

Merced Police Department, 3130-80302
Chemical Agents Training
revised 02/02/2022

4 Hour Chemical Agent

I. INTRODUCTION & LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know the terminology, capabilities, exposure symptoms, and decontamination procedures in order to safely and effectively handle and deploy chemical agents.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Evolution of chemical agents.

1. Early uses.

- a) First uses.
- b) First use in United States
- c) Early use in Law Enforcement
- d) Concepts for early development

B. State the statutory requirements for the possession and use of chemical agents

1. Penal Code 835

Any peace officer who has **reasonable** cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.

A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed an aggressor or lose his right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.

2. Penal Code 22820

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any person who is a peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2, from purchasing, possessing, transporting, or using any tear gas or tear gas weapon if the person has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training in the use of tear gas.

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Graham v. Conner (Reasonableness Standard) – Severity of Crime at Issue, Threat of the Suspect, and Type of Resistance of the Suspect

3. Situations for use of chemical agents
 - a. Self-defense
Somebody attacking you
 - b. Overcome resistance
Usually considered a lower level of force
Low likely hood of permanent injury
 - c. Effect an arrest
 - d. Prevent escape
 - e. Crowd or riot control
 - f. Dangerous animals

4. Assembly Bill 48
 - a. Prohibited use of chemical agents to disperse assembly, protest, or demonstration for following reasons.
 1. Imposed curfew
 2. Verbal Threat
 3. Non-compliance with L.E. directive
 - b. Standard use of chemical agent requirements
 1. defend against threat to life, serious bodily injury to any individual including LE or to bring objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.
 - c. LE Agency must post on website a summary of chemical agents deployed for purpose of crowd control.

III. DEPLOYMENT OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS

- A. Describe four methods used to deploy chemical agents
 1. Aerosol
Stream – better equipped for individual targeting, works better outdoors because less effected by the wind. Better standoff distance.
Foam – Must get in mouth or eyes
Very little cross contamination
 2. Fogging – high potential for cross contamination, good for clearing like addicts and crawl spaces
 3. Pyrotechnics
 4. Blast expulsion

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- B. Describe environmental and physical conditions that can impact the effectiveness of a chemical agent
1. Wind
Blow back, cross-contamination, and a natural decontaminant
 2. Rain
Natural Decontaminant
 3. Temperature
 4. Distance
Accuracy but distance can be my friend as well, always stay at maximum distance
Very good in tight quarters, like in car
 5. Proximity of others
Innocent bystanders
Need to communicate to my partner
 6. Other factors for crowd control
Psychological emotional state of person, HBD, 11550, or even prior exposure
- C. State the guidelines for safely carrying, drawing, and deploying hand-held canisters of chemical agents
1. Carrying
On Duty or Off Duty
Accessible
 2. Deploying
Lawful Use of Force
All of the factors like Wind, Distance
Need to communicate to my partner
Back up plan if OC does not work
 3. Drawing
Arm out stretched
Distance – Always stay at maximum distance
 4. Care and Maintenance of Chemical Agent Devices
 - a. Storage of chemical agent devices according to Federal/ State laws.
 5. Disposal of Chemical Agent Devices
 - a. Disposal of chemical agents according to Federal and State laws as well as all applicable environmental laws and regulations

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- D. Apply decontamination procedures that should be followed after a chemical agent has been used
1. What to use
Water and air and time
 2. What not to use
Creams or rubbing alcohol
 3. Affected area procedures
 - a. Eyes
Lacrimator – effects eye ducts
 - b. Skin
Irritant – Burning sensation
 - c. Nose
Nose run – affect mucous membranes
 - d. Chest
Hard to breathe, induces coughing and sneezing
- E. Discuss the physiological and psychological effects of each of the following chemical agents used by peace officers:
1. OC (oleoresin capsicum) (AKA Pepper Spray)
 - a. Aerosol
 - i. Agent State – Micro particulate solid
 - ii. Classification – Lacrimator (effects tear ducts), irritants (burning sensation), Sternutator (tightness in chest, coughing and sneezing)
 - iii. Psychological effect – triggers the affect someone can't breathe very well and something is very wrong, panic (officer must fight through this)
 - iv. Will not cause lasting effects, not an irritant like tear gas, and it is an inflammatory agent (inflammation of the skin, mucous membrane, and of the respiratory system and inflammation of the eyes).
 - v. Cross contamination – easily transferred
 2. CN (chloroacetophenone) (AKA Tear Gas)
 - a. Aerosol
 - i. Agent State - Micro particulate solid
 - ii. Classification – Lacrimator (effects tear ducts), irritants (burning sensation)

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- iii. Psychological panic, hard to breathe, burns (officer must fight through this)
 - 3. CS (ortho-chlorobenzylidene-molononitrile) (AKA Mace)
 - a. Aerosol
 - i. Agent State – Micro particulate solid
 - ii. Classification – Lacrimator (effects tear ducts), irritants (burning sensation), Sternutator (tightness in chest, coughing and sneezing)
 - iii. Psychological effect – triggers the affect someone can't breathe, burning (officer must fight through this)
- IV. REVIEW AND TEST
 - A. Written Exam
- V. PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF CHEMICAL AGENT DEVICES
 - A. Gas mask fitting
 - 1. Ensure gas masks fit tightly and correctly seal
 - a. Check gas mask for any defects and make sure it fits properly
 - 2. Practice donning and clearing gas masks in stable environment
 - a. Practice drills without chemical agent so students become familiar with it before chemical agent is introduced into the environment.
 - B. Review various types of chemical munitions and deployment methods
 - 1. Launchable munitions
 - a. 37mm/ 40mm launchers
 - b. 12-gauge launchers
 - 2. Handheld munitions
 - a. Riot control, Tri-chamber flameless, blast dispersion (CS & OC)
 - b. Utilize smoke with chemical agent
 - C. Exposure to Chemical agent
 - 1. CS gas in open environment
 - a. Students will become exposed to CS chemical agent in an open-air environment. Students will understand and become

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familiar with the effects the chemical agent will have on them in the event they are exposed in a live situation. Decontamination areas will be designated for students that are exposed.

2. Practice donning and clearing gas masks in chemical environment
 - a. This will help students become familiar with clearing their gas masks in case the seal on their mask becomes compromised. It will give the student and understanding they can work through the physical effects of the CS gas. It will also aid the students in understanding these effects which will aid in the psychological effect's gas can have on a person.