

Control Devices

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

303.2 POLICY

In order to control individual subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy 300. The Chief of Police may also authorize other positions or individual department members to use specific control devices.

303.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Only those members who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a person who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

303.4.1 SHIFT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Shift Commander may authorize the use of a control device by selected department members or those in specialized assignments who have successfully completed the required training.

303.4.2 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Rangemaster or the designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

303.4.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

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Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Rangemaster for disposition. Documentation shall also be forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

303.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to themselves or others.

When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the baton as authorized and in accordance with the needs of their assignments or at the direction of their supervisors.

303.6 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, OC spray and pepper projectiles may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in, violent behavior. Pepper projectiles and OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of department members or the public.

303.6.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed members equipped with OC spray shall carry the device either on their vest carrier or in its designated holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field members may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignments or at the direction of their supervisors.

303.6.2 PEPPER PROJECTILE SYSTEMS

Pepper projectiles are plastic spheres that are filled with a derivative of OC powder. Because the compressed gas launcher delivers the projectiles with enough force to burst the projectiles on impact and release the OC powder, the potential exists for the projectiles to inflict injury if they strike the head, neck, spine or groin. Therefore, personnel using a pepper projectile system should not intentionally target those areas, except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

Officers encountering a situation that warrants the use of a pepper projectile system shall notify a supervisor as soon as practicable. A supervisor shall respond to all pepper projectile system incidents where an individual has been hit or exposed to the chemical agent. The supervisor shall ensure that all notifications and reports are completed as required by the Use of Force Policy 300.

Each deployment of a pepper projectile system shall be documented. This includes situations where the launcher was directed toward an individual, whether or not the launcher was used. Unintentional discharges shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented on the

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appropriate report form. Only non-incident use of a pepper projectile system, such as training or a product demonstration, is exempt from the reporting requirement.

303.6.3 TREATMENT FOR OC EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should promptly receive clean water to rinse the affected areas or be treated with OC decontamination spray to help neutralize its effects. Those who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

303.7 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE

Whenever tear gas or OC has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, the owners or available occupants should be provided with notice of the possible presence of residue which could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that clean-up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding how and when the notice was delivered and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

303.8 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The E and T Lieutenant shall ensure that those members who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or re-certified annually as part of in-service training.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the member's training file.
- (c) Members who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy 300 will be provided remedial training. If a member cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy 300 after remedial training, the member will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

303.9 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES

Any application of a control device shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Use of Force Policy 300.