

Butte County DA's Office Bureau of Investigation

Control Devices and Techniques

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To reduce and minimize altercation-related injuries to investigators and suspects, the Butte County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation authorizes the use of selected control devices. Certain control devices are provided in order to control violent or potentially violent suspects. It is anticipated that the use of these devices will generally result in fewer altercation-related injuries to investigators and suspects. The control devices approved for use by investigators are:

- 1) Batons, including expandable batons and other approved impact weapons; and
- 2) Oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray; and
- 3) Electro-Muscular Disruption Technology (EMDT) device, pursuant to the provisions of Section 309 of this policy manual

308.11 WHEN DEVICES MAY BE USED

When a decision has been made to restrain or arrest a violent or threatening suspect, an approved control device may only be used when its use appears reasonable under the circumstances.

308.2 BATON/ EXPANDABLE BATON GUIDELINES

The baton or expandable baton is authorized for use by investigators when, based upon the circumstances perceived by the investigator, lesser force would not reasonably appear to result in the safe control of the suspect.

Suspects who have been struck with a baton shall be afforded a medical examination by competent medical personnel.

308.3 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY GUIDELINES

Oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, is a control device used to minimize the potential for injury to investigators, offenders, or other persons. Investigators are authorized to carry OC spray. OC spray should be used only in situations where such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.

Persons who have been affected by the use of OC spray should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be afforded a medical examination by competent medical personnel.

308.4 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device and/or technique listed within this section shall be documented pursuant to Policy Manual § 300.4 and 300.5.