

Recruit Officer Course



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Municipal Police Training Committee

Volume III: Patrol Procedures

Use of Force: OC Spray

Version: D2020

The Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), an agency of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), serves the Commonwealth by establishing training standards, oversight and policy guidance for policing professionals.

INSTRUCTOR LESSON

Title:	OC Spray
Version:	D2020
Course Purpose:	Provide student officers with best practices for using OC spray to stop non-deadly suspect resistance.
Learning Objectives:	<p>During this course, student officers will receive information and instruction on how to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify common physical and psychological effects of exposure to OC.2. Identify common OC delivery methods used by police to include advantages and disadvantages for each.3. Demonstrate how to use OC when stopping non-deadly suspect resistance.4. Demonstrate best practices for care following OC exposure.5. Demonstrate best practices for writing reports detailing the use of OC.
Instructional Hours:	8 (1-hour classroom; 7 hours for skill development and testing)
Instructional Methods:	Facilitation/Lecture Open Discussion Skill Development Activities
Required Materials:	Lesson manuscript and supporting visual aids Desktop or laptop computer with audio LCD projector or TV Duty belt with equipment (per student) Floor mats Inert OC Spray (per student) OC Spray (per student) Protective eyeglasses / goggles Potable water (post care)

Training Aids:	Flip Chart/Dry Erase Board
Videos:	None
Handouts:	Use of Force Safety Guidelines MPTC Use of Force Model OC Performance Testing Forms
References:	<p>“Defensive Tactics Program: OC PowerPoint Presentation.” Randolph, MA: Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee, 2012.</p> <p>“Transitional OC Course.” Randolph, MA: Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee, 2009.</p> <p>“Use of Force: The Basic Curriculum.” Randolph, MA: Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee, 2014.</p> <p>U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <i>Use of Force</i>. Glynco, GA: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, January 2006.</p>
Author(s):	<p>Charles DiChiara Officer / MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Waltham Police Department February 2018</p> <p>Dwayne Forte MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Plymouth County Sheriff's Department February 2018</p> <p>Steve Wohlgemuth Trooper / MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Massachusetts State Police February 2018</p>
Revised By:	Charles DiChiara Officer / MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Waltham Police Department June 2018

Shawn Barbale & DT Committee
Defensive Tactics State-Wide Coordinator
MPTC
January 2019

ROC State-Wide Coordinator
MPTC
January 2020

Instructor Notes

1. Delivering instructor(s) must have successfully completed specific train-the-trainer or other approved use of force certification courses determined by MPTC.
2. “OC Spray” is one of several ROC use of force topics. For best results, use of force topics should be delivered in a specific order (see table below). At a minimum, “Use of Force” must be delivered first.

Order	Topic
1	Use of Force
2	Handcuffing & Restraints
3	Defensive Tactics
4	OC Spray
5	Baton
6	Handgun
7	Rifle

The [Use of Force](#) lesson fully covered foundational legal, decision making and other topics in the OC lesson, including the MPTC model. Instructors must explain how OC fits into the MPTC use of force model. Delivering instructors must also be familiar with content in the following companion lessons:

- a. [Handcuffing & Restraints](#)
 - b. [Defensive Tactics](#)
3. Required instructor to student ratio for OC training is 1:10.
 4. Effective use of force instructors do not impose or communicate their *personal* technique or weapon preference for any given use of force situation. This can create unrealistic expectations for student officers during training and on-the-job performance.
 5. The entire “OC Spray” lesson should be delivered in a single room, preferably one designated for skill development. Delivery of all content in a single room allows instructors to seamlessly cover manuscript text, show supporting visual aids, and demonstrate techniques with immediate transition into hands-on skill development by student officers.

6. To create a safe and realistic training environment, use the following precautions:
 - a. Provide a safety briefing before each session. See “Use of Force Training Safety Guidelines” handout. Instructors can require student officers to read and sign for each use of force topic.
 - b. To help prevent student officer injuries, begin each session with “warm-up” and “stretching” activities.
 - c. Student officers should wear ballistic vest and duty belt with equipment when practicing and during performance testing.
 - d. Student officers and suspect role players must wear OSHA approved safety goggles, glasses or eye protection when being sprayed with OC during skill development and performance testing exercises.
 - e. Recommended skill development classroom should provide 50 square feet of space per student officer, including floor mats for practical exercises.
 - f. Use strike pads, floor mats, and other protective gear. All floor mats and pads must be cleaned using a 10:1 (water/bleach) solution after each use. Refer to OSHA requirements for more information.
 - g. When practicing techniques, persons playing the role of “suspect” may only offer minimal resistance.
7. Instructors must demonstrate techniques from strong and support hand perspectives to accommodate student officers with differing dominance. Instructor demonstrations must be done using step-by-step methods outlined in lesson and in “real time.”
8. Student officers must be given time to practice spraying OC using step-by-step methods outlined in lesson. Instructors should display visual aids for student officers to reference while practicing. Practice begins using slow methodical movements to establish correct form. Gradually increase intensity and speed until technique is performed in “real time.”
9. During performance testing, student officers must successfully demonstrate how to draw, hold and spray OC using a smooth, fluid, and continuous motion without stopping at each step. Instructors are responsible for documenting student officer performance on forms provided with this lesson.

