



The SoRite Company

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Decontamination of Pepper Spray Contamination and/or Exposure

Utilizing Defense Cleanse with Wipe and Spray

Scope: This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prescribes the procedure for self-decontamination following exposure or contamination with the chemical agents 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS), Chloroacetophenone (CN) spray, and oleoresin capsicum (OC), more commonly known as pepper spray. The procedure should be used by all individuals that have been potentially exposed to OC, CS, and CN spray during accidentally or during circumstances surrounding spray incidents.

- **Objective:** This SOP aims to diminish discomfort and medical risks from contact with OC spray, enable sound decontamination for faster relief, and prevent cross-contamination and second exposure.
- **Application:** This SOP applies to individuals who have been exposed to OC, CS, CN spray due to job exposure, law enforcement operations, accidental discharge, or intentional assault. It can be applied following exposure to abate symptoms and prevent additional exposure.
- **Scope of Work:** This SOP offers assessment, decontamination protocols, personal protective gear (PPE), and disposal guidelines for the safe neutralization of pepper spray exposure and contamination.

Definitions

- **Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray:** A chemical irritant that causes burning sensations, inflammation, and temporary incapacitation.
- **2-Chlorobenzylidene Malononitrile Spray (CS):** Also known as CS gas and contains an aerosol volatile solvent. It is widely used for crowd control and self-defense purposes.
- **Chloroacetophenone (CN):** A man-made chemical irritant that primarily affects the eyes, causing intense pain and discomfort.
- **Cross-Contamination:** Accidental transfer of OC spray residue from one object/individual to another object/individual.
- **Self-Decontamination:** Removing or neutralizing contaminants from oneself without assistance from others.
- **Affected Areas:** Areas of the body that have come into contact directly with OC spray, including the face, eyes, and skin.

Procedures

A. Immediate Actions

- a. Remain calm and avoid rubbing affected skin, as this could worsen symptoms.
- b. Evacuate the area and move to an area with fresh air to dissipate airborne irritants.

B. Decontamination Procedure

a. Clothing Removal

- i. If possible, remove upper torso clothing. This will improve the overall recovery time and streamline the decontamination process.

b. Decontamination

- i. Follow the SoRite Defense Cleanse **W.A.R.P** protocol. Wipe, Apply, Rinse (and repeat until eyes can comfortably open), and finally Purge.
- ii. Tear open package and unfold the wipe or remove a wipe from a cannister as appropriate.
- iii. Using the **W**ipe, with eyes closed, blot excess contaminants from the affected skin, including face and neck, to help prevent further spreading of contaminant to unaffected areas during the decon process. **DO NOT BLOT OR RUB EYES**, as doing so can cause any contaminant in the eyes to further irritate or damage the eyes.
- iv. Next, with eyes closed, **A**pply liberal amounts of Defense Cleanse spray to the affected skin and closed eyes and allow to sit for at least 15 seconds. **DO NOT SPRAY INTO OPEN EYES**.
- v. After at least 15 seconds, **R**inse affected areas and closed eyes with clean water. Avoid scrubbing the skin or eyes. After each rinsing of the face and closed eyes, try to open eyes.
- vi. It is important to know that water will reactivate the pepper spray during the rinsing step, and so you may feel an increased burning sensation on the skin and eyes after rinsing due to this activation. Similarly, when you try to open your eyes, water may activate pepper spray in the eyes or allow pepper spray into the eyes, causing a burning sensation in the eyes due to this pepper spray activation in the eyes. These sensations are necessary evils in any defense spray decon process and would be felt if water alone was used.
- vii. Repeat steps II-VI until eyes are able to open and remain open. Most users will be able to open eyes comfortably after 3 rounds of Steps II-VI and with a recovery time of less than 10 minutes.
- viii. Once eyes are able to remain open, **P**urge the face and open eyes with copious amounts of fresh water for at least 10 minutes. Seek water source as soon as possible after eyes are able to open if sufficient water is not immediately available. It is very important to flush any contaminant out of the eyes with fresh water once the eyes are able to open. **DO NOT LEAVE DEFENSE CLEANSE PRODUCT OR CONTAMINANT ON THE**

AFFECTED SKIN OR IN THE EYES WITHOUT PURGING WITH WATER.

c. Respiratory Relief

- i. Use slow controlled breathing to reduce irritation in the airways.
- ii. Use a fan, if possible, to improve airflow on your face.
- iii. Drink cool water to soothe irritation in the throat.

d. Decontamination of Clothing and Equipment

- i. Carefully remove contaminated clothing to avoid further exposure.
- ii. Dispose of contaminated clothes in a plastic bag if immediate washing is not possible.
- iii. Wash separately in detergent and cold water.
- iv. Clean any contaminated equipment using soap and water for reuse.

e. Monitoring and Follow-Up

- i. Monitor symptoms for at least 30-60 minutes following exposure.
- ii. In the event of serious respiratory distress, prolonged eye irritation, or skin reactions, seek medical help immediately.
- iii. When using contact lenses, remove them and dispose of them as soon as possible after exposure. Do not attempt to reuse them.

f. Safety Precautions

- i. Do not use milk, vinegar, or other home remedies, as they may not be effective.
- ii. Do not touch the face or other sensitive parts until your hands are properly washed.
- iii. When decontaminating enclosed spaces, ensure there is adequate ventilation.

g. Record Keeping and Reporting

- i. Report exposure to OC, CS, CN spray to the relevant authority or supervisor.
- ii. Document decontamination process and any ill effects endured.