

P O L I C Y



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Policy Title Use of Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (OC) Pepper Spray		

Council Resolution No. C/313/07	Date: May 10, 2007	Cross Reference C/298/05	Effective May 10, 2007
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Policy

Lacombe County recognizes there are circumstances where Community Peace Officer may need to use OC spray in the execution of their duties. Subject to the provisions of this policy, Peace Officer Act, Peace Officer Regulations and Peace Officer Ministerial Regulations the County Commissioner is authorized to approve the carrying and use of OC spray by Community Peace Officers.

Qualifications

1. The issue of OC spray to a Community Peace Officer is conditional upon:
 - a. A Community Peace Officer's appointment authorizing him/her to be in possession of OC spray only for the purpose of their duties or employment and does not extend to off-duty activities.
 - b. Successful completion of a training course on a use of force model recognized by the Alberta Solicitor General
 - c. The Community Peace Officer receiving specific instructions in the care, handling and use of OC spray

Approved Uses

2. OC spray must only be used as a defensive tool and should not be applied to facilitate an arrest unless other means are not available.
3. OC spray may be utilized to control an attack or threat of an attack from any animals.
4. Training purposes when used as part of a training course recognized by the Alberta Solicitor General.
5. OC spray shall only be carried by Community Peace Officers while on duty and use does not extend to off duty activities.

Procedures

6. A Community Peace Officer authorized to use OC spray must:

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- a. Inform the Senior Community Peace Officer whenever possible prior to using the OC spray;
 - b. When tactical advantage is not lost, advises the potential target(s) that OC spray may be used if their behavior remains uncontrollable;
 - c. Monitors the target(s) and seeks medical assistance if the effect of the OC spray persists after one (1) hour.
7. The Senior Community Peace Officer must:
- a. Where possible report to the area, take charge of the incident and approve the use of OC spray, if necessary;
 - b. Ensures all targets affected by the OC spray are taken to an area which is secure and removed from the contamination and provides for the decontamination;
 - c. Review, comment and submit the detailed Incident Report to the County Commissioner
 - d. Ensure all Community Peace Officers required to carry OC spray are re-certified every 36 months.
8. The OC spray issued to a Community Peace Officer is to be the same strength and composition as that being utilized by the RCMP or other Municipal Police Departments. The OC Spray major capsaicinoid (MC) levels shall not exceed 0.18% and scoville heat units (SHU) levels shall not exceed 500,000 SHU.
9. Community Peace Officer shall only use the OC spray which is supplied by Lacombe County and issued by Senior Community Peace Officer.

Storage

10. When OC spray canisters are in the office, not on any person, they must be stored in a locked cabinet.
11. Replacement canisters are under the control of the Senior Community Peace Officer and must be stored in a locked cabinet.
12. When OC spray canisters are in the possession of Community Peace Officer at their residence, when it is not reasonable to have it locked at the office, the Community Peace Officer must ensure proper storage of the OC spray, through the use of a locked cabinet.

Post Incident

13. A Community Peace Officer involved in an occurrence where OC spray was utilized, either by himself or any other Community Peace Officer shall:

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- a. Conduct post-deployment procedures in accordance with their training and best practices.

Report of Discharge

14. A Community Peace Officer involved in an occurrence where OC spray was utilized by either himself or another Community Peace Officer for purposes other than training shall:
 - a. Advise the RCMP forthwith of the deployment of OC spray and request their attendance/assistance.
 - b. Complete a standard incident report outlining the circumstances surrounding the use of the OC spray and provide a copy of the report to the Senior Community Peace Officer, RCMP and Public Security Department of the Solicitor General.
 - c. Outline in the occurrence report details regarding place and time of decontamination or refusal of decontamination by the subject, and all subsequent attempts at decontamination.
15. The Senior Community Peace Officer shall notify the County Commissioner in writing, of the circumstances surrounding the discharge of OC spray.

Restrictions on Use

16. A Community Peace Officer must not allow, lend or provide to any person not duly authorized by law, to handle, possess or use OC spray.