10. To facilitate on-the-job decision making when using force, instructors are encouraged to combine multiple techniques for student officers to practice. For example, instructors may require student officers to transition from **(a)** OC Spray to **(b)** another weapon or defensive tactic before **(c)** handcuffing.
11. Instructors must use this “Instructor” manuscript to deliver topic. Instructor **NOTES** are inserted throughout to choreograph delivery and ensure content is presented as intended. Instructors should also use active learning methods. This includes, but is not limited to group discussions and exercises, peer demonstrations, and facilitation. Instructors are encouraged to share relevant media articles, videos and personal work experiences when appropriate.
12. Student officers must be provided with the “Student” manuscript. Student manuscripts can be distributed in print (hard copy) or electronic .pdf formats for viewing. Electronic formats are recommended and allows student officers to take full advantage of lesson resources.
13. Student officers are tested on lesson manuscript content related to learning objectives. Therefore, supporting visual aids and handouts cannot be used as “stand-alone” materials when delivering this lesson.
14. “Version” numbers are used to identify the most current ROC lesson manuscripts, visual aids and handout materials. Version numbers are found on document covers and footers. Academy Directors must provide student officers with access to the most current ROC materials. Instructors must also possess the most current ROC materials for delivery. Current lesson manuscripts are available at MPTCtraining.com.

I. Introduction

SLIDE: “OC Spray” (opening)

SLIDE: “Instructor”; introduce self and credentials

A. Opening Statement

SLIDE: “OC Spray”

Police officers encounter a wide range of suspect resistance while investigating crimes and making arrests. *Oleoresin capsicum* (OC) spray is used by police to stop certain types of non-deadly suspect resistance. OC sprays contain “pepper oils” that can cause burning sensations to the skin and eyes and other psychological effects.

The goal of this lesson is to teach future Commonwealth police officers how to use OC spray effectively and safely to stop resisting suspects.

B. [Learning Objectives](#)

SLIDE: “Learning Objectives”; Emphasize to student officers that end-of-topic test questions for this lesson and final comprehensive exam are directly related to learning objectives.

Note: End-of-topic test questions for this lesson and final comprehensive exam are directly related to learning objectives.

II. Body

A. Oleoresin Capsicum

SLIDE: “Oleoresin Capsicum”

Oleoresin is a mixture of oils and resins found in a natural state. *Capsicum* refers to the garden variety of pepper plants and seeds ranging from mild to hot.

Scoville Heat Units (SHU) is the number used to measure pungency or burning sensation when pepper oils are placed on the tongue. Consider the following SHU for some pepper types:

Pepper	SHU
green bell	0
jalapeno	5,000
red chili	500,000

OC sprays manufactured for police are concentrated solutions ranging from 5-20% with an SHU up to 2,000,000. A higher SHU does not mean the OC will be more effective.

B. Delivery Methods

SLIDE: “OC Delivery Methods”

OC is mixed with water or oil, so it can be delivered (i.e., sprayed) from hand-held, pressurized canisters.

- Oil-based OC sprays generally have a 5% concentration and higher SHU rating than water-based. [Effects](#) from oil-based solutions can also last longer than water-based.
- Water-based OC sprays generally have a 10% concentration and lower SHU rating than oil-based. [Effects](#) from water-based solutions tend to subside faster than oil-based because it is easier to wash off.

Common OC delivery methods for police include *stream*, *cone*, *foam* and *fog*. Officers must know the advantages and disadvantages of delivery method used.

1. Stream

SLIDE: “Stream & Cone”; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items; Instructors are encouraged to have and demonstrate each type of delivery method used by police.

Stream canisters disperse a steady line of liquid with a range of 6-12 feet. Streams can be used in most environments with less accidental or cross-exposure to others. OC stream products with dye provide visual confirmation when target is hit.

Stream methods require officer accuracy and direct exposure to the suspect's face. Streams can be avoided or blocked by moving suspects. OC effects can be delayed if too much spray is used or if officer was too close to suspect when spraying.

2. Cone

Cones deliver OC using a "funnel" of mist that increases in width with distance from canister. Cone range is 4-10 feet and requires less accuracy because more OC particles are dispersed into air. This allows OC to enter eyes, nose and mouth quicker.

Cone methods increase chances of accidental exposure to others nearby. Wind and rain can also diminish effectiveness.

3. Foam

SLIDE: "Foam & Fog"; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items.

Foam is dispersed like shaving cream with a general range of less than 4 feet. Effects are isolated to area where foam makes direct contact with skin. For maximum effectiveness, foam must make contact with eyes, nose and mouth.

Because foam is not dispersed as quickly as stream and cone methods, it is easier for suspects to block or cover their face to prevent exposure. Foam can also be wiped off and thrown back at officer.

4. Fog

Fog is dispersed using a high-pressure canister that looks like a small fire extinguisher. Depending on conditions, effective range for "foggers" can exceed 20 feet. An OC fog "cloud" is difficult to escape and ideal for multiple suspects. Fog OC particles can enter eyes, nose and mouth quickly.

It is more difficult to prevent accidental exposure when using fog. Wind and rain can diminish effectiveness. There is also a potential for eye injuries if sprayed too close.

