

Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order 710

**Section 7: Less-Lethal Force
Force, Detention, and Arrest**

Active Date: 10/30/2013

Supersedes Date: 5/24/2005

Approved
Peter Carey
General Order

.01 Purpose

To specify authorized principles, equipment and training pertaining to the use of less-lethal force.

.02 Cross Reference

[G.O. 705, Use of Force Continuum](#)

[G.O. 720, Deadly Force Guidelines](#)

[G.O. 1737, PR-24 Baton Training](#)



.03 Discussion

A police officer's authority to use physical force for law enforcement purposes is granted by society for the preservation of social order. The authority carries with it the obligation to use force as judiciously as possible. Officers should not refrain from using force when it is necessary for a legitimate law enforcement purpose, including defense of themselves or others. However, alternatives to force are preferable whenever they can be employed effectively. Training, experience, human relations skills, and common sense can often defuse a potentially violent situation, prevent the escalation of an incident into a civil disturbance, or avoid accusations of police brutality.

.04 Policy

Officers of the Colorado Springs Police Department shall use physical force only when necessary for legitimate law enforcement purposes and only to the minimal extent necessary to accomplish those purposes. When encountering defensive resistance, active aggression, or aggravated active aggression to legitimate law-enforcement efforts, officers may use appropriate physical force which is necessary to gain compliance, affect an arrest, prevent an escape, or defend themselves from the use, or imminent use, of physical force by others. The nature and degree of force used by officers must be in direct response to the actual or imminent use of force being used against them, and must de-escalate or cease once the offender has become compliant, has stopped physically resisting, or is no longer a threat to cause harm to officers or others. Use of physical force should also comply with the Use of Force Continuum using the Situational Force Model shown in [General Order 705](#).

All instances in which weapons or other objects are used to exert physical force upon a person shall be reviewed by the officer's chain of command, including the Division Commander. At the discretion of the Division Commander, an investigation of any incident may be conducted.

.05 Definitions

Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM Rounds): Are defined as extended range batons.

Advanced TASER X26: Are defined as electronic control devices.

.10 Less-Lethal Force Reporting Procedures

When an officer uses Less Lethal Force against any person requiring the completion of a response to aggression form (paragraph .11), the officer(s) involved shall document the incident by inclusion either in a case report or incident report. In all instances, a copy of the report shall be sent through channels to the Division Commander. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The report will include the following:

- Type of force used
- Reasons for the use of force
- Extent of injury to the officer or other person.
- Medical treatment required
- The name of the medical facility used
- The OC Lot # (Number) located on the OC canister
- The serial number of the Taser and cartridge(s) used
- Other pertinent information the officer wishes to include

In situations where the use of force was observed by independent witnesses such as citizens, fire and ambulance personnel, etc., officers should make every reasonable effort to locate and identify those witnesses, and will include this information in the offense report.

Other officers that are directly or indirectly involved to the incident, as either a party to the charges or as a witness, will document their actions and observations on an offense supplement report. _

.11 Response to Aggression Report

All involved officers that used physical force, upon another person, in the following categories must also complete a Response to Aggression (RTA) Report:

- A Chemical Agent
- Pain Compliance Tools
- Hard Control, Closed Hand and Kick Tactics
- Impact Weapons
- Electronic Control Device (ECD)
- Less Lethal Shotgun/40mm Launcher
- Lethal Force
- Any force technique that results in a visible injury, including but not limited to, contusions, scrapes/abrasions, lacerations, swelling of any body part or bone fracture of any person

Officers shall notify a supervisor of any use of force incident involving the above categories.

The RTA will be prepared by the officer, and then routed in the following order to:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Field supervisors shall personally respond and closely monitor cases in which an officer uses force that requires the completion of a Response to Aggression Form as defined in paragraph .11. The responding supervisor will ensure that photographs are taken of all persons subjected to a use of force that requires a Response to Aggression Form be completed. Photographs of the involved officers will also be taken if an officer is injured. Damage to department equipment or vehicles should also be photographed. The responding supervisor will ensure that the photographs are placed into evidence under the case number assigned to the call for service.

Situations involving non-compliant or passive resistors should be evaluated individually as to the need for an on-scene supervisor.

A field supervisor will personally respond for the initial evaluation for a case in which an officer or other person receives injuries requiring treatment by a physician as a result of enforcement action.

[REDACTED]

The responding supervisor will review all charging documents (summonses and PC affidavits) to ensure that all appropriate criminal offenses are included.

.20 Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)

Mace products (CS or CN) are no longer authorized for use by officers of this Department except under the direction of a supervisor, as stated in paragraph .22 below, "Use of Other Chemical Agents". The only chemical agent authorized for use without supervisory direction is Oleoresin Capsicum, which is derived from Cayenne Pepper plants.

All Marshals, and police officers in uniformed field assignments, including voluntary assignments and extra duty, shall have available at all times the approved OC product supplied by the Department.

Officers assigned to non-uniformed positions shall have the option of carrying the approved OC product supplied by the Department.

Prior to the issuance and use of OC, each department member who is required to carry or opts to carry OC shall satisfactorily complete training in the use of OC. Documentation of such training shall be maintained by the Training Academy.

OC is intended as a defensive or control weapon in circumstances which threaten the safety of an officer, other persons or property. Those incidents requiring force, short of deadly force, to subdue and arrest combative persons justify the use of chemical agents. OC may be used as follows:

- To defend self or others against unarmed attack
- To prevent a suicide attempt
- To subdue a person who is resisting or interfering with an arrest
- To subdue animals when circumstances warrant



Every deployment of OC shall be documented either by inclusion in a case report or incident report.

