

**CHAPTER 7**  
**CHEMICAL AGENTS AND SPECIALTY WEAPON SYSTEMS**

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## CHAPTER 7

### CHEMICAL AGENTS AND SPECIALTY WEAPON SYSTEMS

#### 1. GENERAL.

a. The following describes the policies and procedures to be followed by departmental personnel when using chemical agents and specialty weapons during civil disturbance incidents. The actions of departmental personnel must be based on legal authority and implemented in accordance with departmental policy and sound professional judgment.

b. Managers/supervisors shall be responsible for the discipline and actions of subordinate uniformed personnel who have been authorized to use chemical agents and departmental specialty weapons.

#### 2. POLICY.

a. The decision to use force at crowd management and crowd control incidents shall be consistent with the Department's use of force policy contained in Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 1, Use of Force.

b. Policy regarding the deployment of chemical agents, specialty munitions, and grenadier guidelines is found in HPM 50.6, Special Response Team Manual, Chapter 3, Grenadier Protocols and Procedures.

#### 3. CHEMICAL AGENTS AND SPECIALTY WEAPON SYSTEMS.

a. The Academy, Weapons Training Unit (WTU), will approve specialty weapon systems and munitions as technology advances and different types of weapon systems become available.

b. The WTU will maintain a supply of specialty weapon systems for replacement of lost, damaged, or malfunctioning weapons.

c. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel and officers who have successfully completed both the eight-hour Chemical Agents/Specialty Munitions familiarization training and the annual Grenadier Training Course (GTC) may perform the duties of a grenadier.

d. With the exception of Protective Services Division's SWAT team's use, the 37mm and 40mm launchers will be assigned to Division Special Response Teams and are only for use during civil disturbance operations.

e. The WTU will approve chemical agents and specialty munitions on a case by case basis as technology advances and different types of munitions become available.

f. Approved chemical agents and munitions are to be used to move or protect personnel in situations involving hostile crowds where aggressive and combative behavior, including throwing of missiles, is involved.

#### 4. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSPECTION.

##### a. Acquisition.

(1) Chemical agents, specialty weapons, specialty munitions, and other protective equipment are assigned to each Division for use at civil disturbance incidents. Approved chemical agents and specialty munitions can be requisitioned from Business Services Section, Supply Services Unit. Chemical agents and specialty munitions shall be stored in a climate-controlled environment to preserve their shelf life. Field Division commanders may designate selected Area commands as storage sites, but only trained personnel may handle chemical agents and specialty munitions.

##### b. Accountability.

(1) Squad leaders shall maintain a CHP 701B, Personnel Roster and Resource Record, indicating the type and quantities of equipment issued to each squad/team member.

(2) At the conclusion of an event, squad leaders shall ensure all equipment, not personally assigned, is returned to the Division's Incident Command System Logistics Section. Squad leaders shall inform the Logistics Section by memorandum of any equipment not returned.

(3) The Logistics Section shall provide a signed copy of the CHP 701B to the squad leader acknowledging the returned equipment.

##### c. Inspection.

(1) Chemical protective masks shall be inspected quarterly and prior to use.

(2) Division-assigned launchers are required to be inspected quarterly and the Firearms Inspection Checklists are to be forwarded to the Academy, WTU.

## 5. DECONTAMINATION.

a. Once chemical agents have been deployed in an area, the area should be considered contaminated. An area can remain contaminated for up to 24 hours, depending upon its use and weather conditions.

(1) Contaminated skin should be washed with lukewarm, soapy water.

(2) Contaminated clothing should be kept away from other clothing once it is removed. Prior to the next wearing, the contaminated clothing should be laundered.

(3) All chemical agent canisters and specialty munition casings thrown or fired should be picked up and disposed of after the crowd has dispersed. Only personnel trained in the use of chemical agents and specialty munitions are authorized to remove unspent or unexploded canisters or rounds. Procedures to remove unspent or unexploded canisters or rounds will be reviewed annually during the GTC.

(4) If a contaminated subject is arrested, they should be decontaminated by flushing the affected areas with large quantities of water as soon as possible. The booking officer shall be advised of the subject's contamination.

(5) Protective masks should be cleaned and sanitized by using germicidal wipes, or by washing in a solution of warm water and baby shampoo prior to storing.

## 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

a. Written Reports. All deployments of chemical agents and specialty weapon systems shall be included in the after-action report in addition to using the appropriate departmental forms/programs. The circumstances surrounding each deployment and the exact quantity deployed shall be included. Refer to HPM 50.1, Emergency Incident Management Planning and Operations Manual.

b. Memorandum Reports. In instances where an after-action report is not completed, the use of chemical agents may be reported on a CHP 51, Memorandum.

## 7. METHODS OF DISPERSAL OF CHEMICAL AGENTS.

a. General. The following methods of delivery are approved for dispersal of chemical agents used by the Department.

8. TYPES AND EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL AGENTS.

a. Chemical Agents Authorized for Use by the Department.



9. MASK INSPECTION, CLEANING, SANITARY CARE, AND STORAGE.

a. Mask Inspection Procedures. Inspect masks for the following:

- (1) Mask carrier for tears, broken straps or snaps.
- (2) Lens for cracks, yellowing, or excessive scratches.
- (3) Mask body for punctures, cracks, tears, obvious deformity.
- (4) Filter canister/canister mount assembly to ensure gasket is present/serviceable.
- (5) Inlet/exhaust valves are flexible, no foreign matter.
- (6) Reflex seal for tears, cuts, or punctures.
- (7) Harness assembly and buckles are in place and serviceable, straps not torn.
- (8) Air guide and nose piece are serviceable, no cuts or tears.

b. Mask Cleaning and Sanitary Care.

- (1) Mask/respirator cleaning and care procedures.
  - (a) Procedure.
    - 1 Remove canister/filter.

2 Submerge mask in a diluted solution of baby shampoo and warm water.

3 Rinse mask in clean water.

4 Allow mask to air dry for an appropriate period of time, until thoroughly dry. Do not dry protective masks in direct sunlight. Extended exposure to direct sunlight may deteriorate mask materials.

(2) All valves shall be inspected after cleaning to ensure they are in proper working order.

(3) The protective mask shall not be worn when conditions prevent a good gas-tight seal.

#### 10. STORAGE.

a. Masks shall be stored in their carrying cases to protect against dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, or damaging chemicals. Any mask which is found to be defective shall be replaced as soon as possible.

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