C. Effects of exposure to OC

OC is an inflammatory agent capable of causing both *physical* and *psychological* effects.

1. Physical effects

SLIDE: “Physical Effects”

- a) Localized inflammation to eyes, nose, mouth, and neck.
- b) Involuntary watering of eyes and closing of eye lids. Burning sensation in eyes.
- c) Runny nose and increased saliva production in mouth.
- d) Coughing and gagging.
- e) Redness and burning sensation to exposed skin. Feelings are similar to sunburn and can be more intense if suspect's pores were open (e.g., sweating) when exposed.

2. Psychological effects

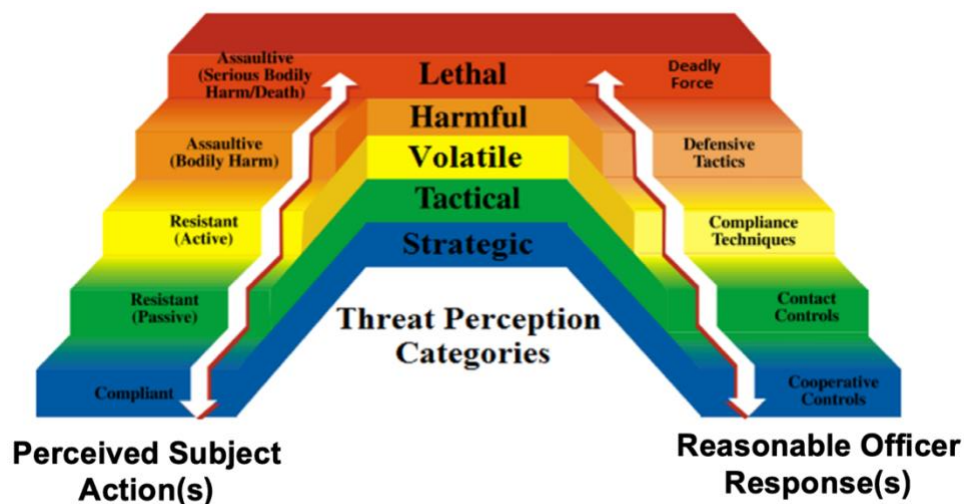
SLIDE: “Psychological Effects”

- a) Inability to see clearly or not at all can cause confusion, disorientation and loss of balance.
- b) Inability to see can cause panic attacks and exacerbate physiological effects.
- c) Misconception of not being able to breath can cause suspect to focus more on survival and distract them from resisting.
- d) May facilitate fight or flight response and increase intensity of suspect's resistance.

D. Use on suspects

SLIDE: “OC is used to....”; : Facilitate discussion on how OC fits into the MPTC Use of Force model. MPTC model was full covered in [Use of Force](#) lesson

OC is used by police to temporarily distract or stop a suspect’s resistance long enough for handcuffing, to gain distance or transition. Using OC is determined by the *totality of circumstances* and *officer perception*.



1. Do not remove OC canister from duty belt until decision is made to use.

SLIDE: Do not remove....use a stable grip”

OC canister placement on duty belt is determined by comfort and availability. Most officers will instinctively use strong-hand to spray OC, but canister location on duty belt can be accessed by either hand. Officers should be able to remove, use and return OC canister to duty belt with the same level of proficiency as the firearm.

2. Use stable grip to hold OC canister upright

Use thumb or index fingers to press OC actuators or “triggers.”

NOTE: Demonstrate hold, grip and finger press using a variety of OC canisters.

Thumb on top



Index finger on top



Index finger on trigger



For some OC products, the canister may need to be shaken slightly to mix contents. Check manufacturer Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

3. Use a balanced stance and maintain a safe distance.

SLIDE: “Use a balanced stance...”

Distance from suspect should simultaneously provide safety, but still be close enough for OC to reach suspect according to [delivery method](#) used.

- a) 1-hand stance (**Figure 1**)

Use strong or support hand to hold OC canister 12” away from body at chest level and with elbow slightly bent. Raise or lower canister with arm to change spray path/angle.

Keep free hand up with palm facing suspect to protect and block.



Figure 1 (strong hand)

b) 2-hand stance (**Figure 2**)

Use blocking hand to overlap and support primary hand gripping canister. Extend both arms out toward target at chest level with elbows slightly bent. Raise or lower canister with arm to change spray path/angle.



Figure 2

4. Communicate

SLIDE: “Communicate”

Officers *may* be able to give suspects instructions or warnings prior to spraying. See [Communication Skills](#) lesson for more information on de-escalation tactics.

- a) Instruct suspects into handcuffing or other position of disadvantage.
- b) Announce possible consequences for non-compliance.
- c) Warn other nearby officers with intent to use “*spray.*”

Note: The element of surprise can maximize OC effectiveness. For example, stream and foam delivery methods can be blocked or partially avoided by suspects. Refer to employing agency policy for warnings.

5. Target the face with short bursts.

SLIDE: “Target the face”

- a) Spray OC directly into the suspect’s face by targeting the nose, eyes or forehead.
- b) Less is best. In other words, use just enough OC by pressing the canister actuator or trigger for 1 second. Spraying too much OC on the suspect’s face can delay effects.

