

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
PAROLE DIVISION**



**POLICY AND  
OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: PD/POP-1.1.2**

**DATE: 03/20/18**

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**SUPERSEDES: 08/16/05**

**SUBJECT:** INTERMEDIATE WEAPONS - OLEORESIN CAPSICUM

**PURPOSE:** To establish policy and procedures for parole officer use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) pepper spray for defensive purposes.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. Division-issued OC pepper spray may be carried by parole officers while on duty, only if they have received training and authorization. The carrying of OC pepper spray is optional for staff who do not carry firearms.
- II. The OC pepper spray shall be carried in a manner that allows the device to be accessible to the officer but also secure, such as on a belt or in a holster.
- III. The OC pepper spray shall be used only when there is a threat or potential threat of physical injury to the parole officer, and when the use of this device will enable the parole officer to remove himself from the danger. Mere verbal abuse is not sufficient justification for the use of intermediate weapons. The threat must be a physical threat or aggressive posture, accompanied by apparent movement to initiate physical contact with the officer.
- IV. When the OC pepper spray is used as authorized and the perceived danger is neutralized, use of the device shall immediately cease and the device shall be secured.
- V. Immediately following use of the OC pepper spray, the parole officer shall contact the nearest law enforcement authorities and report the incident. The parole officer shall file an assault complaint against the assailant and shall be prepared to provide necessary information, including the date, time, place, and identity of persons involved in the incident.

- VI. When the parole officer uses the OC pepper spray either for the purposes authorized herein or in any other circumstances, he shall report such use to his immediate supervisor and complete a Safety Officer's Investigation of Accident/Incident (Report of Inquiry) within one (1) business day of the incident.

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