

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE	Transmittal # 13-05	Policy # 8.33
Applicability: { } All DJJ Staff { } Administration { } Community Services {x} Secure Facilities (as designated by Commissioner)	Related Standards & References: ACA Standard 4-JCF-2A-27	
Chapter 8: SAFETY, SECURITY AND CONTROL	Effective Date: 5/1/13 Scheduled Review Date: 5/1/15	
Subject: OC SPRAY AND PEPPERBALL SYSTEM	APPROVED:	
Attachments: A – Chemical Agent Inventory Sheet B – OC Flow Sheet C – Decontamination Kit Contents & Post Chemical Intervention Care	 <hr/> Avery D. Niles, Commissioner	

I. POLICY:

Staff shall use the least restrictive alternative when ensuring the safety of youth in their care. The Commissioner shall issue authorization in writing for those facilities approved to use an Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray and Pepperball System. OC Spray and the Pepperball System shall always be used in accordance with the certification course taught by the DJJ Office of Training and as the last resort and in the most humane and safe manner possible.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray: A derivative of the cayenne or chili pepper. An aerosol designed to incapacitate violent or combative subject without causing harm.

Pepperball System: Non-lethal chemical agent delivery system that uses high-pressure air (CO₂), and large capacity hoppers (limited capacity magazines) to deliver powder projectiles from a safe distance. This system combines chemical agent exposure with kinetic impact.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. Training:

Only staff specifically trained by the DJJ Office of Training shall use OC products and the Pepperball System.

B. OC Products and the Pepperball System:

OC products and the Pepperball projectiles will be purchased in the strength and from a vendor authorized by the Department.

C. Storage:

1. All facility shift supervisors, Security Emergency Response Team (SERT) members and Security Management Response Team (SMRT) members who

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have successfully completed the OC Certification Course will be issued the OC product canister as a part of his/her standard equipment.

2. All Pepperball launchers, projectiles, and additional OC products will be stored and inventoried in a secure area designated by the facility Director, or designee.
3. The Pepperball Equipment and OC Spray Inventory Sheet (Attachment A) will be posted at the storage location of the OC product and the Pepperball equipment.

D. Use Of OC Products and the Pepperball System:

1. Whenever possible, lesser techniques will be used to assist youth in controlling non-compliant and/or aggressive behaviors prior to the use of OC products. The use of OC and the Pepperball System will be in accordance with the Physical Intervention Continuum.
2. The use of physical intervention, OC products, and the Pepperball System is permitted in the following circumstances:
 - Defense of self;
 - Protection of youth, staff or others;
 - Prevention of substantial damage to property when that damage could legitimately cause a safety and/or security hazard;
 - Escape prevention; and
 - Enforcement of lawful orders and directives, upon supervisor approval when other lesser intervention techniques have failed.
3. The facility Director or designee must authorize the use of OC products or the Pepperball System. For the purposes of this policy, the SERT/SMRT Commander can be the designee if the incident is spontaneous and there is no time for the Director's approval.
4. The facility Director or Administrative Duty Officer will be immediately notified after OC products or the Pepperball System has been used.
5. The authorizing person should consider the following factors prior to the use of an OC product:
 - The number of youth involved;
 - The actions and physical stature of the youth involved;
 - The number of staff available to handle the situation; and
 - If the youth is in possession of a weapon.

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6. Staff will afford youth the opportunity to alter the behavior of concern prior to the use of OC products by issuing a verbal warning to attempt to coax cooperation from the youth.
7. Only the minimum amounts of OC product will be used to gain positive control the youth's behavior.
8. Use of OC products **will be** videotaped with a hand-held video camera. Videotaping will begin prior to the youth being sprayed. The videotape will be held as evidence and given to the Office of Investigations. If the incident is not videotaped, written justification must be included in the Special Incident Report (SIR). If an employee is issued an OC canister as standard equipment the canister will remain in their charge after disbursement unless specified by the Special Operations Commander, facility Director and/or Deputy Commissioner of Secure Facilities, or designee.

E. First Aid:

1. Immediately (30-60 seconds) after the use of OC product, the youth may be mechanically restrained to prevent further aggressive behavior. (Youth will be restrained only for the time necessary to gain and maintain control)
2. As soon as possible, the following actions will be taken in the order indicated:
 - a. The person who deployed the OC product or Pepperball System, or the supervisor, will immediately notify the medical services staff on duty or on-call of the use.
 - b. When medical services staff are on site, they will immediately respond with the emergency kit.
 - c. When medical services staff are not on site, the on call medical services staff will evaluate the youth's status through discussion with the on-site staff. The on call medical services staff will return to the facility as clinically indicated to evaluate the youth in person, or advise emergency medical treatment. The youth will be evaluated in person by medical services staff as soon as possible but no later than 12 hours of the use of OC product.
 - d. Medical examinations will be conducted in accordance with DJJ 8.5, Special Incident and Child Abuse Reporting.
 - e. Post-intervention care will be provided in accordance with Attachment C, Post-Chemical Intervention Care. Each facility that uses OC spray

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will maintain the necessary decontamination supplies in the control room.

- f. The SERT team will carry a decontamination kit with it at all times.
 - g. If the youth experiences continuous difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain, loss of consciousness, or facial swelling, emergency medical treatment will be required. The facility Director and health care staff will be notified when emergency medical treatment is required.
 - h. Following the use of an OC product, the youth will not be left unattended while experiencing any symptoms from the OC product, or for a minimum of one hour. The youth will be under the constant observation of a staff member who will document the effects of the OC product every 5 minutes using the OC Flow Sheet (Attachment B). If the youth continues to experience effects from the use of OC product beyond one hour, the medical services staff on duty or on call will be notified and the constant observation will continue until the youth is medically cleared by the facility's medical services staff.
- F. Staff exposed to an OC product will be decontaminated as described in Attachment C, Post Chemical Intervention Care.
- G. Reporting Uses of OC:
- 1. The facility Director or Administrative Duty Officer will be verbally notified immediately when OC is used. All persons verbally notified will have their names recorded on the Special Incident Report.
 - 2. The facility Regional Administrator will be immediately notified through the chain of command.
 - 3. Staff with direct knowledge must complete a Special Incident Report in accordance with DJJ 8.5, Special Incident and Child Abuse Reporting.
 - 4. The DJJ Office of Investigations will investigate all uses of OC product.

IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: YES