- c) Other factors that determine amount of OC needed include wind, distance from suspect, officer accuracy and suspect movements.
- d) To prevent injuries to suspect's eyes, police should avoid spraying suspects from less than 3 feet away when using high pressure OC sprays (e.g., stream, fog). Spraying suspects who are too close can also create backsplash and cross exposure.

6. Evaluate effectiveness before approaching suspect.

SLIDE 1: "Evaluate effectiveness"; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items and facilitate discussion with examples.

OC is not 100% effective 100% of the time. Wait at least 5-10 seconds before approaching to give OC time to work. Signs that indicate OC *may* be working on a suspect include the following:

- eyes are closed; rapid blinking
- hands come up to face
- bending over at waist / kneeling down
- vocalized pain or discomfort (e.g., "*my eyes are burning!*")

Be prepared to protect disoriented suspects from falling or running into objects.

Because some OC particles will remain airborne immediately after spraying, waiting 5-10 seconds also helps prevent officer exposure.

Factors that can impact OC effectiveness include, but are not limited to the following:

SLIDE 2: "Evaluate effectiveness"

- a) suspect determination. A determined suspect may still be able to resist or attack after being sprayed several times.
- b) suspect sensitivity to OC
- c) influence of drugs or alcohol by suspect

- d) environment (e.g., wind; rain; indoors)
 - e) amount of exposure (distance; too much; missed target; blocked by suspect; etc.)
7. Move to create distance, re-spray OC or transition to another tactic or weapon.

SLIDE: “Move to create distance & handcuffing”

When OC is not effective, officers must be prepared to spray again, move or transition. When transitioning to another tactic or weapon, return OC to duty holster first.

NOTE: Demonstrate how to transition from OC to another tactic or weapon.

8. Handcuffing.

Keep OC (or other weapon out) until suspect has been distracted or stops resisting, then direct them into a safe position for handcuffing.

Holster OC before applying handcuffs.



See [Handcuffing & Restraints](#) lesson for best practices.

9. Provide post exposure care

SLIDE 1: “Post Exposure Care”

Police are responsible for providing care and helping suspects recover from OC exposure.

Request immediate medical attention if the suspect exposed to OC:

- **asks for it**
- **does not recover from effects within 1 hour**
- **begins experiencing any adverse effects**

If medical attention is not needed, begin the following OC exposure care best practices as quickly as possible.

SLIDE 2: “Post Exposure Care”; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items.

- a) Explain effects of OC to suspect and what they can do to help expedite recovery.
 - *“You have been sprayed with pepper spray and will be okay.”*
 - *“The [burning, watering eyes, runny nose, coughing] are normal. It can take an hour for it to stop.”*
 - *“To feel better faster, try to breath normally. Do not rub your eyes or mouth with hands or against any object.”*
 - *“The first thing we are going to do is get you some fresh air and rinse your face off with water.”*
- b) Move suspect to a location with fresh, and preferably moving cool air. Face suspects into the wind or directly in front of a fan or air vent so exposed areas can dry naturally.
- c) Use potable, cool water to rinse suspect’s eyes and face thoroughly. Do not rub skin or eyes when rinsing or remove contact lenses if worn by suspect. Suspect may remove contact lenses on their own when in a safe location.

Note: Burning sensations are temporarily relieved with water rinsing. Fresh air and time are key to recovery.

For some types of OC, a mild, non-oil-based soap may be needed. See OC manufacturer recommendations.

Encourage suspect to keep eyes open when rinsing. After rinsing, use a clean, dry cotton towel to “pat-dry” suspect’s face. Do not rub-dry.

- d) Because OC impacts breathing, use best practices for preventing *positional asphyxia* covered in [Handcuffing & Restraints](#) lesson.

SLIDE 3: “Post Exposure Care”; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items and facilitate discussion with examples.

- e) Continuously monitor and provide immediate medical attention when needed for suspects with specific conditions or uncommon side effects. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) respiratory distress
- (2) elevated pulse or blood pressure
- (3) elevated body temperature (e.g., sweating)
- (4) suspects with asthma or respiratory disease
- (5) drug/alcohol influence (or known prior abuse)
- (6) mental illness
- (7) *excited delirium*. See [Controlled Substances](#) lesson for excited delirium signs and symptoms.

NOTE: Excited delirium was covered previously. Review as needed.

- f) Consistently watch and do not leave suspect alone until they are fully recovered, or custody has been transferred (e.g., jail).

Request medical assistance for suspects who do not begin recovering within 1 hour after exposure.

- g) Transport suspects exposed to OC in upright positions with head up. Avoid placing suspect face down.

- E. Using OC on domestic or wild animals

SLIDE: “OC on Animals”

In some circumstances, OC *may* be effective to stop or scare off animals. However, do not rely on OC alone to stop any domestic or wild animal from attacking.

1. Spray animals from tip of nose to center of eyes. Officers can also use OC as an initial distraction to move out of the way, gain distance, and transition.
2. If OC spray is used on a domestic animal, notify or attempt to locate owner. Provide owner with instructions for post exposure care (e.g., rinse animal's eyes out with water) and seek advice from veterinarian if animal does not begin recovering after 45 minutes.

