if the canister is not working properly and coordinate the exchange with the Facility Safety Coordinator/Officer.

R. O.C. spray canisters in the JDAC/TF shall be stored in a designated, locked/ secured, and shaded area.

III. Probation Corrections Supervisor I/II (PCSI/II) working in a Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center or Treatment Facility:

A. The area supervisor will be responsible for issuing and accounting for the SABRE Red MK-9 Cell Buster Fogger Spray with Hose and Puncture Wand Attachment.

B. Ensure all O.C. spray incidents within the JDACs and TFs are videotaped according to the Electronic Recording of Incidents in the JDACs and TFs procedure as applicable.

C. Notify the youth's parent/legal guardian via telephone in the event the youth is involved in any use of force incident, including O.C. spray pursuant to procedure.

D. If the youth sustained an injury and is transported to the hospital, parent notification is necessary upon return to the JDAC/TF. Refer to the Required Notifications of a Detained Youth's Emergency Transportation and Hospital/ Psychiatric Facility Admittance (Non-Death) procedure.

E. Document the parent/guardian notification in CE under Family Contact or Collateral Contact for youth with social workers.

F. Ensure the youth is included in a debriefing of the incident as applicable.

IV. Facility Safety Coordinator/Officer or Designee:

A. Order O.C. spray canisters from the Training Unit as needed.

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B. Issue O.C. spray canisters to Detention Corrections Bureau (DCB) officers as needed.

C. Dispose of any remaining O.C. spray by discharging the canister in a safe, outdoor, isolated, and windless location where cross-contamination has minimal possibility.

D. May dispose of the empty O.C. spray canister(s) in a trash receptacle.

E. Track the issued/exchanged O.C. spray canisters.

F. O.C. spray canisters in the JDAC/TF shall be stored in a designated, locked/ secured, and shaded area.

V. Training Unit:

A. Issue/exchange O.C. spray canisters to officers of the Department as needed.

VI. Officers working in Community Corrections Bureau (CCB) Assignments:

A. Shall use O.C. spray in compliance with the the department's use of force procedure.

B. Whenever practical and reasonable, issue a verbal warning before using O.C. spray on a subject and allow a reasonable amount of time for the subject to comply with the warning.

C. Officers may use O.C. spray without warning during circumstances where momentary delay might result in further injury.

D. O.C. spray generally should not be applied within a moving vehicle.

E. Handcuff subjects immediately after O.C. spray is applied, or when necessary, use another appropriate department-approved type of restraint per training guidelines.

F. In any circumstance where the subject is not handcuffed or restrained, document the reasons why in the incident report.

G. Officers may elect not to handcuff an individual who is inadvertently exposed to O.C. spray or becomes cross-contaminated during the application of O.C. spray to another individual.

H. Notify Dispatch and a Supervisor of all O.C. spray applications (person or animal) and advise Dispatch if medical aid is needed.

I. Attempt decontamination when officer safety is not compromised. If it is safe to decontaminate the subject at the location, officers may use any cool and clean water source if available.

J. In any instance where the subject is not decontaminated, document the reasons why in the incident report.

K. May use O.C. spray to repel an attacking or aggressive animal:

1. Notify the animal's owner if possible. Advise the owner the effects of O.C. spray are temporary and can be diminished by flushing with water.

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2. Notify Animal Control of the incident when appropriate.
3. Document the incident in the MDC under CALL DISPO for officer safety reasons.
4. An Incident Report is not required when O.C. spray is applied to an animal unless otherwise directed by a Supervisor.

L. All officers present during a use of force involving the use of O.C. spray shall complete an incident report by the end of their shift, or as otherwise directed by a Supervisor. The report shall contain a description of the circumstances surrounding the use of O.C. spray, a complete description of the subject's decontamination, and any medical treatment, including the time and location it was provided, if applicable.

M. Complete an incident report when the application of O.C. by another agency results in any injury beyond the usual effects of O.C. spray or when such O.C. application is made in concert with the applications of other force options.

N. When applicable, contact the Training Unit to exchange expired, used, defective, or partially depleted (if it is believed to not contain an adequate amount of O.C. to be effective) canisters.

VII. Supervising Probation Officers:

A. Ensure officers complete an incident report when necessary.

B. Ensure officers adhere to applicable department procedures.

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