



California Exposition and State Fair Police Department

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DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

ORDER № 200.800

Feb. 2019 (Revised)

08/01/2006 (New)

USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (PEPPER SPRAY)

200.801 PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this Order is to provide Police Officers with the policy and procedures for use of Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray).

200.802 AUTHORIZED USE

- A. Oleoresin Capsicum, also known as pepper spray, shall be possessed and maintained by all uniformed field personnel who have been trained in its usage. Undercover and plainclothes personnel may (optional) possess chemical irritant spray subject to the same training requirements. Only Oleoresin Capsicum authorized by the Chief of Police shall be carried.
- B. Defensive Instrument: Oleoresin Capsicum shall only be used in instances where a Police Officer is confronted with active resistance or aggression (including vicious animals) that threatens the safety of an officer or other persons. Oleoresin Capsicum is a defensive instrument, giving the police officer an alternate choice among other defensive weapons such as the baton and firearm.
- C. Oleoresin Capsicum **shall not** be used against non-aggressive and/or non-threatening persons. Oleoresin Capsicum **shall not** be used on a handcuffed subject.
- D. Unless there is an immediate threat to a police officers' safety, Oleoresin Capsicum **shall not** be used on females who are apparently pregnant.
- E. Necessary and reasonable force: Oleoresin Capsicum may only be used in those emergency situations when the statutes allow a peace officer to use necessary and reasonable force.
1. Example: Where the officer is physically attacked or encountering violent resistance. However, once a subject has been subdued and is under control, he or she shall not be subjected to further application of Oleoresin Capsicum.
- F. The use of Oleoresin Capsicum in a riot, civil disorder, or an unruly crowd posing a potential threat, must be authorized by the Chief of Police, or designee. Such prior approval is not required in an extreme emergency situation that dictates the necessity for immediate action.

The mission of the California Exposition & State Fair Police is to:

Provide for the safety and security of visitors, employees, and stakeholders; keep order and preserve the peace; and support the economic well-being of the California Exposition & State Fair.

200.803 TESTING

- A. Oleoresin Capsicum canisters should be tested periodically to ensure the propellant has not dissipated, thereby rendering the devices ineffective. Testing shall be conducted in an open air area, away from buildings, personal property, and other individuals.
1. To test the propellant, an officer shall operate the Oleoresin Capsicum canister for the minimum period necessary to determine that there still is a propellant charge. It is further recommended that Oleoresin Capsicum canisters be shaken occasionally to mix the active ingredients.

200.804 FIRST AID AFTER USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM

- A. Because Oleoresin Capsicum is irritating to the eyes, nose and skin, police officers who use Oleoresin Capsicum will ensure that any person who is exposed to Oleoresin Capsicum receives adequate treatment.
1. Adequate First Aid: Adequate first aid consists of applying cool water to the contaminated area. Ointments or warm water should not be applied, because this may increase the local irritation.
 2. Subject Under Control: Once a subject is in custody/control, he or she should be given first aid as soon as practical when exposed to the Oleoresin Capsicum.
 3. Whenever practical, police officers who have exposed an in-custody subject to Oleoresin Capsicum should consider requesting Emergency Medical Services (Local Fire Station 19) to evaluate the subject and provide first aid. The police officer should consider requesting a "medical clearance for booking" from the paramedics who have examined the subject.
 4. First Aid Failure: If the first aid treatment fails to bring relief, arrangements will be made to provide the subject with medical care. Persons with highly-sensitive skin may experience mild burns, and first aid treatment at a medical facility may be required.
 5. Persons who display or complain of any severe reaction shall be transported to a medical facility as soon as possible for treatment.
 6. Photographs shall be taken of any unusual serious reaction(s) due to the exposure of Oleoresin Capsicum.

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200.805 REPORTING

- A. Crime Report: The arresting police officer shall prepare a report describing the use of Oleoresin Capsicum.
- B. When booking persons into the county jail who have been exposed to Oleoresin Capsicum, the booking officer shall notify the jail personnel.
- C. If a police report is not required, the police officer using the Oleoresin Capsicum shall notify his/her immediate supervisor.
- D. Civil Disorder Operations: Following civil disobedience situations, the police officer shall notify a Supervisor or the Officer-in-Charge.
- E. Report Review Officer: The Report Review Officer shall ensure that a copy of reports documenting the use of Oleoresin Capsicum shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police for review.