- F. Using OC with Taser®

SLIDE: “OC & Taser®”

OC sprays that use an alcohol-based propellant are generally not Taser® compatible. Even “non-flammable” propellants can still ignite. Refer to employing agency policy for additional information about using OC with Taser®.

- G. OC Canister maintenance

SLIDE: “Canister Maintenance”

1. Frequently inspect duty OC canister and duty belt pouch for damage. Replace expired or leaking canisters immediately.
2. Periodically test (i.e., spray) canister for functionality and ample pressure.
3. Extreme temperatures can impact OC functionality and create hazards. Extreme heat may cause canister to explode. Cold temperatures can impact propellant and spraying pressure. In general, do not store OC canisters in locations where temperatures exceed 120°F or remain below 32°F for extended periods.

H. Reporting

SLIDE 1: “Reporting”; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items and facilitate discussion with examples.

Include the following additional details in reports when OC was used:

1. Underlying circumstances of crime.
2. Full description of suspect resistance to include *body language*, and *statements*.
3. Officer details
 - a) perceptions
 - b) prior knowledge about suspect
 - c) communication, instructions and warnings
4. Distance from suspect when OC was sprayed, and amount sprayed.
5. Suspect’s reaction to exposure (e.g., hands on face; continued resisting; etc.).

SLIDE 2: “Reporting”; Use lesson contents to fully cover slide items and facilitate discussion with examples.

6. Conditions that may have reduced or impacted OC effectiveness (e.g., wind; missed target; suspect blocked stream; etc.).
7. OC delivery type (e.g., stream, cone), canister lot number and expiration date.
8. Other follow-up [defensive tactics](#) or weapons (e.g., baton, Taser, Firearm) needed to stop suspect resistance.
9. Post care exposure actions, medical treatment provided, and time needed for recovery.

10. Training on how to use OC include any firsthand knowledge about being exposed.

I. Skill Development and Performance Testing

Handout: OC Performance Skills Testing

SLIDE: “Handout - Performance Skills Testing”

NOTE: Demonstrate how to use OC spray. Provide EACH student officer with at least 60 minutes to practice spraying inert OC with transitions to handcuffing. Practice should begin slow and increase in intensity and speed until done correctly in “real time.” Student officers and suspect role players must wear protective eyewear.

NOTE: Demonstrate how to transition from using OC (that was not effective) to another defensive tactic or weapon. Provide EACH student officer with at least 60 minutes to practice transitioning from OC to another defensive tactic or weapon. Practice should begin slow and increase in intensity and speed until done correctly in “real time” to include (1) moving to maintain safe distance, (2) returning OC to holster; (3) giving instructions and (4) transitioning to another weapon.

Skill Development Exercise

Purpose: Demonstrate how to correctly use OC under some degree of physical and emotional stress.

Logistical Requirements: 1 role player; training knife; safety goggles; inert OC; location with ample space for participating student officer, role player and evaluating instructor. No live ammunition is permitted in the training area.

Time Needed: 10-15 minutes per recruit

Role Player Instructions: Provide with training knife or other non-firearm weapon and safety glasses. Verbal resistance or conduct (e.g., *“I am not going to turn around”*; *“I am not going to jail”*; etc.) must be enough for student officer to use OC. After being sprayed with inert OC, role player shows demonstrated “immunity” to OC and waits 10 seconds before pulling out concealed weapon. Goal is to demonstrate importance of waiting to see if OC has any impact on a suspect before closing distance for handcuffing.

Student Officer Instructions: You have a valid arrest warrant on [NAME] for [X]. Your task is to make the arrest, handcuff, and transport [NAME] to [LOCATION]. Force may be used if needed. If force is used, write a report.

Evaluation Instructions: Solicit feedback from student officer:

- What went well?
- What made you believe [NAME] was going to resist?
- Would you do anything differently next time?

After student officers have been given allocated time to practice using OC spray, instructors must administer performance testing. Performance testing can occur throughout the delivery or at the end. Student officers must correctly demonstrate how to use and write a report after using OC. Suspect role players for performance skills testing must (1) wear eye protection; (2) follow all student officer instructions, and (3) not resist. Instructors are responsible for documenting student officer performance on forms provided with this lesson.

J. Student Officer Exposure to OC

SLIDE: “Officer Exposure”

To understand the physical and psychological effects of OC, student officers may be sprayed with “real” OC during recruit training. If done, instructors will expose student officers to OC in a manner that is consistent with how a suspect would be sprayed. To ensure safety, student officers must do the following if exposed to “real” OC during training:

1. Notify the instructor beforehand about any health, disease or other condition that may prevent participation. This includes, but is not limited to asthma, flu symptoms, eye injuries, food allergies, or medications taken.

NOTE: Consult with Academy Directors regarding student officers with health or other issues that may prevent participation.

2. Remove prescription eye glasses or contact lenses.
3. Student eyes must be closed when face is exposed.
4. Do not rub eyes or face after being sprayed.
5. Do not leave the designated classroom or area after exposure. Instructors must monitor all student officers after exposure until fully recovered.
6. Use cool air and rinse exposed areas with water. Do not rub exposed areas when rinsing.

NOTE: Location where students are exposed must have an ample supply of fresh air and water.

7. Notify instructors immediately if you experience any breathing or other difficulty.

NOTE: Instructors should have a first aid kit and AED on-site.

