

# Rapid Containment Baton and Oleoresin Capsicum Guidelines

## 634.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy, specifically Rapid Containment Batons (RCB) and Oleoresin Capsicum (OC).

## 634.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Executive Committee;
- California Board of State and Community Corrections, Standards and Training for Corrections (STC);
- California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST);
- California Penal Code §§ 832, 22820.

## 634.3 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Riverside County Probation Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force policy.

## 634.4 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by employees of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee.

Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

When using control devices, officers should carefully consider potential impact areas in order to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

## 634.5 RESPONSIBILITIES

### 634.5.1 UNIT SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Unit Supervisor shall control the inventory and issuance of OC spray and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended OC spray devices are properly disposed of or replaced.

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#### 634.5.2 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster shall control the inventory and issuance of RCB's and shall ensure that any damaged or inoperative RCB's are repaired or replaced.

#### 634.5.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices. Periodic testing of OC spray canisters in a safe manner is recommended. Control devices shall not be left unattended or stored in vehicles overnight.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices shall be returned to the Rangemaster or Unit Supervisor as appropriate for disposition. A Lost or Damaged Equipment Report shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of loss or damage. Law enforcement shall also be notified, if applicable.

Equipment supplied by the department shall only be used by an officer while on-duty. Equipment shall not be used when an officer is off-duty.

#### **634.6 RAPID CONTAINMENT BATON GUIDELINES**

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

When carrying an RCB, officers shall carry the RCB in its authorized holder. As it is considered a use of force, RCB use shall be restricted to circumstances authorized by law and only to the level necessary to accomplish a lawful probation task in accordance with established policies.

#### **634.7 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES**

Officers carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster. Officers designated to carry OC spray shall be trained and certified in its use pursuant to Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) and shall not be issued OC spray until successful completion of PC832. A copy of the certification card shall be placed in the officer's personnel file.

As it is considered a use of force, chemical agents shall be restricted to circumstances authorized by law and only to the level necessary to accomplish a lawful probation task in accordance with established policies. As with other control devices, OC spray may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in violent behavior. OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of officers or the public.

##### 634.7.1 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

Officers who deploy OC spray are responsible for implementing any necessary decontamination measures, such as:

- (a) Flushing the facial area and eyes with water as soon as it can be safely accomplished.

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- (b) Requesting emergency medical assistance if the person sprayed exhibits the need.
- (c) Obtaining medical follow-up for a person sprayed when deemed necessary.

#### **634.8 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE**

Whenever OC has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, officers should provide the owners or available occupants with the Chemical Agent Warning (attachment), placing them on notice of the possible presence of residue that could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that clean-up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

#### **634.9 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES**

The Training Manager shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device as listed in this policy have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the department's Management and Team Training System (MATTS).
- (c) If an officer cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force policy, the officer will be restricted from carrying the control device until proficiency is demonstrated.

#### **634.10 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES**

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Use of Force policy.

Date(s) revised:

01/20/2016

11/03/2011

12/01/1998

08/28/1995

Created: 12/04/1991

Attachments:

[1. Chemical Agent Warning.pdf](#)

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## **Attachments**

## **Chemical Agent Warning.pdf**

# Chemical Agent Warning

Oleoresin capsicum (OC) has been introduced in this area. Residue may have been left behind which could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. All clean-up expenses shall be at the owner's expense.

## AREA DECONTAMINATION FOR OC

- STEP 1: Ventilate the building/area to remove airborne OC. Open all doors and windows that weather permits. This should be accomplished as soon as possible. If fans can be placed to increase ventilation, this will help.
- STEP 2: Surfaces can be decontaminated by washing with water or a damp cloth. The dry OC residue may be collected by means of a wet/dry vac.
- STEP 3: Clothing and other fabrics can be cleaned in their usual manner (either by machine washing or dry cleaning).
- NOTE: Rubber gloves and a gauze face mask should be used during the clean-up stage to prevent the possibility of residual contamination.

## FIRST AID FOR OC

- I. GENERAL:
1. Remove any affected person from the contaminated area to an open space, facing the wind.
  2. Keep subject calm and restrict activity.
  3. Most subjects will be well on their way to total recovery 45 minutes after first aid begins.
- II. EYES:
- Intense burning sensation, temporary inflammation of the tissues around the eyes, causing involuntary closure.
1. Wash eyes out with large amounts of cool water.
  2. **DO NOT** allow the subject to rub their eyes or face. If the need arises to use a paper towel, use a blotting motion and discard after one use.
  3. Find out if subject is wearing contact lenses. If so, allow them to remove the lenses or call EMS to remove them. **DO NOT** attempt to remove unless medically trained to do so. Contacts may become contaminated and may need to be discarded.
  4. Keep eyes open facing wind.
  5. Tearing helps clear the eyes.
- III. NOSE:
- Irritation, burning sensation, nasal discharge.
1. Breathe normally.
  2. Blow nose to remove discharge any OC particulates.
- IV. SKIN:
- Burning sensation on affected skin areas. Redness may occur on fair skinned individuals.
1. **DO NOT** apply creams, salves, oils, lotions or burn cream as they will only trap the OC on the skin.
  2. Flush the skin with large amounts of cool water and expose the subject to fresh air.
  3. Further relief may be gained by showering with cool water using mild soap and shampooing hair, washing downward from the hairline.



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