



Procedure 673.1A Use of OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Spray

Policy 673 - Security Use of Force

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the safe and effective use of OC spray by security guards at Lower Columbia College (LCC) in situations where it is necessary to protect themselves or others from imminent threats.

The purpose for utilizing OC spray must be limited to the protection of the security guard or others who are under imminent physical attack and will in no way be used to otherwise influence, intimidate, or detain an individual, regardless of circumstance.

1. Training Requirements

- All security guards authorized to carry and deploy OC spray must complete an initial training course conducted by the Longview Police Department or another certified training agency.
- After the initial training course, refresher training regarding the policy and this procedure will be conducted at least once annually, or more frequently, as deemed necessary.

2. Conditions for Use

- OC spray is intended to provide security guards with a force option that may be appropriately used, when necessary, to provide self-defense to the security guard or defend others from harm.
- OC spray is a use of force and must be justified by the presence of an imminent threat.
- Before deploying OC spray, security guards must assess the situation to ensure no other less forceful means can effectively address the threat.

3. Deployment Procedure

- Security guards may elect to carry OC spray on their utility belt at all times while on duty.
- Security guards are not required to carry OC spray.
- **Use of OC Spray:**
 - Aim at the face of the threatening individual, ensuring the spray is directed toward the eyes and upper respiratory area.
 - Use the spray in short, controlled bursts (typically 1-2 seconds) to minimize overexposure.
 - If OC spray is deployed, security guards should move to a place of safety and will immediately notify 911. If safe to do so, keep an eye on the subject and provide a description and location to 911.

4. Post-Deployment Actions

- **Supervisor Notification:**
 - As soon as practicable after OC spray is deployed, the security guard must notify their supervisor of the incident. The supervisor will review the situation to determine whether the use of OC spray was appropriate and consistent with policy.
- **Equipment Management:**
 - If the OC spray container is nearing depletion or has been fully used (approximately 2.5 ounces or less), the security guard must return it to the supervisor for proper disposal.

5. Post Incident Reporting Requirements

- As soon as practicable, security guards must complete a detailed incident report outlining the circumstances under which OC spray was deployed.
- The report will describe the justification for the use of OC spray and the actions taken before, during, and after deployment.
- The supervisor must review the report to ensure compliance with LCC policies and procedures.

6. Prohibited Uses

- OC spray will not be deployed against individuals who do not pose an imminent and direct threat.
- OC spray is not appropriate in an enclosed, highly populated space where there is a likelihood of impacting uninvolved persons, unless an imminent threat to life or serious physical injury is presented.
- OC spray should not be used on individuals in frail health, young children, the elderly, people who are visibly pregnant or state that they are pregnant, or persons with known

respiratory conditions. In these cases, OC spray should only be used under exceptional circumstances involving imminent danger of serious bodily harm, where the use of OC spray is the only available force option.

- OC pepper spray should not be used around an open flame.

7. Mandatory First Aid

- At the scene or as soon as possible, and if safe to do so, the security guard shall administer first aid by:
 - Seating the person exposed to OC spray in an upright position.
 - Flushing their eyes out with clean water and ventilating with fresh air.
 - Continually monitoring the individual until the effects of the OC spray have completely diminished.

Procedure History

- 1/28/2026 - approved by the Executive Leadership Team
- 1/5/2026-1/16/2026 - Campus Review
- 12/3/2026 - reviewed by Governance Council
- 11/18/2025 - reviewed by UMCC (and via email 11/19/2025)
- 11/12/2025 - reviewed by Governance Council
- 11/5/2025 - reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team