



CITY OF AKRON, OHIO
POLICE DIVISION
KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE

NUMBER P-2020-003	EFFECTIVE DATE January 31, 2020	RESCINDS P-2009-003 Issued 12-23-09
SUBJECT Chemical Defense Spray Procedure		ISSUING AUTHORITY Chief Kenneth R. Ball II

I. POLICY

Chemical defense spray is a tool to assist in controlling combative, violent, or aggressive individuals. Only authorized personnel may carry and utilize such equipment and must do so in conformance with departmental training, procedures, and any applicable laws.

II. PROCEDURE

A. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

1. No officer shall carry or use chemical defense spray until such time as the officer has successfully completed an authorized training session.
2. The chemical defense spray issued by the department is the only unit authorized to be carried or used by an officer.
3. Each officer is responsible for keeping the unit clean and in good working order.
4. There will be no attempt by an officer to alter or repair the unit.
5. If the unit is inoperable, an officer will notify their supervisor. Place the inoperable unit in a heat sealed plastic bag, and deliver it to the Commissary for replacement.
6. If the unit is depleted, an officer shall take the depleted canister to the Commissary for replacement.

B. DEPLOYMENT

1. An officer will take into consideration factors such as proximity of other officers and wind direction.
2. Spray the product into the face of the suspect.
 - a. A spray of only one or two seconds may cause the person to rapidly close their eyes.
 - b. If there are no noticeable effects after a five-second spray, the unit should be put away and a secondary plan of action initiated.

3. The chemical defense spray can be used in conjunction with Conducted Electrical Weapons.
4. Chemical defense spray may not be used:
 - a. As an investigative tool to threaten or attempt to gain information from a person.
 - b. Against a person already in custody unless physical resistance must be overcome.
 - c. Intentionally to an open wound.
 - d. As retaliation for physical or verbal abuse.
 - e. In an unprofessional manner.
 - f. To demonstrate on any person without the authorization of the Training Bureau.

C. DECONTAMINATION

1. In most cases, only exposure to air or cool water is needed.
2. The person should be advised not to rub the affected area.
3. No creams or lotions should be applied.
4. The person should be monitored for breathing problems.
5. If the person exhibits an unusual reaction or requests medical treatment, the officer shall seek medical attention for the person.
6. Under most circumstances the affected person should sit or stand once they are non-combative as this will make breathing easier.

D. OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A supervisor shall be notified, as soon as practical, of an incident in which an officer uses the chemical defense spray.
2. In all situations where chemical defense spray is used, a BlueTeam Use of Force Report and incident report shall be completed in accordance with the departmental Use of Force Procedure reporting requirements.

E. SERGEANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Respond to scene.
2. Complete a Supervisor's BlueTeam Resisting Arrest/Use of Force Checklist on every use. When practical, photos shall be taken to document contact on the individual.

3. Follow the Akron Police Department's Use of Force Procedure.

By Order Of,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth R. Ball II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kenneth R. Ball II
Chief of Police

Date: January 31, 2020