

## Control Devices and Techniques

### 306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

### 306.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Yolo County Probation Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy. This policy acts in conjunction with Juvenile Detention Facility policies and procedures and is not intended to replace or modify them.

### 306.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by employees of this Department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee.

Only officers who have successfully completed Department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

When using control devices, officers should consider potential impact areas to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

### 306.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

Every control device shall be inspected periodically by the Rangemaster or other Department designee as determined by the Chief Probation Officer.

#### 306.4.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Probation Officer or designee may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or officers of specialized units who have successfully completed the required training.

#### 306.4.2 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rangemaster or other Department designee shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Rangemaster or other Department designee. The inspection shall be documented, and records retained for at least five (5) years.

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### 306.4.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Rangemaster or other Department designee for disposition. Damage to County property forms shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

### **306.5 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES**

Only authorized personnel may possess and maintain Department issued oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray. Chemical agents are weapons used to minimize the potential for injury to officers, offenders, or other persons. They should be used only in situations where such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.

#### 306.5.1 OC SPRAY

All personnel authorized to carry OC spray, shall complete the required course of instruction prior to possessing and using the OC spray.

Field and detention personnel carrying the OC spray, shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt provided by the Department. Plain clothes and non-field personnel may carry the OC spray as authorized, consistent with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their Supervisor.

Canisters involved in any type of malfunction or damage shall be turned in to the Department Rangemaster or other Department designee for exchange. Damage to County Property forms shall also be forwarded to the appropriate Supervisor and shall explain the cause of damage for the purpose of audit and replacement.

#### 306.5.2 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC spray should be immediately decontaminated and promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

### **306.6 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE**

Whenever OC spray has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, officers should provide the owners or occupants with written notice of the possible presence of residue that could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include an advisement that clean up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

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### **306.7 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES**

The Training Coordinator shall ensure all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in each officer's training file.
- (c) Officers who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this Department's Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If an officer fails to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this Department's Use of Force Policy after remedial training, the officer will be restricted from carrying the control device and/or be re-assigned to an assignment that does not require the use of the control device in question.

### **306.8 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES**

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Department's Use of Force Policy.

### **306.9 CAROTID OR CHOKE HOLDS**

At no time may a Yolo County Probation Department employee apply a hand, arm, knee or other object to the neck, throat or carotid artery area of any person.