

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

		Effective Date January 27, 2004	Number GO04-5.2
Subject Less Lethal Weapons			
Reference		Revised April 25, 2017 <u>May 28, 2019</u>	
Distribution All Personnel	Re-evaluation Date April 25, 2019 <u>April 2021</u>		No. Pages 6

I. Policy

It is the policy of this Department to use only that level of force reasonably necessary to control or otherwise subdue individuals and only carry less lethal weapons authorized by the agency.

II. Definition

Less Lethal Weapons or Force - the use of any weapon or instrument, or any physical action taken by an Officer which is not likely to cause death.

III. Types of weapons and their use

Prior to an Officer carrying a weapon, it shall be reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified weapons instructor. The Officer shall also be issued a copy of and instructed on the policies that pertain to that weapon. This shall be documented and forwarded to the training coordinator. Officers shall also show proficiency in the use of a weapon prior to being approved to carry it.

A. Oleoresin capsicum (O.C.) spray, with 10% pepper solution, as issued by the Department, is an appropriate less lethal weapon which can be effectively used in situations falling between physical strength (hands, fists, feet) and impact tool to control persons who demonstrate they intend to do violence to an Officer or third party. It is to be used to avoid physical combat and possible injury to an Officer and / or suspect by making it difficult or impossible, for an otherwise violent person, to fight effectively.

1. All persons sprayed or exposed to O.C. spray shall be provided with a list of instructions on decontamination (see Appendix A).
2. Officers are only authorized to carry and use O.C. spray issued by the Department.
3. O.C. spray is not to be used against persons who are offering passive resistance.

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4. Reporting requirements
 - a. A Supervisory Use of Force Review shall be completed anytime O.C. spray is used, except in training.
 - b. Document the circumstances which led to O.C. spray's use, as well as aftercare provided, in the [Supervisory](#) Use of Force Review.
 5. Issuance
 - a. O.C. spray shall not be used until an Officer has read and understands this directive.
 - b. Training and certification are required prior to issuance
 - c. Only water based O.C. spray will be issued.
- B. Officers are authorized to carry the Department issued impact tool, the ASP collapsible baton. (See Appendix B)
1. The impact tool is generally used against an aggressive, unarmed suspect or when lesser levels of control have failed or have been determined by the Officer to be inadequate.
 2. The impact tool, when properly used, is capable of delivering extremely powerful blows to stun and incapacitate an aggressive opponent. It is also capable of delivering lethal or permanently disabling blows. Blows to the head, throat, side of the neck, armpit, or chest cavity must be avoided, whenever possible.
 3. Officers will carry only impact tools authorized by the Department or ASP. Only those Officers trained and / or certified will be authorized to use impact tools.
 4. Reporting requirements
 - a. A Supervisory Use of Force Review shall be completed anytime the ASP is used, except in training.
 - b. Document the circumstances which led to the ASP use, as well as aftercare provided, in the [Supervisory](#) Use of Force Review.
- C. The 12 gauge less lethal shotgun is a shoulder-mounted weapon capable of firing a projectile to immobilize a suspect by means of pain compliance. Its use can assist an Officer in the protection of life and property and / or the restoration of order. The less lethal shotgun shall be considered whenever the use of less lethal options would assist in an arrest, restoring order, and / or reducing the risk of a more serious injury.
1. Deployment:

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- a. The less lethal 12 gauge shotgun will primarily be used by Supervisory personnel with the rank of Sergeant or above.
- b. Must be used in accordance with agency training and manufacturers' instructions.
- c. May be used in emergencies that require deployment of personnel in dangerous situations or as considered alternative to the use of more lethal force.
- d. Normally used in planned assaults, which require the temporary disabling of target individuals, or facilitate maneuver or capture.
- e. Only personnel trained in the use of the less lethal 12 gauge shotgun shall expend this device.
- f. Officers assigned to deliver these rounds should be backed up by other Officers armed with Departmental approved firearm(s).
- g. Emergency medical (first aid) trained Officers or medical personnel will assist after the deployment of the weapon to provide emergency first aid, if applicable.

2. Reporting:

- a. After using a 12 gauge less lethal shotgun in tactical incidents, an incident report will be completed that includes:
 - i. The name of the Supervisor using the less lethal shotgun 12 gauge or authorizing the use of the weapon;
 - ii. Identification of Officer(s) deploying the weapon;
 - iii. Number of rounds expended;
 - iv. Effects on targeted person(s) and injuries;
 - v. Any collateral or unintended injury or damage;
 - vi. A Supervisory Use of Force Review will be completed, with including any medical report attached.

