OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF

Montgomery County, Maryland

Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff

GENERAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Subject:	Number:	Effective Date:
O.C. – Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray)	3.01.B	05/20/15

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I. Purpose and Effects

A. O.C. is a chemical agent that may be used as a protective instrument in accordance with the written directive ***General Operational Procedure 3.01,*** Use of Force. **(1.2.2)** The effects of O.C. may be:

(1) Burning sensation in eyes;

(2) Swelling in lining of throat;

(3) Burning & swelling of mucous membranes; and,

(4) Inflammation of skin.

B. The response is physiological, more so than psychological.

C. O.C. is effective on people under the influence of alcohol/narcotics.

D. O.C. is effective on people who are mentally unbalanced or highly agitated.

E. O.C. is also effective on animals.

F. The issued O.C. is Punch III, M-3, 5% Oleoresin Capsicum. **(1.3.9.a)**

II. Training and Inspection

A. Prior to being issued or authorized to carry and utilize O.C. - Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray), deputies must successfully complete an approved user certification course. **(1.3.10)**

(1) In addition to the initial certification, a re-certification course must be successfully completed at least ***once every two years***.

(2) A certified chemical agent instructor must provide initial certification and re-certification. **(1.3.10)**

B. All deputies carrying OC spray must carry it in the issued holder.

(1) Prior to carrying OC spray, deputies must inspect it for readiness. This inspection must include checking the canister to ensure it is not expired or inoperable.

(2) Expired, inoperable, ***or empty*** OC ***canisters*** will be replaced in accordance with General Operational Procedure 3.05, Issued Equipment/Uniforms.

III. <u>Use of Spray</u> (1.3.4)

A. In the event O.C. is used by a deputy, the deputy is responsible for:

(1) Providing first aid for contaminated individuals. First aid treatment may include, but is not limited to: **(1.3.5)**

(a) Fresh air.

(b) Large amounts of cool water.

(c) Soap & water.

(d) Evaluation by paramedics or a medical professional.

(2) ***An on duty deputy is responsible for*** completing and submitting an Incident Report (MCSO9), and a Use of Force Report (MCSO2), to their supervisor prior to the end of their tour of duty. **(1.3.6.c)**

(3) ***An off-duty deputy who utilizes O.C. spray in a use of force incident must, after clearing from the incident scene, immediately contact their Section Lieutenant, Duty Commander or the highest-ranking deputy on duty and provide a detailed account of the incident. The Section Lieutenant, Duty Commander or the highest-ranking deputy on duty will determine whether the deputy will immediately report to the Sheriff's Office to complete the required reports based on the seriousness of the incident and the practicality of reporting to the Office. If the deputy is not required to report to the Office, the deputy will report to their Section Lieutenant on their next scheduled workday and complete the Incident Report (MCSO9) and Use of Force Report (MCSO2).***

B. All reports regarding the use of O.C. will be reviewed in accordance with the written directive ***General Operational Procedure 3.01,*** Use of Force. **(1.3.7)**

C. ***Deputies must be aware of the possibility that the contaminated individual may have trouble breathing. When possible, lay the subject on their side or in a seated upright position. Deputies should avoid transporting a contaminated individual facedown whenever possible.***

D. Supervisors will authorize replacement canisters only after the submission of required reports.

IV. Storage

A. Replacement canisters of O.C. will be stored in a Sheriff's Office property room.

B. ***Deputies must*** not store O.C. products in a vehicle when temperatures may exceed 110 degrees F. O.C. canisters may explode due to pressure from extreme temperatures.

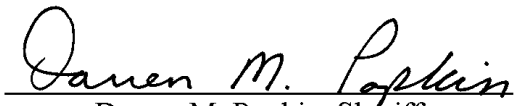
V. CALEA Standards

1.2.2, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6.c, 1.3.7, 1.3.9.a, 1.3.10

VI. Cancellation

This directive cancels and replaces General Operational Procedure 3.01.B, Effective Date: ***06/08/06***.

AUTHORITY:



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