

# MISSOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL



<i>Subject:</i> <b>OLEORESIN CAPSICUM-CSS USE</b>		
<i>Effective Date:</i> <b>4/25/2018</b>	<i>Original Date:</i> <b>6/23/2014</b>	<i>Next Review:</i> <b>4/25/2019</b>
<i>Chapter</i> <b>7</b>	<i>Policy #</i> <b>7.45</b>	<i>Distribution:</i>
<i>References:</i> <b>MPD Policy 7.40 Oleoresin Capsicum, MCA 45-3-102</b>		

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this appendix is to establish guidelines for the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) aerosol defense spray for civilian Community Service Specialists, knowing some of their contacts with the public or animal encounters may result in attack or the threat of an imminent attack on the Specialists.

## II. Policy

The Missoula Police Department issues OC aerosol defense spray to provide the Community Service Specialists a final line of defense against an animal, or the imminent use of unlawful force by a person during their shift. Community Service Specialists will only carry the Oleoresin Capsicum provided and authorized by the department. Specialists who carry OC will be required to attend a 90-minute block of instruction by a certified instructor. This instruction will include classroom presentation and hands-on use of the agent, including exposure, and decontamination.

## III. Procedures

- A. Community Service Specialists will not carry any weapons except the department provided OC and folding knives intended to be utilized in the performance of their regular duties.
- B. Community Service Specialists will not use the OC as a means of restraint. OC is to be used solely as a defense/self protection tool, and only after other reasonable options (use of verbal deflection techniques, retreat, use of a barrier or other means) have failed to defuse the threat/attack. Community Service Specialists, if reasonably possible, will immediately prior to use of OC, advise 911 and request sworn officer assistance.
  1. Unless it is impractical, unreasonable, or dangerous to do so, a verbal warning shall be given before OC is employed.
  2. If a Community Service Specialist is forced to use OC, they will retreat from the threat as far as is necessary and wait for assistance from a sworn officer before attempting to decontaminate the subject.
- C. Community Service Specialists will be trained in Verbal Judo and will use that skill, if reasonably possible to do so, before the use of OC.

- D. Community Service Specialists will continue to receive training on Verbal Judo in order to maintain their skills with this technique. The Missoula Police Department's policy is that OC will never be used by a Community Service Specialist to restrain someone, OC will only be used to protect themselves when attack by human or animal is imminent or occurring.

## V. **Effects of Oleoresin Capsicum**

The effects of OC are temporary. The effects will wear off in approximately 30-45 minutes. However, attempts should be made to relieve the discomfort of any individuals, who have been exposed, as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances.

## VI. **Post Care**

- A. After spraying a person with OC spray a Community Service Specialist will advise 911 of their location, details of the situation and request a supervisor. The arriving supervisor and any responding officer will treat any person, who has been contaminated, and assist with a report/charges resulting from the situation.
- B. Immediately after a subject is sprayed, Specialists shall be alert to any indications that the individual needs medical care. This includes, but is not limited to, prolonged or significant breathing difficulties, displaying evidence of a compromised airway, gagging, profuse sweating, and loss of consciousness. If any of these symptoms are present, or if the subject requests medical assistance, the Specialist shall immediately summon emergency medical aid.
- C. Once the subject has been properly restrained by a Sworn Officer, he/she should be cared for. While no medical attention should be necessary to eliminate the product's effects, the following steps will aid in the subject's recovery:
1. Remove the subject from the contaminated area.
  2. Reassure the subject that the effects of the product are temporary and discomfort will diminish in a short period of time if the subject does not fight it.
  3. Where possible, flushing the subject's face with water or applying a wet towel will expedite the recovery. Bottled water or saline solution may be used if available.
  4. The Specialists and subject should avoid touching their eyes, nose, mouth and other sensitive skin areas until able to wash their hands.
  5. Assistance shall be offered to any individual accidentally exposed to OC who feels the effects of the agent.

#### **IV. Reporting Procedures**

- A. When a Community Service Specialist uses OC to protect himself, the incident shall be documented in a report. The Community Service Specialist and a responding officer shall both write reports documenting what led up to the need to spray the subject and the post care provided, as well as any criminal charges or other actions taken as a result of the incident. A supervisor will complete a use of force report.