



San Diego Community College District

Police Department

Policy and Procedures

4.04 USE OF LIQUID CHEMICAL AGENTS

EFF. 10/01/19

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines on the use of liquid chemical agents.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Guidelines for Use

1. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) shall be carried by all uniformed personnel who are authorized to use liquid chemical agents in the performance of their duties.
2. OC may only be used on a person who is engaged in active resistance, assaultive behavior, or life threatening behavior. Department Procedure 4.01, Use of Force, describes the various levels of resistance and assaultive behaviors.
3. OC may only be used on handcuffed prisoners who are violent, are about to cause or are causing injury to themselves or others, or are causing damage to property.
4. OC should not be used on a person who is completely restrained in a safety control chair.
5. Generally, OC should not be used to disperse a crowd without the approval of the on-scene field supervisor or incident commander. In a crowd control situation, it is imperative that officers respond in a coordinated manner.
6. OC may be used on a spitting person in order to gain control and/or when applying a spit sock.

B. Directions for Use of the First Defense Liquid Chemical Agent

1. The Def-Tec Mark – 4 (3 oz. canister), can be used with accuracy and effectiveness
-

from three to twelve feet in calm, still air. The Mark IX (12 oz. canister) is generally limited for use in crowd control situations requiring larger amounts of liquid chemical agent.

2. To be effective, the OC stream should be directed across the brow of the subject's face. The spray will cause involuntary closing of the eyes, as well as swelling of the mucous membranes. Effects generally last 20 to 30 minutes.
3. Using chemical agents at distances of 2 feet and closer presents a much greater chance of contamination of the user. Department members shall carry only OC spray that is issued by the department while on-duty.

C. Reporting the Use of the Liquid Chemical Agent

1. In all cases when the liquid chemical agent is used, members shall complete a detailed and accurate report concerning the circumstances relating to its use. This information shall be contained in the arrest report (ARJIS-8) if an arrest is made or in an Officer's Report (ARJIS-9) if an arrest is not made.
2. The officer transporting any suspect to County Jail or Juvenile Hall shall inform intake staff when the person has been exposed to a liquid chemical agent.

D. First Aid Requirements

1. It is the arresting officer's responsibility to see that proper first aid is administered whenever physical force is applied to a person in custody.
2. After the liquid chemical agent has been used, proper first aid is to wash the person's face with clear, cold water within thirty minutes. Manufacturer recommendations include flushing the affected area with water and exposing to fresh air. Eye washing should not be forced upon the prisoner against his/her will. The suspect or prisoner should be asked whether he/she wishes water for the affected area. OC is an organic, non-enduring substance that can also be produced synthetically. Therefore, decontamination is relatively quick and simple. Expose the affected subject to fresh air as soon as possible and flush the contaminated areas with cold water. No other medication is to be used.

E. Control and Issuance of the Liquid Chemical Agent

1. Department personnel are responsible for the liquid chemical agent equipment issued to them and are not permitted to loan or give this restricted equipment to persons outside the Department.

2. Members requesting the liquid chemical agent will do so in writing, through their supervisors. The Firearms Coordinator or his designee will issue the liquid chemical agent upon receipt of an approved request.
3. Malfunctioning or empty canisters of liquid chemical agent will be turned in to the Firearms Coordinator. Replacement will be made upon receipt of old equipment.
4. Supervisors are responsible for periodic inspections of the liquid chemical agent possessed by personnel within the unit.
5. Theft or loss of the liquid chemical agent shall be reported immediately on a Crime Report (ARJIS-2).
6. Serial numbers and other marks of identification on the liquid chemical agent canisters are required by law. Members shall not remove any label or mark of identification from any chemical agent container.

F. Specialty Chemical Agents

The San Diego Police Department stocks a variety of specialty chemical agents and has personnel trained in their deployment. Should an incident requiring tactical use of chemical agents occur within the jurisdiction of the San Diego Community College District Police, the San Diego Police Department should be contacted for deployment.