IV. **Unsafe Weapons**

If a weapon is determined to be unsafe or unserviceable, the Officer will notify his / her Supervisor of the deficiency. If another weapon is available, the Officer will be issued a replacement weapon after it has been reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified weapons instructor. If there is not a replacement available, the Supervisor will make a determination if the Officer can continue to work in a sworn capacity without the weapon. The Officer will be issued a replacement weapon as soon as a qualified weapon becomes available.

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V. **Safety Considerations**

- A. Officers are prohibited from loaning Department less lethal weapons to another person.
- B. Officers, to whom a Department less lethal weapon is issued, are responsible for the safety and security of the weapon while in Officers' possession.
- C. Officers should secure their Department issued less lethal weapons out of the reach of children and others not familiar with the use and danger of the weapons to prevent possible injury to family members and others.
- D. Officers should be aware of the great burden of responsibility and liability that accompany the issuance of ~~a~~ Departmental less lethal weapons.

VI. **Training**

All Officers shall receive refresher and / or in-service training at least annually concerning less lethal weapons that they are authorized to use. This training will require the Officer to demonstrate proficiency with all less lethal weapons they are authorized to carry. This training will be conducted by a certified weapons instructor and documented in the Officer's training file.

If an Officer fails to demonstrate proficiency with any less lethal weapon, the Officer shall not be authorized to carry the weapon until remedial training is completed and proficiency achieved. The training coordinator shall contact the Officer to arrange for remedial training as outlined in GO88-2.11, Training.

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

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Appendix A

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) EXPOSURE

You are receiving this document in order to answer some of your questions regarding your exposure to an Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) aerosol spray. You were exposed to an OC aerosol spray with a 10% concentration. This is a form of Pepper Spray. This product does not contain CN, CS, or MACE. OC is a natural pepper derivative.

You need to know the following:

1. If you experience difficulty breathing, you should seek competent medical attention immediately.
2. The severe symptoms of the OC exposure should dissipate within 45 minutes after exposure. If the severe symptoms do not substantially dissipate within 45 minutes, you should seek competent medical attention immediately.
3. You may experience the following for up to 36 hours:
 - a. ***Redness of the affected skin areas***
 - b. ***A burning sensation to the affected skin areas. The sensation may return while shaving, wetting the skin with warm water, etc.***
 - c. ***Reddened, sensitive eyes***
4. You should:
 - a. ***NOT TOUCH any sensitive body areas without first THOROUGHLY cleansing your hands with soap and water. Should you unthinkingly touch your genitalia or other sensitive body part(s) with OC contaminated hands, you will experience excruciating pain.***
 - b. ***Remove all OC exposed clothing as soon as practical to do so. Wash the clothing as you normally would to remove any remaining OC particles.***
 - c. ***Thoroughly wash all OC exposed body areas as soon as practical. Before showering/bathing, thoroughly wash any exposed hair and facial area. This is very important because if you take a shower without first thoroughly washing your hair and facial area, the shower will cause the OC particles to be washed from your head down your body's natural channels to your lower level mucous membranes and your genitalia. This will cause you EXCRUCIATING PAIN.***
5. Do **NOT** rub your eyes - you may only cause any remaining OC particles to become more deeply embedded. Rinse your eyes with sterile water or other appropriate clear, clean, fresh water.
6. Do **NOT** apply any salve, lotion, lanolin, cold cream, etc., to OC exposed body areas. The salve may result in holding the OC particles against the skin and cause further irritation.

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Appendix B

Dalton Police Department Specifications for issued Less Lethal Weapons

Item: *ASP Baton*

Description: Expandable metal baton used as an impact weapon. Overall length is 21 - 26 inches.

Item: *Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) aerosol spray*

Description: A natural pepper derivative with a 10% concentration of active material. The spray, when exposed, causes tearing and irritation of the mucus membranes and is intended to reduce the effectiveness of the offender's attack.

Item: *Departmentally issued 12 gauge Less-Lethal Pump-Action Shotgun and projectile*

Description: A designated less-lethal shotgun capable of firing a projectile that impacts the person causing disabling of the individual to facilitate capture.

Projectile: A 12 gauge bean bag round.

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