

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

(OC Gel Training)

Course Outline

2 Hours

Course Title: OC Gel Training

Course Goal: Students will receive training on Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) gel. The training will cover the advantages and differences between gel and spray style OC, the policy on OC gel use, and practical deployment of OC gel. Students will have the opportunity to practice with inert gel spray and perform a brief scenario in which the gel OC spray can be deployed. Students will also receive training on the use of large OC gel canisters which will can be used for riot control scenarios.

Audience: Operations Bureau Deputies

Core Competencies: Operational use of gel OC spray, effective ranges of the gel, acceptable targets of the OC gel, decontamination of OC'd subjects, and medical considerations.

Dates: 03/31/2026

Total Hours of Instruction: 2 hours

Location: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95062

Instructors: FTO Fernandez

Mandated Training: Yes

Method of Presentation: Verbal discussion, power point presentation, practical exercises/ scenario training.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to understand SCSO Use of Force Policy (Lexipol 307.7) in relation to use of OC gel. Students will learn and demonstrate proficiency on the basic fundamentals of deploying the OC gel by themselves or among other deputies, deploying OC gel towards suspects separated from other subjects or near other subjects, the limitations and strengths of OC gel in relation to other force options, how to properly decontaminate a subject who has been OC'd, medical considerations for OC'd subjects, and how to mitigate secondary exposures to OC gel.

March 2026

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I. Orientation / Instructor / Overview

1. Class Orientation
 - a. Instructor introductions
 - i. Course Outline / Overview
 - ii. Breaks

II. Safety Plan

1. Location of medical facilities – Watsonville Hospital, 75 Nielson St, Watsonville
 - a. Marked patrol car
 - b. AMR
2. Medical supplies on hand
3. Identify Safety Officer and perform safety checks prior to scenarios
4. Rules of Safety and Conduct
 - a. No firearms or Tazers
 - b. Only use inert spray during scenario on suspect role player
5. Reporting of Injuries

III. Policy and Procedure Review

1. Use of force – Lexipol policy 300
2. OC Spray – Lexipol policy 307.7

IV. Classroom Instruction

1. Sanctity of Life Statement
2. Use of Force policy
 - a. Review of policy
3. OC Gel vs OC Spray
 - a. Differences
 - b. Strengths of OC gel
4. OC Gel use fundamentals
 - a. Stance
 - b. Grip
 - c. Acceptable and optimal distances
 - d. Post deployment detainment

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- e. Decontamination
- f. Medical Considerations
- g. Reporting
- 5. De-Escalation
 - a. Prior to deployment of OC gel, deputies should attempt de-escalation options when possible
 - b. Recognize that OC gel can be drawn but re-holstered if de-escalation efforts are successful

V. Equipment Distribution (if needed)

- 1. Collect OC Spray
- 2. Supply students with OC Gel

V. Demonstration of Knowledge

- 1. Deployment of Inert OC gel spray
- 2. Scenario with use of de-escalation strategies and OC gel deployment if deemed necessary
- 3. Post scenario debrief

IX. Scenario clean up

X. Student Evaluations