

**GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE**  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING CENTER**

**CHEMICAL AGENTS SAFETY GUIDELINES**

**I. CHEMICAL AGENTS POLICY GUIDELINES - PURPOSE**

- A. The purpose of these guidelines is to promote a high level of protection for students participating in the Chemical Agents portion of the Basic Academy.
- B. The guidelines contained herein are specifically intended to apply to a training experience, as opposed to a true tactical event. Therefore, some precautions suggested in these guidelines may be inadvisable or inappropriate during an actual tactical emergency situation.
- C. It is the intent of these guidelines to conform to the P.O.S.T. GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT SAFETY IN CERTIFIED COURSES Manual Part I, Section 1.0, Section 1.1 WRITTEN POLICY GUIDELINES et al. Published 1990.
- D. It is the policy of the Golden West College—Criminal Justice Training Center to conduct all training in a manner that promotes an overall attitude of safety.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES – ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF**

- A. General safety rules as well as procedures unique to each Chemical Agents Training event are developed, reduced to writing, and communicated to students prior to each training session.
- B. A copy of all safety guideline policies is incorporated into the lesson plan of the Chemical Agent lesson plan.
- C. All students are provided with a copy of these guidelines as part of the course handouts. (*Recruit Policy and Procedure Manual*)
- D. To insure consistency and continuity, all instructors will be required to adhere to the approved lesson plan.
- E. Student emergency notification information shall be maintained for the duration of the course and present at the training location.

**III. RESPONSIBILITIES – INSTRUCTORS**

- 1. All instructors involved with the Chemical Agent class shall demonstrate a proactive safety attitude and exhibit a professional demeanor at all times.
- 2. Instructors of the Chemical Agent class shall adhere to the class lesson plan and maintain a high level of discipline over the students at all times
- 3. At least one member of the instructional staff involved in the presentation of the Chemical Agents class shall be certified in the administration of First Aid and CPR.
- 4. Students are queried to identify any pre-existing injuries or medical conditions which may affect their ability to safely participate in the chemical agent training class. (*Pre-requisite: Pre-Academy Orientation Course*)
- 5. When the instructor has doubts as to the student's ability to safely perform any of the required training, the student is required to provide evidence of medical fitness for training. (*Pre-requisite: Pre-Academy Orientation Course*)

6. When doubt exists as to the student's ability to safely perform any training task, instructors shall exclude the student from training.
7. Evidence of medical fitness may include a clearance from a physician, or an attestation by the student's employing agency that such medical clearance has been obtained.
8. During heat waves or other adverse climatic conditions, the instructional pace and intensity level should be reduced to avoid student injury or illness.
9. The primary instructor or designee will notify the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction and fire department of the chemical agents training.

#### **IV. INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATION**

The primary instructor of chemical agent training courses shall have attended a P.O.S.T. certified Chemical Agent Instructor Course, or its equivalent.

#### **V. INSTRUCTOR TO STUDENT RATIO**

- A. Since student reactions to the effects of chemical agent exposure vary widely, the number of instructors must be sufficient to provide adequate supervision over each student.
- B. During the practical application portion of the chemical agent class, the instructor-to-student ratio shall be five students or less to each instructor (5:1).
- C. This will also include an instructor acting as a Range Safety Officer.
- D. The training staff shall provide advance notice to prospective trainees and their agencies regarding anticipated physical demands and/or physical performance expectations.
- E. For the purpose of establishing an instructional staff to student ratio, the following personnel titles and descriptions are viewed by the Golden West College Criminal Justice Training Center as exerting functional supervision over students participating in chemical agents training:
  1. Primary Instructor
  2. Assistant Instructors
  3. Course Coordinators
  4. Training Assistants
  5. Range Masters & Range Safety Officers
  6. Recruit Training Officers
- F. Instructional staff to student ratios for each psychomotor skill area have been established. Factors considered in establishing these ratios include but are not limited to:
  1. The intensity or pace of the training
  2. Student familiarity with the material
  3. Characteristics of the training site and training program
  4. Injury potential
  5. Active versus passive participation
- G. Reassessment of the staff-to-student ratio will be initiated when curriculum changes are proposed or when the course structure is otherwise modified.

## **VI. FACILITY GUIDELINES (Lamb School)**

- A. The training site is located so as to reduce potential hazards to the public caused by the release of chemical agents.
- B. The training site is located in an area that minimizes the fire hazard to structures and vegetation.
- C. Restroom facilities and drinking water are available at the training site or in the immediate vicinity.
- D. A telephone or an emergency radio communications device is immediately accessible in the event of an emergency requiring outside assistance.
- E. A fire extinguisher is readily available at the training site. Shovels may also be available.
- F. An appropriate First Aid Kit is readily accessible at the training site
- G. When planning a training event, the staff shall identify which medical facilities and emergency services are available or subject to call in the event of an emergency or student/instructor injury. This may be changed at the discretion of a Paramedic who arrives as part of a Fire Department response.
  - 1. Any instructors or students with current EMT or Paramedic certifications will be identified prior to the start of training.

