

CHEMICAL AGENTS



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EFFECTIVE DATE: 08-22-00

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I. Policy

The use of chemical agents in Montgomery County will be carried out only with proper training, appropriate equipment, and situational considerations. The purpose of using chemical agents is to provide an alternative to physical confrontation. Chemical agents may be used to disperse crowds, subdue individuals, or affect compliance in situations that justify chemical intervention. (CALEA 1.3.1)

II. Types of Agents

There are three types of chemical agents available for use (this excludes SWAT which trains and uses a variety of agents). These are:

- 1. CS (Ortho-Chlorobenzalmalononitrile) teargas classified as an "Irritant."
- 2. HC (Hexachlorethane) smoke classified as an "Obscurant."
- 3. OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) aerosol spray classified as an "Inflammatory."

A. CS - Ortho-Chlorobenzalmalononitrile

- 1. Product - A.A.I. Corporation, MPG 120 Multi-Purpose Grenade, Non-Flammable.
- 2. Policy - Only officers of the rank of Corporal and above will be authorized to carry chemical agent CS. (CALEA 1.3.10, 11.4.1)
- 3. Training
 - a. Officers authorized to carry CS must receive training from a certified chemical agents instructor at the PSTA.
 - b. The initial training will be covered in an eight hour training block.
- 4. Deployment
 - a. Before using the chemical CS, a verbal warning to the crowd prior to deployment must be given.
 - b. Only department-issued CS is authorized for police use.
- 5. Supervisor Responsibilities

- a. First-aid, if necessary.
- b. Clean-up and retrieval of used canisters.
- c. Completion and review of the MCP 37, "Use of Force Report." (CALEA 1.3.6.c, 1.3.7)
- d. Ensure that chemical CS is stored in the original container and not kept in the trunk of vehicles for an extended length of time.

- 6. The effects of CS gas are:
 - a. Burning or pepper sensation in eyes., mouth, nose, throat, or on the skin.
 - b. Rhinorrhea (thin watery discharge from nose) and salivation.
 - c. Lacrimation (tearing).
 - d. Tightness and pain in chest, coughing, sneezing, nausea, and headache.
 - e. Erythema (redness of skin).
- 7. First Aid (CALEA 1.3.5)
 - a. Removal from contaminated area.
 - b. Fresh air (face into wind).
 - c. Cool water.
 - d. Request *Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service (MCFRS)* if necessary.
 - e. No deaths from CS have been documented.
- 8. Usage
 - a. Large, out-of-control block/field parties.
 - b. Disorderlies inciting to riot.
 - c. Violent protesters.
 - d. To provide for officer and citizen safety.

B. HC - Hexachlorethane

- 1. Product
 - a. Smith & Wesson #3, Federal #110, continuous discharge (1-2 minutes) white smoke.
 - b. Pyrotechnic Smoke Grenades.
 - c. The type of smoke used by MCP may vary depending on manufacturer.
- 2. Policy - Only officers of the rank of Corporal and above will be authorized to carry chemical agent HC. (CALEA 1.3.10)
- 3. Training
 - a. Supervisors must receive training from a certified chemical agents instructor.
 - b. When trained, supervisors may possess, handle, or direct the use of HC.
- 4. Deployment
 - a. Only department-issued HC is

- authorized for police use.
 - b. HC is a pyrotechnic, and will only be used outdoors. Do not use near functioning munitions.
5. The effects of HC are:
- a. Eye irritation.
 - b. Irritating to respiratory system.
 - c. Fire hazard.
 - d. Blocks gas mask filters (in large doses).
 - e. * Warning - If used in an enclosed area, serious injury may result due to depletion of the oxygen level. A gas mask offers limited protection.
6. First Aid
- a. Fresh air.
 - b. Remove from contaminated area.**
 - b. Cool water
 - d. Request MCFRS if necessary.**
7. Usage
- a. Depends on wind direction and velocity.
 - b. Concealment.
 - c. Diversion.
 - d. Psychological factor - ruse.
 - e. Marking landing area for helicopters.
 - f. HC magnifies the effect of chemical CS (one CS grenade and one HC smoke grenade = four times the effect).
 - g. Can confuse or disorient.

C. OC - Oleoresin Capsicum

1. Product - Aerko International, Punch II, M-3 is a 5% OC solution.
2. Policy
 - a. OC is available for all sworn officers; its carry or use is not mandatory.
 - b. Replacement canisters of OC will be stored at the **Central Supply Section**.
 - c. Replacement canisters are available to officers upon return of an expired or used canister to the Central Supply Section.**
3. Training
 - a. Officers must first receive training from a certified chemical agents instructor.
 - b. Initial training will consist of a minimum of four hours. Additional training will be provided **annually** during in-service.
 - c. Officers may not carry or use OC until they have completed the initial training.
4. Officer's Responsibilities
 - a. First aid for contaminated individuals.
 - b. Notify supervisors on every use of OC.
 - c. Completion of the MCP 37.
 - d. Keep OC products secured by strap or velcro in the issued or department-approved holster.
 - e. Do not store OC products in a vehicle when temperatures may exceed 110 degrees F.

- OC canisters may explode due to pressure from extreme temperatures.
 - f. Since OC spray has an alcohol base, use caution as it may be flammable under certain conditions. This will be addressed in training.
 - g. Only OC issued by the department is authorized for police use.
5. The effects of OC are:
- a. Burning sensation in eyes.
 - b. Swelling in lining of throat.
 - c. Burning and swelling of mucous membranes.
 - d. Inflammation of skin.
 - e. Response is more physiological than psychological.
 - f. Is effective on people under influence of alcohol or narcotics.
 - g. Is effective on people who are mentally unbalanced or highly agitated or motivated.
 - h. Also effective on animals if necessary.
 - i. * Warning - OC may not be effective on all subjects and the effects are not always immediate. A motivated subject or a person who has had a prior exposure may still present a

substantial risk to an officer after having been exposed.

6. First Aid
 - a. Fresh air.
 - b. Large amounts of cool water.
 - c. Soap and water if necessary.
 - d. No deaths from OC have been documented.
7. Usage
 - a. Any arrest situation after non-compliance or resisting.
 - b. Out-of-control fights or disorderlies.
 - c. To provide for officer and citizen safety.
 - d. Officers may use OC during any stage in the process of escalation as the situation and circumstances may require. (See FC 131, "Use Of Force.")

III. **Gas Masks**

- A. The department uses the military M17 and RACAL gas masks.
- B. The gas masks are designed to filter CS, CN and OC gases. The masks may filter only a small concentration of HC smoke which will eventually clog the filters. **The gas masks also have a biological capability. However, many biological agents can be transmitted to exposed skin. Officers are to use the gas masks to extract themselves from a suspected biological environment and not use them to enter one. Immediately notify MCFRS of**

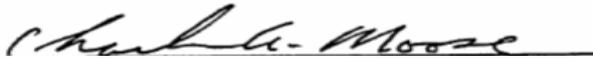
any suspected biological exposure and attempt to isolate any individuals who may be contaminated.

- C. The masks will not operate in low oxygen levels and will not filter carbon monoxide.
 - D. The masks must be cleaned after each use. Clean by wiping with a damp cloth.
 - E. Supervisors will inspect the gas masks every six months to ensure efficiency.
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IV. Proponent Unit: Tactical Section

V. Cancellation

This directive cancels Function Code 132, dated 12-12-97.



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