

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	REF. NR-95-C-17	PAGE 1 of 3
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SUBJECT: OC Aerosol Ted Stewart, Executive Director	REVISION DATE	

I. PURPOSE

To define the policy of the Department of Natural Resources regarding the use of Oleoresin capsicum (OC) aerosol by department peace officers.

II. POLICY

The department recognizes the need to provide its peace officers with a selection of weapons in the use of force continuum. The divisions are authorized to issue OC aerosol to all department peace officers and shall provide them with the appropriate training. It is the policy of the department that its officers use OC when warranted, but only in accordance with procedures set forth here and in the department's "Use of Force" policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy, OC Aerosol: Oleoresin capsicum aerosol.

IV. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Officers may only carry and use OC aerosol after successfully completing a four (4) hour basic course which shall require officer exposure by taste, touch or face spray.
- B. A two (2) hour refresher course will be required annually.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Department officers are only authorized to carry and use division issued OC aerosol canisters.
- B. All officers are responsible to account for all OC discharged from the canister(s) registered to them.

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- C. It is the division's responsibility to:
1. Track the life of the issued canisters.
 2. Record the serial numbers of the canisters issued to each officer.
 3. Collect outdated or empty canisters and dispose of properly.
- D. OC aerosol may be used to:
1. Defend officers or others from assault when use of firearms or impact weapons may not be justified or necessary.
 2. Safely effect a lawful arrest, with this being the least amount of force necessary.
 3. Stop a threatening or dangerous animal.
 4. Restrain a person from inflicting bodily injury to himself or others.
- E. Immediately after spraying a suspect, officers shall be alert to any indications that the individual needs medical care. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, breathing difficulties, gagging, profuse sweating and loss of consciousness. Upon observing these or other medical problems or if the suspect requests medical assistance, the officer shall immediately summon emergency medical aid.
- F. Whenever OC aerosol is used, decontamination steps may begin when the situation is stable and under control.
- G. The use of OC aerosol shall be immediately documented by the officer and forwarded to the appropriate supervisor. The documentation shall include:

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1. Effects on the suspect caused by the OC aerosol.
2. Decontamination measures and first aid given to or offered to the subject.

H. An officer may use deadly force to protect himself from the use or threatened use of OC when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against them if they become incapacitated.

VI. INTENTIONAL MISUSE OR ABUSE

- A. Intentional misuse of OC aerosol on a person will be considered an assault.
- B. Intentional misuse of OC aerosol shall result in a disciplinary action and may result in suspension or termination of employment.