## **VII. PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

- A. Classroom instruction is done with the use of inert devices, slides, or other appropriate visual aids.
- B. During practical field demonstrations of the use of chemical agent munitions, instructors should be aware of the particular hazards associated with the specific types of devices used in the training program and deploy them accordingly to the manufacturer's suggested recommendations.
- C. The instructional staff shall supervise the decontamination of students exposed to chemical agents.
  - 1. Remove the student from the contaminated area to an upwind condition
  - 2. Have student face into the wind keeping eyes open
  - 3. Don't let students rub their eyes
  - 4. Have student sit and remain calm to reduce sweating
  - 5. Flush with cool clear water.
  - 6. Should symptoms persist, seek medical attention.
  - 7. Students who have gone through the decontamination process will not be allowed to leave the training area until a member of the instructional staff has interviewed them and confirmed that they are physically ready to leave the location.

## **VIII. EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES**

- A. Each student or instructor will be required to use the following Safety Equipment:
  - 1. Serviceable gas mask
  - 2. Nomax or leather gloves

3. Safety goggles if deploying without a gas mask
4. Hearing protectors (if chemical agents are to be fired rather than hand delivered) – over the ear type is required, specifically excluded are: ear plugs, cotton, or other foreign objects pushed into the canal.

**IX. SPECIFIC SAFETY RULES**

- A. Students will adhere to all rules of safety and conduct.
- B. A safety inspection will be carried out of all students and instructors to ensure that no live firearms, ammunition, etc. are brought into the training area.
- C. The primary instructor or designee shall be responsible for conducting safety inspections of students and facilities used for training.
- D. Instructors should be aware of environmental factors such as weather conditions or air quality and adjust the instruction as necessary.
- E. The primary instructor or designee shall verbally review specific safety rules with the students prior to the start of training. Students failing to follow the safety rules may be removed from the training.
- F. Only Instructors will deploy the chemical agents.
- G. When preparing to deploy grenade type munitions, the safety lever or “Spoon” will be held in the web of the hand. The retaining or safety pin should be accessible to the opposite hand
- H. Do not remove the safety retaining pin from the device until just prior to it being deployed.’
- I. Students will not be allowed to handle any device which fails to initiate
- J. During the practical application phase of the chemical agent training, should a device fail to properly initiate and the possibility exists that a planned entry was to follow the delivery of the failed device, the instructional staff shall immediately stop all activity. The device will be left undisturbed for a minimum of sixty (60) minutes.
  - a. After the appropriate time has gone by, a member of the instructional staff will remove the device by picking it up with a long handled shove or similar tool
  - b. The device will be placed in an area away from the student training area
  - c. The device will be disposed of in a manner keeping with the manufacturer’s recommendations.
  - d. Any device that failed to initiate that is found at the end of the training session will be disposed of in the same manner.
- K. All chemical agents whether thrown or launched, will be deployed so that the instructor can clearly observe the area where the device is expected to land.
- L. The instructional staff shall supervise the decontamination of students exposed to chemical agents. This shall include such steps as:
  - a. Students assigned as “safety partners” will stay with and monitor the condition of their assigned student who has been exposed to chemical agents until relieved of that duty by an instructor.

- b. Remove the student from the contaminated area to an upwind condition
  - c. Face into the wind keeping the eyes open
  - d. If necessary, sit down and remain calm to reduce sweating
  - e. Students are not to run during the decontamination process
  - f. Flush with cool clear potable water if available
  - g. Should symptoms persist, seek medical attention
  - h. Instructors will monitor all students decontaminating until they are free of chemical agent debilitating effects.
- M. Response to injuries:** In the event of an injury, the following actions shall be taken as necessary
- a. Render first aid
  - b. If an instructor or student is injured and requires anything more than first aid, either paramedics will be summoned or he/she will be taken to the designated medical facility.
  - c. Appropriate medical assistance will be obtained. In all cases where a student loses consciousness, an evaluation shall be sought from a competent medical authority before the student is allowed to return to training.
  - d. The course coordinator or primary instructor shall notify appropriate authorities at the Criminal Justice Training Center as soon as practical after the incident has occurred.
  - e. As appropriate, notification may also be made to the student's agency and any emergency contact persons designated by the student.
  - f. The primary instructor or designee will investigate the incident, complete an Injury Report and in a timely manner, forward it to the administrative staff in the Criminal Justice Training Center
  - g. Students who sustain an injury which requires treatment by a physician must obtain a medical release before they will be allowed to resume training.