8. Place all clothes worn during exposure in a plastic bag and wash separately.

Note: When showering or bathing later, remaining OC particles may still be present and cause physical effects.

III. Conclusion

A. Summary

SLIDE: “Summary”

OC is an inflammatory agent capable of causing both physical and psychological effects.

Using OC is determined by the *totality of circumstances* and *officer perception*. It can be used to stop *active* or avoid *assaultive: bodily harm* suspect resistance.

B. [Learning Objectives](#)

SLIDE: “Learning Objectives”; Facilitate a targeted review of lesson using learning objective content; Emphasize to student officers that end-of-topic test questions for this lesson and final comprehensive exam are directly related to learning objectives.

Note: End-of-topic test questions for this lesson and final comprehensive exam are directly related to learning objectives.

C. Questions

SLIDE: “Questions”

Note: Student officers are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification when needed about materials delivered in this lesson.

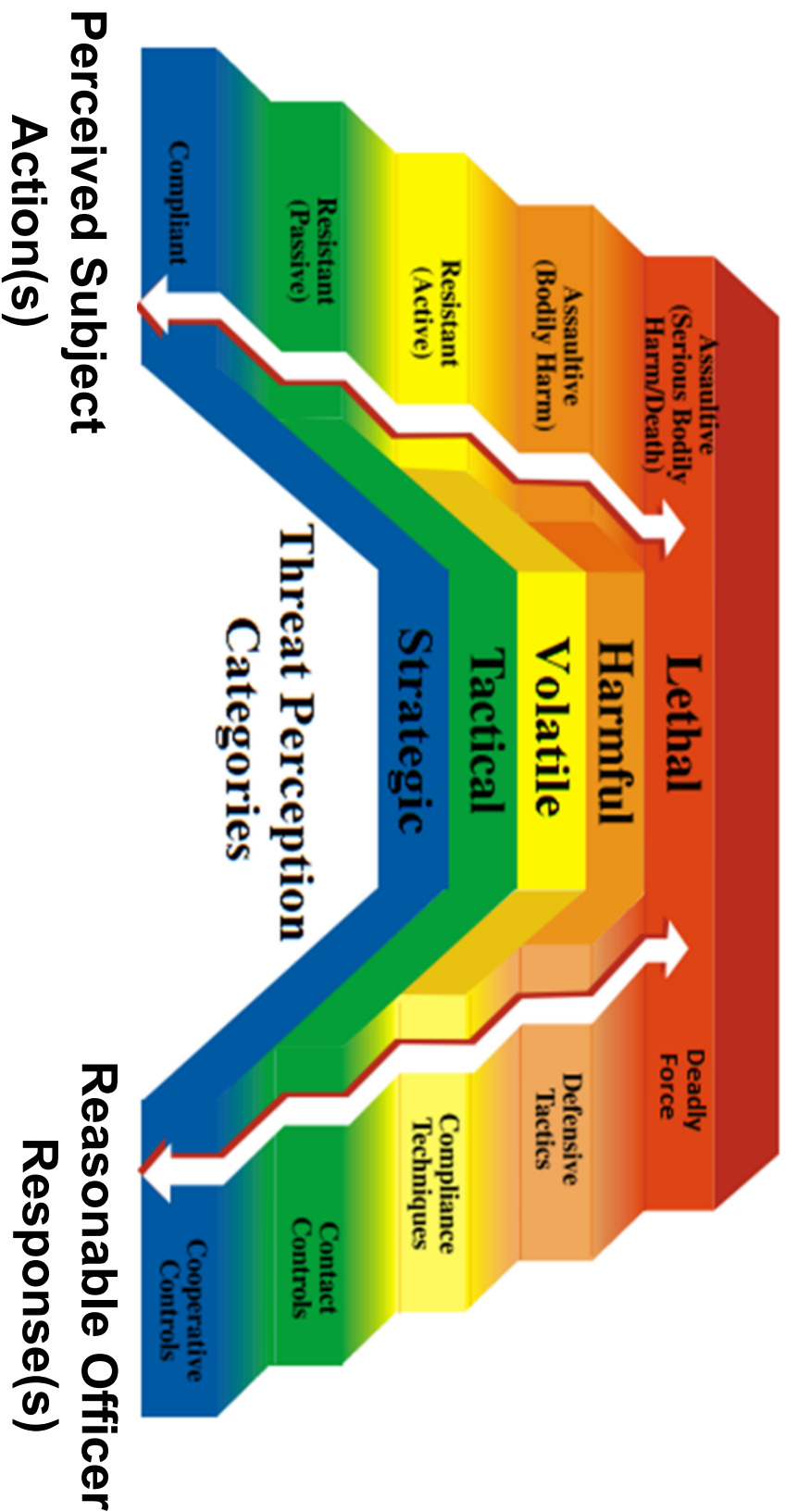
D. Closing Statement

SLIDE: “Closing Statement”

OC is used by police to temporarily distract or stop a suspect's resistance long enough for handcuffing, to gain distance or transition. Because OC does not work all the time, officers must evaluate its effectiveness first and be prepared to transition to another tactic or weapon.

