



Security - Use of Oleoresin Capsicum Foam (Pepper Foam)

1. Guiding Principles

Effective: 17 June 2020

The *Weapons Act 1999* (WA) provides the legislative context for the carriage and possession of Oleoresin Capsicum Foam (OC Foam).

OC Foam is a controlled weapon in Western Australia. It is an offence to carry or possess a controlled weapon without a lawful excuse.

Security Officers are provided with OC Foam due to the reasonable expectation that circumstances will arise from time to time, which require the use of OC Foam for the use of defending themselves, the defence of others or the defence of property.

Security Officers may only use OC Foam if it is reasonable to do so in the circumstances.

2. Procedure

Security Officers must ensure they exhaust all other defensive skills to deal with an aggressor prior to the use of the OC Foam.

Security Officers must not use OC foam in a clinical environment unless a person is about to commit, or is committing, a serious assault and such assault would reasonably warrant the use of OC foam. Where possible, Security Officers will seek endorsement from the Area Warden or lead clinician.

Where required, Security Officers must deploy OC Spray in accordance with the techniques learnt via their OC Foam training.

As a minimum, competency based training must include:

- Duty of care.
- The use of force.
- The effects of OC Foam.
- Storage.
- First Aid.
- Decontamination techniques.
- Integration with other defensive skills.
- Drawing, marksmanship, holstering, moving and positioning.

As a minimum, the following *clinical* awareness training must be provided:

- General Induction to the Emergency Department.
- Awareness on safety and quality standards.
- Aggression Prevention and Management Training (PART)
- Significant clinical risks associated with OC Foam.

The requisite qualification(s)/competencies must be maintained annually for all Security Officers carrying OC Foam as part of their duty. Records of all competence based and clinical awareness training must be retained in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 2000 (WA)*.

Security Officers may apply any approved restraint technique after the deployment of OC Foam provided the restraint is reasonable given the circumstance.

Security Officers must be aware of secondary contamination to themselves and others when deploying OC Foam.

Security Officers must ensure any person sprayed with the OC foam or is exposed secondarily, are taken to Emergency Department as soon as reasonably practicable for treatment.

Security Officers must verbally notify the Support Services Coordinator on the deployment of OC Foam as soon as reasonably practicable.

Security Officers must ensure all incidents where OC Foam has been deployed has been recorded in the security activity database. The incident report must be forwarded to the Support Service Coordinator for comment then forwarded to the Manager Administration and Support Services for reporting to the Bunbury Hospital Operations Manager as soon as practicable after the incident.

The Manager Administration and Support Services must notify the Police within 72 hours of the deployment of the OC Foam as the reason for the deploying of OC Foam may constitute an assault.

3. Definitions

OC Foam	Pepper Foam – a non-lethal aerosol foam made with the pepper derivative Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) used to cause irritation and temporary blindness to incapacitate an attacker.
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4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Manager Administration and Support Services is to ensure OC Foam projectors are regular audited for suitability for use and replacement as per use by date or subsequent use in an incident. The Manager Administration and Support Services is responsible for the correct disposal of expired OC Foam Projectors.

The Support Services Coordinator will maintain a register of each OC Foam projectors, including.

- Date received.
- Date used.
- Used by Security Officer.
- Incident Report Number applicable to OC Spray used.

All Security Officers carrying OC Foam as part of their duty must undertake relevant OC Foam competency based training prior to carrying the OC Foam. Security Officers must follow the procedures listed above.

5. Compliance

This procedure is a mandatory requirement under the *Weapons Act 1999* (WA). Failure to comply with this procedure may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the *Health Services Act 2016* (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS. WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

6. Records Management

All WACHS corporate records must be stored in the approved Electronic Documents and Records Management System.

[Records Management Policy](#)

7. Evaluation

Monitoring of compliance with this document is to be carried out by Manager Administration and Support Services every time an incident occurs using the following means or tools:

- Incident report on the Security Incident Reporting System.
- Debrief for all people involved in the incident as soon as practicable after the event.

8. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) – 1.16, 1.19,1.30, 5.1, 5.2, 5.35,6.1,6.2, 8.1, 8.2

[Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Accreditation Standards](#) – 3 (b)

[National Standards for Mental Health Services](#) – 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.9, 2.2, 2.6, 2.10, 2.12, 2.13, 6.1, 6.5, 8.7, 8.10, 10.5.5,

9. Legislation

[Weapons Act 1999](#) (WA)

[Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913](#) (WA)

[State Records Act 2000](#) (WA)

10. References

SMHS Security Services – Standard Operating Procedures
AS4485: Security for Health Care Facilities

11. Related WA Health System Policies

[MP0127/20 Discipline Policy](#)

12. Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality](#)

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability**

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