




Clayton County Police Department PROCEDURES

Subject USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC)		Procedure # D19	
Authorizing Signature 	Effective 04/09/2020	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinds	Total Pages 05

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Clayton County Police Department to allow sworn officers who have been trained and certified to carry and use less-lethal Oleoresin Capsicum (OC). OC issued by the Department is the only authorized OC to be carried and/or used.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for personnel authorized to use OC as a use of force control option for personnel of this department. It also establishes training, procedures, and reporting requirements pertaining to the use of OC.

III. DEFINITIONS

Oleoresin Capsicum: An organically-based, aerosol spray compound that disperses particulate into the air and which is designed to incapacitate and control a hostile subject with a minimum of physical contact between the suspect and the officer.

Sworn Officer: An officer that is actively employed by this Department, is working in the capacity as a law enforcement officer, and maintains certification through GA POST as a law enforcement officer in this state, has completed all required training, and has been assigned a PBLE certification number.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. Training

1. Certified Defensive Tactics (DT) instructors within the Department shall provide initial training to newly sworn officers prior to those officers being authorized to deploy or discharge Department-issued OC.
2. In-service training covering OC usage/proficiency and a thorough review of the OC and Use of Force policies shall be conducted by certified DT instructors within the Department biennially in order for an officer to maintain Department-authorized status.
3. Training records shall be maintained by the Department and shall be made available to the Chief of Police, his designee(s), and the Accreditation Unit.

B. Equipment, Distribution, and Replenishment

1. Authorized personnel may deploy/discharge only the OC that has been authorized and distributed by the departments Academy, Quartermaster, or Chief of Police.
2. Uniformed personnel shall carry OC on their duty belt or outer vest carrier in a Department-issued holder.
3. OC shall not be stored or kept in a vehicle and avoid exposure to excessive heat.
4. The Department's Quartermaster shall replenish OC, only after an incident report has been completed and submitted to the Quartermaster, via email.

C. Delivery of OC Spray on Resistant Subjects

1. When tactically feasible, a sworn officer will give a verbal warning to the suspect(s) prior to discharging OC.
2. OC spray is to be dispensed onto the subject's facial/upper chest area, concentrating on the eyes whenever possible.
 - i. Consideration must be given to subsequently apprehending the suspect as soon as possible after his/her exposure to OC, to

prevent the suspect from placing him/herself in a dangerous situation.

3. OC should be dispensed in one (1)-second to two (2)-second bursts. Combative subjects may require additional and/or longer bursts.
4. Sworn Officers shall re-evaluate the suspect's level of resistance after each dispensing of OC and subsequently maintain, escalate or de-escalate the use of force in relation to the subject's resistance, as appropriate.
5. OC will not be utilized where an Electronic Control Device (TASER) has been deployed. If an officer has utilized OC, they will notify responding officers via radio and upon arrival to the scene. A TASER will not be deployed upon any offender who has been previously exposed to OC.
6. OC spray and other authorized less lethal chemical agents may be utilized by members of the Special Weapons & Tactics team in a tactical situation when directed to do so by appropriate supervisory personnel.

Sworn Officers need to be mindful of their actions and the guidelines of SOP A5, Use of Force.

D. Post-Apprehension Protocol

1. After OC has been dispensed, the suspect will be handcuffed and placed in a well-ventilated area whenever feasible.
2. Officers should instruct suspects to comply with police commands, and reassure them that the effects of OC are not permanent.
3. The suspect will be promptly removed from the contaminated area, and his/ her physical condition will be monitored by the arresting officer.
4. An officer who exposes a suspect to OC will administer first aid or have first aid administered to the suspect as soon as possible.
5. Symptoms of irritation for the suspect should abate within forty-five (45) minutes from the time of spraying. Such symptoms may include:
 - a. Dilation to the capillaries of the eyes causing immediate, temporary closing of the eyes.

- b. Swelling of the mucous membranes of the respiratory system and temporary uncontrolled coughing, gasping, gagging.
- c. Temporary nausea.
- d. Temporary loss of muscular strength and coordination.
- e. Watery, irritated eyes.
- f. Runny nose.
- g. Irritated throat.
- h. Respiratory distress.
- i. An intense sensation of skin burning that may persist thirty (30) to ninety (90) minutes after exposure to OC.

E. Delivery of OC Spray on Animals

- 1. OC spray may be used as a means of protection from a vicious/dangerous animal.
- 2. OC spray is to be dispensed into the animal's facial area, concentrating on the eyes and nasal area whenever possible.
 - i. Consideration must be given to subsequently apprehend or retreat as soon as possible after the exposure to OC, as to prevent the animal from further aggressive behavior towards the officers that placed them in such apprehension.
- 3. OC should be dispensed in one (1)-second to two (2)-second bursts. Aggressive animals may require additional and/or longer bursts.
- 4. The unnecessary use of OC against an animal and is not authorized under any circumstance may constitute cruelty to animals.

F. Decontamination for OC

Buildings, vehicles, etc. exposed to OC may be decontaminated by opening all windows and doors, washing all areas with soap and water and discarding all contaminated items that cannot not be salvaged or decontaminated.

G. Post-Incident Reporting Requirements

1. Use of OC is considered a Use of Force and shall be reported as such.
2. When OC is used, whether on or off duty, it will immediately be reported to an on duty supervisor as soon as possible. The officer will also report the incident to their direct supervisor.
3. Documentation and further investigative actions shall be completed in accordance with *SOP A5, Use of Force*.

V. **CANCELLATION**

This procedure amends and supersedes the following Standard operating procedure:

D19: Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), dated March 6, 2020.