

Weapons – Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (OC Spray)

Effective Date: May 5, 2020
Review Date: May 5, 2025
References: Peace Officer Act, Peace Officer Regulations and Peace Officer Ministerial Regulations

CAO Signature: 

Purpose: Lac Ste. Anne County recognizes there are circumstances where a Community Peace Officer (CPO) may need to use Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (OC Spray) in the execution of his/her duties. In accordance with the Peace Officer Act, Peace Officer Regulations and Peace Officer Ministerial Regulations, Lac Ste. Anne County requires policy and procedures in regards to issuing, carrying, using, handling and care of OC Spray by CPOs.

Guidelines: Only CPO's who have successfully completed an approved OC Spray training program, and who have authority through their Peace Officer Appointment, may carry and use OC Spray only while on duty. The authority does not extend to off-duty activities.

1. AUTHORIZATION:

Lac Ste. Anne County Manager, or Designate, may issue OC Spray to CPOs when meeting the following conditions:

- His/her Peace Officer Appointment authorizes him/her to be in possession of OC Spray.
- The CPO must successfully complete and maintain necessary training.
- The CPO must receive specific instruction in the care, handling and use of OC Spray.

- The OC Spray is the strength and composition that is set out by the Alberta Solicitor General Public Security Department.

2. TRAINING:

CPOs will only be issued OC Spray upon successful completion of approved training recognized by the Alberta Solicitor General Public Security Division. All CPOs will be required to recertify OC training every 36 months.

3. APPROVED USES:

OC Spray may be utilized as a means of defense from a subject in accordance with the Use of Force training, or to control a person or crowd when lesser means are not likely to succeed or have failed and more severe means are not yet required.

OC Spray may also be utilized to control an attack or threat of an attack from any animals.

OC Spray may be utilized for training purposes when used as part of a training course recognized by the Alberta Solicitor General Public Security Division.

OC Spray shall only be carried by the CPO while on duty and does not extend to off-duty activities.

The CPO must not allow, lend or provide OC Spray to any person not duly authorized by law to handle, possess or use OC Spray.

4. PROCEDURES:

The CPO authorized to use OC Spray must:

- Inform the Supervisor of Enforcement Services whenever possible prior to using the OC Spray.
- When tactical advantage is not lost, advise the potential target(s) that OC Spray may be used if their behavior remains uncontrollable.
- After deployment, CPOs should wait a moment before approaching the target(s). This will allow the potency of the spray in the air to diminish to a tolerable level, to avoid personal contamination.
- Encourage the target(s) to relax and breath normally.
- Monitor the target(s) and seeks medical assistance if the effect of the OC Spray remains uncontrollable.

- Be familiar with and ensure decontamination procedures align with the manufacturer's recommendations for the brand of OC Spray being used.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

A CPO who during the course of their duty utilizes OC Spray shall:

- Report the occurrence as soon as practicable to the Supervisor of Enforcement Services.
- Complete a standard occurrence report outlining the circumstances surrounding the use of the spray.
- Outline in the occurrence report details regarding place and time of the decontamination or refusal of decontamination by the target(s) and any subsequent attempts for decontamination.
- The Supervisor of Enforcement Services shall notify the General Manager of Community & Protective Services and the County Manager.
- The General Manager of Community & Protective Services, or Designate, shall report the incident to the Alberta Solicitor General Public Security Department within in 24 hours of the incident.

6. STORAGE & CARE:

OC Spray shall remain on the CPO person or secured in a locked storage at all times:

- Ensure that when off-duty, the OC Spray is secured in a locked cabinet within the Lac Ste. Anne County Administration Office.
- If a CPO goes off shift at their residence, the OC Spray must be secured within a locked cabinet at his/her residence.

CPOs will inspect the OC Spray canister at regular intervals for damage and function of the canister's components.

OC Spray will be disposed of in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

7. RECORDS:

All training records will be stored and maintained in the CPO personnel file.

The Supervisor of Enforcement Services shall manage the training and recertification OC Spray requirements. The review of which shall occur on a regular basis to ensure compliance.

The Supervisor of Enforcement Services shall maintain a current inventory and list of CPOs issued OC Spray.