

Chemical Agents Training

305.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the required training for officers to be authorized to carry and use chemical agents. For additional guidance on the use of force, including the use of chemical agents, see the Use of Force policy.

305.2 POLICY

The Department authorizes the use of one chemical agent: Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, .2% concentration in the 4 oz. size for direct supervision officers assigned to living units and 9 oz. containers for officers assigned to respond to incidents. (See Use of Force policy for additional information). Chemical agents are weapons used to minimize the potential for injury to officers, youths, and others. Chemical agents should only be used when such force reasonably appears justified and necessary and chemical agents shall only be used when there is an imminent threat to the youth's safety or the safety of others and only when de-escalation efforts have been unsuccessful or are not reasonably possible (15 CCR 1357).

305.3 CHEMICAL AGENT TRAINING

Only officers who have been trained and show adequate proficiency in the use of any chemical agent and the Use of Force Policy are authorized to carry or use the device.

- (a) The Training Manager shall ensure that appropriate initial and regular training in the use of chemical agents occurs and addresses:
 - (1) known medical and behavioral health conditions that would contraindicate certain types of force.
 - (2) acceptable chemical agents and the methods of application.
 - (3) signs or symptoms that should result in immediate referral to medical or behavioral health.
 - (4) instruction on the Constitutional Limitations of Use of Force.
 - (5) physical training force options that may require the use of perishable skills.
 - (6) timelines the facility uses to define regular training.(15 CCR 1357; see also Use of Force policy.)
- (b) All initial and proficiency training for chemical agents will be documented in the officer's training file.
- (c) Officers failing to demonstrate continuing proficiency with chemical agents or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy will lose their authorization to carry or use the devices and will be provided remedial training. If, after two remedial training sessions, an officer fails to demonstrate proficiency with chemical agents or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy, the officer may be subject to discipline.

(d) The Training Manager shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to use chemical agents have also been trained in the proper medical treatment of persons affected by chemical agents. Training should include the initial treatment

(e) The Training Manager shall ensure that any additional state-mandated training (e.g., providing the proper solution to cleanse the affected area) and knowing when to summon medical personnel for more severe effects (see Use of Force policy) training addressing medical conditions that would contraindicate certain chemical agents, training on decontamination procedures) is provided (15 CCR 1357). Chemical agents shall not be used on pregnant youths.

305.4 PROFICIENCY TESTING

The Training Manager shall ensure that all training delivered to staff should also test proficiency in order to document that the member understands the subject matter, and that proficiency training is monitored and documented by a certified weapons or tactical instructor.

305.5 TRAINING RECORDS

In accordance with the Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) Program Title 15 requirements, it shall be the responsibility of the Training Manager to ensure that the following is maintained on file for all training provided by the Department:

- A course outline or lesson plan
- A roster signed and dated by those in attendance
- The name of the person coordinating the training

The Training Manager shall ensure that copies of such training records are placed in the member's training file and retained in accordance with established records retention schedules.

305.6 REVIEW, INSPECTION, AND APPROVAL

Every chemical agent delivery device will be periodically inspected by the Rangemaster or the designated instructor for a particular device.