

**REED COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SAFETY
DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVE**

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM USE

Source: Departmental Directives issued by the CS Director

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of oleoresin capiscum (OC) spray by Community Safety Officers (CSOs) in accordance with the departmental directive on the Use of Force.

OVERVIEW

The only chemical agent authorized for use by Reed College CSOs is oleoresin capsicum (OC)--otherwise known as Pepper Spray. It shall be used only to the extent necessary to mitigate threat of serious physical injury or death, within training standards, and only when other methods or uses of force are not available or are impractical.

GENERAL GUIDELINES ON USE

OC spray shall not be used as a threat to elicit information, nor will it be used on people who are secured and properly in custody, unless there is an imminent threat of serious physical injury or death.

The use of OC Spray will be avoided, to the maximum extent possible, in any enclosed area that is occupied at the time, including research areas housing animals, plants, or other materials that could be harmed.

OC spray may be used, at the officer's discretion, when an individual displays the intent to use or engage in violent, aggressive actions (not to include passive resistance like yelling, cursing, or refusing to stand up, walk, or sit down). OC spray may also be used on vicious or aggressive animals when the presence of those animals interferes with the safety of a person or officer, or the successful completion of a Community Safety function.

If used on individuals who are sick or intoxicated to the extent that they are not in possession of their normal protective reflexes, such as being able to turn away from the applied spray, prompt aid must be administered afterward to prevent complications from vomiting, choking, or respiratory seizures.

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When an individual, who has been sprayed with OC, is no longer combative and is under the CSO's absolute control, the CSO shall, as soon as possible, expose the individual to fresh air and use any available clean water source to rinse and remove any residual OC from the individual's face and eyes. First Aid bags in the vehicles also contain Sudecon, a decontamination wipe for OC that should be used when possible. As a safety precaution, handcuffs that are already in place on a person who has been sprayed with OC should not be removed unless the CSO has determined that the person no longer poses a threat.

The CSO should request Emergency Medical Services (EMS), through 911, if anyone is exposed to OC spray.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Only water-based OC products may be purchased and issued to CSOs. Oil or alcohol-based products carry the risk of fire if used in certain environments, and have been known to result in injuries to subjects who have been sprayed and subsequently exposed to a source of flames or sparks.

CSOs may carry and use only the OC spray issued by the department. Requests for exceptions must be approved by the CS Director in advance.

DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with our Use of Force directive, all uses of OC Spray will be documented with an Incident Report, Use of Force report, and photographs, if and when possible, of any injuries resulting from the use of force. If photographs are unable to be taken, please note and explain in the Incident Report.