

University of Southern Maine: Policy on the Possession and Use of Defensive Sprays for Self-Defense

Introduction:

Weapons and ammunition pose potential safety hazards within the academic community. This policy outlines regulations regarding the possession and use of defensive sprays, specifically mace and pepper spray, for self-defense purposes on campus. Note: This policy does not exempt individuals from the broader weapons policy.

Definition:

Defensive Sprays: Disabling chemical sprays, referred here to as mace and pepper spray (Pepper spray, also known as OC spray or oleoresin capsicum), used solely for self-defense. Training in the use of defensive sprays is strongly encouraged.

Regulations:

General Use of Defensive Sprays:

Defensive spray is allowed when used in good faith for the sole purposes of self-defense. Concealed carry of defensive sprays is permitted.

Compliance with State Laws:

Pepper spray or other personal protection devices consistent with State laws and campus policies are permitted on campus. Individuals are responsible for using good judgment in the possession and use of defensive sprays.

Limitations on Pepper Spray:

Defensive spray is allowed when the individual carrier is over 18 years of age, has no past conviction of a felony or any crime involving assault.

Defensive spray is allowed for personal protection and self-defense purposes only.

Only one defensive spray canister, not exceeding 118 mL (4 ounces) by volume, that incorporates a positive means to prevent accidental discharge (e.g., a safety mechanism) is

allowed per individual and only aerosol type canisters are allowed. No gels or gun type devices are permitted.

Campus Buildings and Registration:

Defensive spray is allowed in campus buildings and subject to campus policies and code of conduct regulations regarding its improper use.

Prohibited Uses:

Use of defensive sprays in a manner other than for personal protection that causes or threatens serious harm to the safety or security of others is prohibited.

Enforcement and Violations:

Misuse of defensive sprays is subject to disciplinary sanctions.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary sanctions under the applicable discipline process.

Exemption:

All currently licensed law enforcement officers are exempt from this policy.

This policy will create a clear, consistent framework for using pepper spray across the University of Southern Maine campuses.
