

County Of Lake Pepper Spray Policy For NON-SWORN Officer

Justification

We are enacting this policy based on the best practices of the California Code Enforcement Association Code Enforcement Officer Safety and Survival.

1. POLICY

As a Code Enforcement Officer for the County of Lake you will be issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) to use as a means of self-defense. OC spray is an effective deterrent against aggressive animals and people. When applied properly across the face, it irritates the eyes and nose causing tears, pain and even temporary blindness. It is used in riot control and for personal self-defense, including defense against dogs and bears.

2. PROCEDURES

Prior to being issued OC, each Code Enforcement Officer will receive training approved by the Department in the handling, use and disposal of OC.

3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Any time OC is discharged while on duty, whether the subject of the discharge is an animal or a person, the Code Enforcement Officer will complete the '*Oleoresin Capsicum Discharge Report*' and forward it to his/her immediate supervisor prior to his/her shift's end. OC should only be used when an Officer's safety is at risk

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – Use on a Person

In the event OC should be used in self-defense against a person, it is the policy of the Lake County Code Enforcement program to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency (Sheriff/Police). In addition to the OC Discharge Report, a detailed incident report will also be completed by the Officer involved prior to the end of shift. In such cases that warrant further action, charges may be filed with the Lake County District Attorney's Office.

With the ability to carry OC comes a considerable amount of responsibility. One Officer misusing the OC in an illegal or mean spirited manner, may not only result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, but will irreparably tarnish the Departments reputation for fair and impartial treatment of all people and animals.