SLIDE: "MPTC Logo (end slide)"

MPTC Use of Force Model



OC Spray

Performance Skills Testing

Student Officer Name

Date

Academy

Is this remedial testing: Yes / No

Student Officer must earn Satisfactory (S) rating on all items to pass.

Performance Testing	S	U
Removes OC from duty belt (not until ready)		
Uses correct canister grip (1 or 2 hands)		
Uses a balanced stance		
Communicates intentions, warnings, etc.		
Delivery (targets face; hits face; less is more; proper distance)		
Evaluates effectiveness before approaching (waits 5-10 seconds)		
Handcuffs (instructions for safe positioning of suspect)		
Administers post exposure first aid		
Completes report with required details		

Instructor Notes

Instructor Name (print)

Date

Instructor Signature

Distribution: Copy to student officer. Original to Academy Director.



OC Spray



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Instructor

- Name
- Title
- Agency
- Assignments & Credentials



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Opening Statement

- Oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray is used by police to stop certain types of non-deadly suspect resistance.
- OC sprays contain “pepper oils” that can cause burning sensations to the skin and eyes.
- The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to use OC spray effectively and safely to stop resisting suspects.

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Learning Objectives

1. Identify common physical and psychological effects of exposure to OC.
2. Identify common OC delivery methods used by police to include advantages and disadvantages for each.



3. Demonstrate how to use OC when stopping non-deadly suspect resistance.
4. Demonstrate post care best practices following OC exposure.
5. Demonstrate best practices for writing reports detailing the use of OC.



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Oleoresin Capsicum

Oleoresin is a mixture of oils and resins found in a natural state. *Capsicum* refers to the garden variety of pepper plants and seeds ranging from mild to hot.

Scoville Heat Units (SHU) is the number used to measure pungency or burning sensation when pepper oils are placed on the tongue.

Pepper	SHU
green bell	0
jalapeno	5,000
red chili	500,000

A higher SHU **does not** mean the OC will be more effective.



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11

OC Delivery Methods

Mixed with water or oil so it can be sprayed from hand-held, pressurized canisters.

Oil-based OC sprays generally have a 5% concentration and higher SHU rating than water-based. Effects from oil-based solutions can also last longer than water-based.



Water-based OC sprays generally have a 10% concentration and lower SHU rating than oil-based. Effects from water-based solutions tend to subside faster than oil-based because it is easier to wash off.

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Delivery Methods



Stream: Steady line of liquid with a range of 6-12 feet. Used in most environments with less accidental or cross-exposure to others. Require accuracy and direct exposure to the suspect's face. Streams can be avoided or blocked by moving suspects.



Cone: A "funnel" of mist that increases in width with distance from canister. Range is 4-10 feet and requires less accuracy because more OC particles are dispersed into air. Increased chance of accidental exposure to others nearby. Wind and rain can also diminish effectiveness.

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Delivery Methods

Foam: Dispersed like shaving cream with a range of less than 4 feet. Effects are isolated to area where direct contact with skin is made. Slower delivery makes it easier to block. Can be wiped off and thrown back at officer.



Fog: Dispersed using a high pressure canister that looks like a small fire extinguisher with ranges greater than 20 feet. Ideal for multiple suspects. More difficult to prevent accidental exposure. Wind and rain can diminish effectiveness. Potential for eye injuries if sprayed too close.

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Physical Effects

- Inflammatory agent.** Localized inflammation to eyes, nose, mouth, and neck.
- Involuntary watering of eyes and closing of eye lids. Burning sensation in eyes.
- Mucus membrane sensitivity to include runny nose and increased saliva production in mouth.
- Coughing and gagging.
- Redness and burning sensation to exposed skin. Intensified if suspect's pores were open when exposed.

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Psychological Effects

- a) Inability to see clearly or not at all can cause confusion, disorientation and loss of balance.
- b) Inability to see can cause panic attacks and exacerbate physiological effects.
- c) Misconception of not being able to breath can cause suspect to focus more on survival and distract them from resisting.
- d) May facilitate fight or flight response and increase intensity of suspect's resistance.

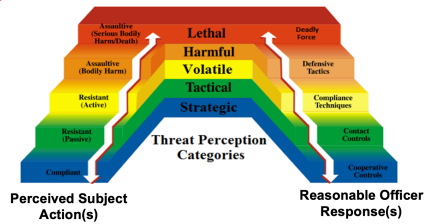
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OC Spray

Used to temporarily distract or stop a suspect's resistance long enough for handcuffing, to gain distance or transition. Use is determined by the *totality of circumstances* and *officer perception*.



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OC Spray

1. Do not remove from duty belt until decision is made to use.
2. Use stable grip to hold canister upright.



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OC Spray

3. Use a balanced stance and maintain a safe distance.



1-hand



2-hands

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OC Spray

4. Communicate.

- a) Instruct suspects into handcuffing or other position of disadvantage.
- b) Announce possible consequences for non-compliance.
- c) Warn other nearby officers with intent to use "spray."

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OC Spray

5. Target the face with short bursts.

- a) Spray directly into the suspect's face by targeting the nose, eyes or forehead.
- b) Less is best. Spraying too much OC on the suspect's face can delay effects.
- c) Other factors include wind, distance from suspect and suspect movements.
- d) Avoid spraying suspects from less than 3 feet away when using high pressure OC sprays (e.g., stream, fog).

