



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SERVICES
DIRECTIVE**

Date: February 27, 2007

Number: 07-07

TO: All Fire and Explosive Investigations Section Personnel

FROM: Division Chief Michael T. Love

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Love".

SUBJECT: Chemical Agents

I. Goal

The use of chemical agents by the Montgomery County Fire and Explosive Investigations Section (FEI) personnel will be applied only with appropriate training, equipment, and situational considerations. The purpose of using these chemical agents is to provide an alternative to physical confrontation. Chemical agents may be used to disperse crowds, subdue individuals, or effect compliance in situations that justify chemical intervention.

II. Types of Agents

A. Three types of chemical agents suitable and available for this use:

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

B. CS - Ortho-Chlorobenzalmalononitrile.

1. **Product.** FEI will use the same CS product issued by the Montgomery County Police Department.
2. **Policy.** Only FEI Investigators who are Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) *Certified Police Officers* are authorized to carry chemical agent CS. Only FEI-issued CS is authorized for FEI Investigator use.
3. **Training.** FEI Investigators authorized to carry CS must receive training from a certified chemical agent instructor, in accordance with all MPCTC requirements.
4. **Deployment.** A verbal warning must be given before using CS.
5. **Considerations for Use.**
 - a. Large, out-of-control block/field parties.
 - b. Disorderly persons inciting to riot.
 - c. Violent protesters.
 - d. To provide for Investigator and citizen safety
6. **Recommended First Aid.**
 - a. Remove victim from the contaminated area.
 - b. Provide fresh air (face into wind).
 - c. Provide cool water.
 - d. ***Request EMS response for patient evaluation.***
7. **FEI Investigator Responsibilities.**
 - a. Ensure that first-aid is administered as needed.
 - b. Ensure that all used canisters are retrieved and appropriately disposed.
 - c. Complete an FEI Form 37, "*Use of Force Report.*"
 - d. Notify the on-duty FEI Supervisor after each use.

C. HC – Hexachlorethane.

1. **Product.** FEI will use the same HC product issued by the Montgomery County Police Department.
2. **Policy.** Only FEI Investigators who are MPCTC *Certified Police Officers* are authorized to carry chemical agent HC. Only FEI-issued HC is authorized for FEI Investigator use.
3. **Training.** FEI Investigators authorized to carry HC must receive training from a certified chemical agent's instructor, in accordance with all MPCTC requirements.
4. **Deployment.** HC is a pyrotechnic and must be used only outdoors. ***Do not use HC near functioning munitions.***
5. **Considerations for Use.**
 - a. Concealment.
 - b. Diversion.
 - c. Psychological factor – as a ruse.
 - d. To mark a landing area for helicopters.
6. **Recommended First Aid.**
 - a. Remove victim from the contaminated area.
 - b. Provide fresh air (face into wind).
 - c. Provide cool water.
 - d. ***Request EMS response for patient evaluation.***
7. **FEI Investigator Responsibilities.**
 - a. Ensure that first-aid is administered as needed.
 - b. Ensure that all used canisters are retrieved and appropriately disposed.
 - c. Notify the on-duty FEI Supervisor after each use.

C. OC - Oleoresin Capsicum.

1. **Product.** FEI will use the same OC product issued by the Montgomery County Police Department.

2. **Policy.** Only FEI Investigators who are MPCTC *Certified Police Officers* are authorized to carry chemical agent OC. Only FEI-issued OC is authorized for FEI Investigator use.
3. **Training.** FEI Investigators authorized to carry OC must receive training from a certified chemical agent's instructor, in accordance with all MPCTC requirements.
4. **Deployment.** OC may not be effective on everyone, and its effects are not always immediate. A motivated person, or one who has had a prior OC exposure, may still present a substantial risk to an Investigator after having been exposed.
5. **Consideration for Use.**
 - a. Any arrest situation after non-compliance, or against one who is resisting.
 - b. Out-of-control fights, disorderly persons.
 - c. To provide for Investigator and citizen safety.
 - d. During any stage of escalating aggression, as the circumstances require. (*"Use of Force Guidelines"*)
6. **Recommended First Aid.**
 - a. Remove victim from the contaminated area.
 - b. Provide fresh air (face into wind).
 - c. Provide cool water.
 - d. Provide soap and water if necessary
 - e. ***Request EMS response for patient evaluation.***
7. **FEI Investigator Responsibilities.**
 - a. Ensure that first-aid is administered as needed.
 - b. Complete a FEI Form 37, *"Use of Force Report."*
 - c. Notify the on-duty FEI Supervisor after each use.