.21 Allergic Reactions to Oleoresin Capsicum and Special Precautions

All officers are cautioned that while rare, some individuals may have allergic reactions to the cayenne pepper contained in the spray. The reactions should be immediately recognizable and would consist of mild to severe respiratory distress. If any officer has a known allergy to the OC spray, it should be documented and presented to his/her supervisor immediately.

Officers should adhere to a recommended short burst (1/4 to 1 second) when using the spray. The OC takes effect within different time frames with each individual and must be given a chance to work. When OC is utilized, officers should secure the individual, then monitor for a period of three to five minutes to make sure the subject does not have any complications. If there are signs of an allergic reaction, medical should be requested immediately. If any person goes into respiratory arrest, notify medical and perform resuscitation measures. Officers should protect themselves by using the issued Monadnock Protect-A-Shield or similar device in cases where mouth to mouth resuscitation has become necessary. If an officer suspects alcohol or drug use by the suspect who has been sprayed with OC, medical should be requested immediately. Any person who admits to a history of heart problems, lung problems, diabetes, high blood pressure, or any other potentially serious medical condition should be evaluated by medical personnel immediately. Medical personnel shall immediately evaluate any person who requests medical treatment in accordance with CSPD's current SOPs.

Persons exposed to OC should be supervised for at least two hours after OC exposure. This can be accomplished by passing on the initial time of exposure to the next responsible party taking custody of the individual from the officer.

If officers exhibit allergic symptoms after exposure to OC, basic first aid can be performed in the following ways, as needed:

1. Flush the contaminated area with large amounts of cold water and expose to fresh air as soon as possible after exposure. Further relief may be gained by showering and washing affected areas with soap and water.
2. Remove contact lenses and contaminated clothing and wash thoroughly prior to reuse. (note: contact lenses should be removed by medical personnel only)
3. Do not apply salves, creams, oils or lotions which can trap the irritant.
4. See a physician if irritation persists.

.22 Use of Other Chemical Agents

To minimize injury to suspects, Department personnel, and other persons or to avoid property damage, the use of a chemical agent such as tear gas may be necessary where other methods of control or apprehension would be ineffective or more dangerous.

General Decontamination:



A supervisor or a Commanding Officer present at the location of police activity has the responsibility for determining the need for the use of a chemical agent and has the authority to direct its deployment.



.24 Indiscriminate Use Prohibited

Chemical agents and TASERS (ECD's) shall not be used indiscriminately or against non-combative persons.

Electronic Control Devices can be deployed when:

- A person may be criminally charged and demonstrates an overt intention to use violence or force against an officer or others
- Resists detention and arrest, and other alternatives for controlling them are not reasonable or available under the circumstances

Officers may use ECDs to protect a person who poses a danger to themselves or others. ECDs may only be used to the level of force that reasonably appears necessary to control or subdue a violent or potentially violent person.

.30 Use of Baton

Only the Monadnock PR-24, Monadnock Auto-lock Expandable Baton (MEB) or an equivalent which has been approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee may be carried. Only those personnel who have been trained and are currently certified by the Colorado Springs Police Department may carry and use the PR-24 or its equivalent. Training and certification standards are listed in [G.O. 1737, PR-24 Baton Training](#) .

Batons shall be used only when necessary and after other reasonable efforts to control a violent person have failed.

Officers may use the baton as a control device when directing, controlling or escorting uncooperative persons.

A person shall be struck with a baton only when it is absolutely necessary for the officer's safety.

A baton shall not be intentionally used to strike a person above the shoulders unless need for use of deadly force is indicated.

.31 Specialty Impact Munitions and Delivery Systems

A Specialty Impact Delivery System is a weapon designated to fire specialty rounds (Specialty Impact Munitions - SIMS) designed to deliver less lethal physical force under ideal conditions, but with sufficient energy to inflict blunt trauma, pain compliance and mental distraction.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Only those personnel specifically trained in the use will deploy specialty impact munitions. SIM may be employed only when necessary and after other reasonable efforts to control a violent person have failed. SIM may be used against a person only when it is absolutely necessary for the officer's safety or for the protection of other persons.

.32 Advanced Taser X26

The Advanced TASER X26 is an Electronic Control Device (ECD) designed to stun and override the central nervous system causing uncontrollable contractions of the muscle tissue leading to incapacitation. The approved electronic control device for departmental use is the Advanced TASER X26 manufactured by TASER INTERNATIONAL.



ECDs may be used only on the level of force that reasonably appears necessary to control or subdue a violent or potentially violent person. It should also be used early enough in a confrontation or situation to prevent the incident from escalating to a point where a greater level of force might be necessary.

.35 Special Populations

Consideration of the safety of the aggressive individual, others in the area and the officer should be taken into account when deciding whether to deploy the TASER. Prior to deploying the TASER, officers should carefully evaluate the circumstances of each situation and exercise caution when deciding whether to deploy the TASER on those who may be considered part of a special population. Special populations include, but are not limited to the elderly, very young or pregnant.

.40 Resisting Arrest and Obstruction Cases

Whenever an officer charges a person with any of the following, the officer will document the circumstances in an Offense Report, which will bear the title of the particular statute charged.

- Resisting an Officer or Assaulting an Officer, under City Ordinance 9.3.101(a)
- Interference under 9.3.101(b)
- Resisting Arrest under CRS 18-8-103
- Obstructing a Peace Officer under CRS 18-8-104

In cases of Resisting and Interference, the victim should be listed as The City of Colorado Springs. When officers are assaulted, the victim should be listed as the individual officer(s).