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OC Spray

6. Evaluate effectiveness before approaching.

OC is not 100% effective 100% of the time.
Wait at least 5-10 seconds before approaching
to give OC time to work.

- eyes are closed; rapid blinking
- hands come up to face
- bending over at waist / kneeling down
- vocalized pain or discomfort



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OC Spray

6. Evaluate effectiveness before approaching.

- a) suspect determination
- b) suspect sensitivity to OC
- c) influence of drugs or alcohol by suspect
- d) environment
- e) amount of exposure



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OC Spray

7. Move to create distance, re-spray or transition.

8. Handcuffing

**Holster OC
before applying
handcuffs.**



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OC Spray

9. Provide post exposure care.

Request immediate medical attention if the suspect exposed to OC:

- asks for it
- does not recover from effects within 1 hour
- begins experiencing any adverse effects

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OC Spray

9. Provide post exposure care.

- Explain effects to suspect.
- Use cool, fresh air to help exposed skin dry.
- Use cool water to rinse suspect's eyes and face thoroughly. Do not rub skin or eyes when rinsing. Do not remove contact lenses.
- Avoid *positional asphyxia*.

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OC Spray

9. Provide post exposure care.

- Continuously monitor for respiratory distress, elevated body temperature, drug/alcohol influence, and *excited delirium*.
- Consistently watch and do not leave suspect alone until they are fully recovered.
- Transport suspects in upright positions with head up. Avoid placing suspect face down.

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Using OC on Animals

1. Do not rely on OC alone to stop any domestic or wild animal from attacking.
2. Spray animals from tip of nose to center of eyes.
3. Attempt to locate domestic animal owner and provide them with instructions for post exposure care.

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Using OC with Taser®

- OC sprays that use an alcohol-based propellant are not Taser® compatible.
- Even “non-flammable” propellants can still ignite.
- Refer to employing agency policy for additional information.

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Canister Maintenance

1. Frequently inspect canister and duty belt pouch for damage. Replace expired or leaking canisters immediately.
2. Periodically test canister for functionality and ample pressure.
3. Do not store OC canisters in locations where temperatures exceed 120°F or remain below 32°F for extended periods.

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Reporting

1. Underlying circumstances of crime.
2. Full description of suspect resistance to include body language, and statements.
3. Officer details
 - perceptions
 - prior knowledge about suspect
 - communication, instructions and warnings
4. Distance from suspect when OC was sprayed and amount sprayed.
5. Suspect's reaction to exposure.



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Reporting

6. Conditions that may have reduced or impacted OC effectiveness.
7. OC delivery type, canister lot number and expiration date.
8. Other follow-up defensive tactics or weapons needed to stop suspect resistance.
9. Post care exposure actions, medical treatment provided, and time needed for recovery.
10. Training on how to use OC include any first hand knowledge about being exposed.



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OC Spray			
Performance Skills Testing			
Student Officer Name	Date	Academy	
Is this remedial testing? Yes/No			
Student Officer must earn satisfactory (S) rating on all items to pass.			
Performance Testing	S	O	U
• Removed OC from hip and out of hands			
• Uses correct canister grip (1 or 2 hands)			
• Uses a balanced stance			
• Communicates intentions, warnings, etc.			
• Delivery (targets face, hits face, less is more, proper distance)			
• Evaluates effectiveness before approaching (wait 5-10 seconds)			
• Immediately instructs for safe processing of suspect			
• Administers post exposure first aid			
• Completes report with required details			
Instructor Notes			
Instructor Name (print)	Date	Instructor Signature	

Distribution: Copy to student/officer. Original to Academy Director.

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Officer Exposure

1. Notify the instructor beforehand about any relevant health condition.
2. Remove prescription eye glasses or contact lenses.
3. Student eyes must be closed when face is exposed.
4. Do not rub eyes or face after being sprayed.
5. Do not leave the designated classroom or area after exposure.
6. Use cool air and rinse exposed areas with water. Do not rub exposed areas when rinsing.
7. Notify instructors immediately if you experience any breathing or other difficulty.
8. Place all clothes worn during exposure in a plastic bag and wash separately.

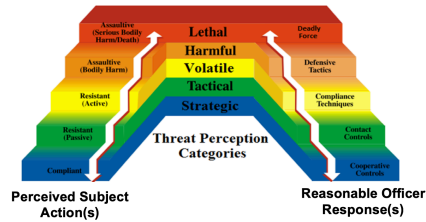
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Summary

OC is an inflammatory agent capable of causing both physical and psychological effects. Using OC is determined by the *totality of circumstances and officer perception*.



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Learning Objectives

1. Identify common physical and psychological effects of exposure to OC.
2. Identify common OC delivery methods used by police to include advantages and disadvantages for each.
3. Demonstrate how to use OC when stopping non-deadly suspect resistance.
4. Demonstrate post care best practices following OC exposure.
5. Demonstrate best practices for writing reports detailing the use of OC.



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Questions



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Closing Statement

- OC is used by police to temporarily distract or stop a suspect's resistance long enough for handcuffing, to gain distance or transition.
- Because OC does not work all the time, officers must evaluate its effectiveness first and be prepared to transition to another tactic or weapon.

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OC Spray



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