

**Policy Number:** 2018 - 03


**Date of Issue:** February 7, 2018

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**Motion Number:** 2018 - 40

**Policy Subject/Title:** OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY POLICY

**Signature of Approval by Authorized Personnel:**

  
Ed Chow, CAO

**Supersedes:** December 18, 2007  
Date of Last Update

Policy #2007-06 Motion #2007-455  
Title & No. of Previous Policy if Applicable

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray by a Community Peace Officer in the execution of his/her duties.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

1. A Community Peace Officer shall only carry and use OC spray that is issued by the Town or RCMP.
2. Community Peace Officers may carry OC spray only when on duty and while acting in the performance of their job function and duties.
3. Any use of OC spray must be in accordance with the Community Peace Officer appointment, training and policies of the Public Security Division of the Alberta Solicitor General.
4. OC spray must only be used as a defensive tool and shall only be deployed as a last resort after all communication and resources have been exhausted and the Community Peace Officer fears for grievous body harm to themselves or for the safety of the public.
5. Before deploying OC spray, a Community Peace Officer shall take all necessary precautions to prevent any bystanders from being contaminated. Providing that tactical advantage will not be lost he/she will advise the potential target(s) that OC spray may be used if their behavior remains

uncontrollable.

6. 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.
7. When OC spray canisters are in the office and not in the possession of a Community Peace Officer, they must be stored in a locked cabinet.
  - a) Replacement canisters must be stored in a locked cabinet at the RCMP Detachment.
8. When OC spray canisters are in the possession of a Community Peace Officer at his/her 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.
9. The OC spray's Scoville heat units (SHU) levels shall not exceed that which is allowed by Alberta Community Peace Officers.
10. At no time shall a Community Peace Officer leave OC spray unattended where any other person other than another Community Peace Officer may access it.

#### POST-INCIDENT GUIDELINES

1. A Community Peace Officer involved in an occurrence where OC spray was deployed on a person, either by himself or another Community Peace Officer shall:
  - a) Conduct post-deployment and decontamination procedures in accordance with their policies and procedures, training and best practices.
  - b) Advise the RCMP detachment forthwith of the deployment of OC spray and request their attendance/assistance.
  - c) Provide immediate medical attention if the symptoms persist beyond reasonable limits as outlined in the training.
2. A Community Peace Officer who, during the course of their duties, deploys OC spray shall complete a standard incident report outlining the circumstances surrounding the use of the spray. Copies of this report must be provided to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Public Security Division of the Solicitor General.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

1. Community Peace Officers must recognize and abide by policy currently in place by the Alberta Solicitor General Department regarding the use of OC

spray within an enclosed detention area and/or enclosed vehicle security bay.

2. A contaminated subject will not be taken to a hospital for decontamination unless medical problems have been identified and medical services are required.
3. In the event of medical problems, the hospital must be notified in advance of the attendance of a contaminated subject to allow them to take the necessary steps to prevent the contamination of the medical facility.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR USE OF OC SPRAY

1. Prior to carrying or deploying OC spray a Community Peace Officer must receive training in the use of OC spray from a qualified instructor.
2. A Community Peace Officer must re-qualify in the use of OC spray ever three (3) years, or as required by the Public Security Division of the Solicitor General.