

Use of Oleorsein Capsicum Spray

Policy No. **26-003**

has been renumbered

Use of Oleorsein Capsicum Spray

Policy No. **P-30-2009**

*CRenege*

**Title:** Use of Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (OC) Pepper Spray

**Resolution:** 030-2009

**Revised:**

**Special Notes/Cross Reference:**

**Next Review Date:**

**Alberta Provincial Statutes: Peace Officer Act/Regulation**

**POLICY STATEMENT :** The Town of Westlock recognizes there are circumstances where a Community Peace Officer may need to use OC spray in the execution of their duties.

**PURPOSE :** The Town Manager is authorized to approve the carrying and use of OC spray by Community Peace Officers.

### **GUIDELINES / PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### **1.0 QUALIFICATIONS**

**1.1** The issue of OC spray to a Community Peace Officer is conditional upon:

- a)** A Community Peace Officer's appointment authorizing him/her to be in possession of OC spray only for purposes of their duties or employment and does not extend off-duty activities.
- b)** Successful completion of a training course on a use of force model recognized by the Alberta Solicitor General.
- c)** The Community Peace Officer receiving specific instructions in the care, handling and use of OC spray.

#### **2.0 APPROVED USES**

- 2.1** OC spray must only be used as a defensive tool and should not be applied to facilitate an arrest unless other means are not available.
- 2.2** OC spray maybe utilized to control an attack or threat of an attack from any animal.
- 2.3** Training purposed when used as part of a training course recognized by the Alberta Solicitor General.
- 2.4** OC spray shall only be carried by Community Peace Officers while on duty and use does not extend to off duty activities.

**3.0 PROCEDURES**

**3.1** A Community Peace Officer authorized to use OC spray must:

- a)** Inform the Supervisor whenever possible prior to using the OC spray;
- b)** When tactical advantage is not lost, advises the potential target(s) that OC spray may be used if their behavior remains uncontrollable;
- c)** Monitors the target(s) and seeks medical assistance if the effect of the OC spray persists after one (1) hour.

**4.0. THE SUPERVISOR MUST:**

- a)** Where possible report to the area, take charge of the incident and approve the use of OC spray, if necessary;
- b)** Ensures all targets affected by the OC spray are taken to an area which is secure and removed from the contamination and provides for the decontamination;
- c)** Review, comment and submit the detailed Incident Report to the Town Manager
- d)** Ensure all Community Peace Officers required to carry OC spray are re-certified every 36 months.

The OC spray issued to a Community Peace Officer is to be the same strength and composition as that being utilized by the RCMP or other Municipal Police Departments. The OC Spray major capsaicinoid (MC) levels shall not exceed 0.18% and scoville heat units (SHU) levels shall not exceed 500,000 SHU.

Community Peace Officer shall only use the OC spray which is supplied by Town of Westlock and issued by Supervisor.

**5.0 STORAGE**

- a)** When OC spray canisters are in the office, not on any person, they must be stored in a locked cabinet.
- b)** Replacement canisters are under the control of the Supervisor stored in a locked cabinet.
- c)** When OC spray canisters are in the possession of Community Peace Officer at their 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.

**6.0 POST INCIDENT**

**6.1** A Community Peace Officer involved in an occurrence where OC spray was utilized, either by himself or any other Community Peace Officer shall:

- a)** Conduct post-deployment procedures in accordance with their training and best practices.

**7.0 REPORT A DISCHARGE**

- 7.1 A Community Peace Officer involved in an occurrence where OC spray was utilized by either himself or another Community Peace Officer for purposes other than training shall:
- a) Advise the RCMP forthwith of the deployment of OC spray and request their attendance/assistance.
  - b) Complete a standard incident report outlining the circumstances surrounding the use of the OC spray and provide a copy of the report to the Supervisor, RCMP and Public Security Department of the Solicitor General.
  - c) Outline in the occurrence report details regarding place and time of decontamination or refusal of decontamination by the subject, and all subsequent attempts at decontamination.
- 7.2 The Supervisor shall notify the Town Manager in writing, of the circumstances surrounding the discharge of OC spray

**8.0 RESTRICTIONS ON USE**

- 8.1 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.

  
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Darrell Garceau, Town Manager

  
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Bruce Lennon, Mayor