



Department of Justice and Public Safety
Adult Custody Services

Policy: **Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper spray) D32**
Effective: March 2001
Revised: December 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

Adult Custody Services is committed to providing professional practices that respect human rights and ensure safety for all. To be successful we will deliver fair practices, incorporate transparent policies and procedures, ensure independent quality assurance processes, and provide program access that allows for educational, cultural, traditional, and faith-based services as well as mental wellness and community re-entry assistance.

PURPOSE

To provide procedural standards for the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper spray).

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

[NB Corrections Act](#)

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees of the Adult Custody Services division of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Oleoresin Capsicum, also referred to as *Pepper Spray*, is an inflammatory agent that occurs naturally in cayenne pepper. This aerosol product is designated to incapacitate a client(s) who can then be controlled with only minimal physical contact or risk to either the client or staff.

Oleoresin Capsicum, *Pepper Spray*, will only be used after all other reasonable efforts to control a violent / combative person have failed.

PROCEDURE

Trained staff only

Only staff trained in the proper use of *Pepper Spray* shall use it

Issue

Sergeants and Institutional Floaters will be permitted to carry Oleoresin Capsicum on their person, secured in a departmentally approved carrying case.

Authorization

Pepper Spray shall not ordinarily be used without authorization from the Superintendent or designate. The Sergeant may provide authorization if delaying the decision is deemed to be unsafe for either staff or clients. The Sergeant shall identify why the decision to use the spray could not have waited for consideration by the Superintendent



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Warnings

The client(s) shall be issued three (3) clear warnings that *Pepper Spray* will be introduced. This provides the clients(s) time and opportunity to comply.

Application

Individual

- Two (2) one second squirts of *Pepper Spray* aimed at the assailant's eyes at 6 to 15 feet is sufficient to incapacitate an individual client.

Cell Extraction

- Two (2) one second squirts from a MK -9 Cell Busters will be introduced into a cell and CERT members will proceed on the direction of the Team Leader

Common Area

- Two (2) two second squirts from MK-46 introduced into a common area and CERT member will proceed on the direction of the Team Leader.

Decontamination

The client(s) should immediately be advised to relax, breath normally and to place their hands behind their back. The client(s) should not rub the face or eyes. Flushing with cool water is usually sufficient. Encourage the client to lean forward to relieve the burning sensation.

Nurses' examination

The institutional nurse will see the-client(s) at the completion of the decontamination, ensuring the procedure has been properly administered. The Sergeant will submit a report on each occurrence.

Observation log

An observation log will be kept on the client for 24 hours after being exposed to the irritant.

Outside examination

In the event the nurse is unavailable, the Sergeant will determine if the client(s) needs to be seen at a local hospital outpatient department

Incident report

All staff involved will prepare detailed incident reports, which are to be submitted to the Sergeant prior to the end of the shift.

Verbal notification

The Superintendent will verbally notify the Director of Adult Custody Services as soon as possible.

Superintendent report

The Superintendent will prepare a report, as per normal protocols.

Local policy

The Superintendent will develop local policies governing the storage, disposal, and training for use of *Pepper Spray*.



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RELATED POLICY

- D18 Client Escorts
- D20 Emergencies
- D21 Disturbances
- D28 Cell Extraction
- D29 Use of Force
- D30 Restraint Equipment
- D50 Incident Reports
- G1 Health Assessment
- Adult Institutional Policy Manual N.B.