

**CITY OF GRAND BLANC POLICE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

SUBJECT: AEROSOL SUBJECT RESTRAINT SPRAY			S.O.P.#: 1-1.1
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ISSUED BY: Chief Brian J. Lipe		MACP STANDARDS: 3.3.1g	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of aerosol subject restraint spray.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this department that officers may use the Department issued Aerosol Subject Restraint (ASR) when the subject's actions constitute active resistance or active aggression, or when the officer believes lower forms of empty hand control will be inadequate.

III. PROCEDURES FOR USE

A. Authorization

1. Only officers who have completed a prescribed course of instruction on the use of ASR are authorized to carry the device.
2. Officers who normal duties/assignments may require them to make arrests shall be required to carry either a departmentally authorized ASR or an Electronic Control Weapon (ECW), or an officer can choose to carry both while on duty.
3. Uniformed officers shall carry only departmentally authorized ASR canisters in the prescribed manner on the duty belt. Uniformed officers shall either carry ASR spray or an ECW or both.

B. Usage Criteria

1. ASR Spray is considered a use of force and shall be employed in a manner consistent with SOP #1-01 (Use of Force). ASR is a force option following verbal compliance tactics on the use-of-force continuum.
2. ASR may be used when:
 - a. Verbal dialogue has failed to bring about the subject's compliance, and
 - b. The subject has signaled his intention to actively resist the officer's efforts to make the arrest.
3. Whenever practical and reasonable, officers should issue a verbal warning prior to using ASR against a suspect.

4. An Officer may use deadly force to protect himself/herself from the use or threatened use of ASR when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against him/her if he/she were to become incapacitated.
5. Once the suspect is incapacitated or restrained, use of ASR is no longer justified.
6. As with all methods of control, the application of the ASR will end when the offender discontinues resistance or aggression.

C. Usage Procedures

1. Whenever possible, officers should be upwind from the suspect before using ASR and should avoid entering the spray area.
2. An officer should maintain a safe distance from the suspect of between two and ten feet.
3. A single spray burst of between one and three seconds should be directed at the suspect's eyes, nose, and mouth. Additional bursts may be used if the initial or subsequent burst proves ineffective.
4. Use of ASR should be avoided, if possible, under conditions where it may affect innocent bystanders.

D. Effects of ASR and Officer Response

1. Within several seconds of being sprayed by ASR, a suspect will normally display symptoms of temporary blindness, have difficulty breathing, burning sensations in the throat, nausea, lung pain and/or impaired process of thought.
2. The effects of ASR vary among individuals. Therefore, all suspects should be handcuffed as soon as possible after being sprayed. Officers should also be prepared to employ other means to control the suspect – to include, if necessary, other force options consistent with agency policy – if he/she does not respond sufficiently to the spray and cannot otherwise be subdued.
3. Immediately after spraying a suspect, officers shall be alert to any indications that the individual needs medical care. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, breathing difficulties, gagging, profuse sweating and loss of consciousness. Upon observing these or other medical problems or if the suspect requests medical assistance, the officer shall immediately summon emergency medical aid.
4. Suspects that have been sprayed shall be monitored continuously for indications of medical problems and shall not be left alone while in police custody.
5. Air will normally begin reducing the effects of ASR spray within fifteen minutes of exposure. However, once the suspect has been restrained and it is safe and practical to do so, officers shall assist him/her by beginning decon procedures:

- a. Removing the person from the sprayed area into fresh air.
 - b. Have the person blow their nose to help clear the particles.
 - c. Flush the eyes and skin with water.
 - d. Do not apply salve to the affected area as it will trap the particles against the Skin.
6. Officers should provide assurance to suspects who have been sprayed that the effects are temporary and encourage them to relax.
 7. Assistance shall be offered to any individual accidentally exposed to ASR spray who feel the effects of the agent. All such incidents shall be reported as soon as possible to the officer's immediate supervisor and shall be detailed in an incident report.

E. Reporting Procedures

1. Accidental discharges as well as intentional uses of ASR spray against an individual in an enforcement capacity shall be reported to the officer's immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
2. A use of force report shall be completed following all discharges of ASR spray except during testing, training, malfunction or accidental discharge.

F. Replacement

1. All ASR spray devices shall be maintained in an operational and charged state by assigned personnel. Officers shall let their immediate supervisor know if their assigned ASR device is damaged, inoperable, or empty so that a replacement may be issued.
2. Replacements of ASR spray canisters shall occur when the unit is less than half full, as determined by weighing the canister.
3. Officers who choose to carry ASR spray on their duty belt will have their canister inspected and weighed during the department's annual PPCT training. A record of this fact will be maintained by the PPCT instructor.
4. Unexplained depletion of ASR canisters shall require an investigation and written report by the officer's supervisor to the patrol Lieutenant.