

TRAINING BULLETIN 78
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OLEO RESIN CAPSICUM

The Los Angeles Police Department recently began using a new tool to assist officers in controlling aggressive suspects. This new tool is known as "Oleo Resin Capsicum" or more commonly "OC."

OC is a non-lethal, non-toxic biodegradable product available only to law enforcement personnel. The primary ingredient of OC is a derivative of Cayenne Pepper which is in the form of an aerosol spray. It will be carried by all uniformed members of the Police Department as a replacement for tear gas. OC can be dispensed by the officer in one of two ways:

1. Straight Stream
Effective Range: Approximately 25 Feet
2. Mist or Fog
Effective Ranger: Approximately 6 Feet by 3 Feet

OC has a very rapid effect on the soft tissue of the eyes, nose, and throat. The following are the immediate reactions:

1. Rapid inflammation of mucus membranes.
2. Eyelids swell rapidly and have a burning sensation.
3. The throat will become irritated and have a burning sensation. Rapid breathing may follow.

The affects of OC are almost immediate and last approximately five minutes. Most of this product will dissipate into the air and any lingering residue can be shaken off of clothing.

Pre-hospital medical care for anyone effected by OC should include the following:

1. Treatment area should be well ventilated (for the first few minutes after exposure).
2. Primary and secondary survey.
3. Vital signs.
4. Flush with water.
5. Application of cool wet pads.
6. Wear latex gloves to avoid self contamination.