

TEAR GAS

The scientific term for tear gas is 'lachrymatory agent' because the chemicals it contains result in tears. However, the name 'tear gas' is misleading. The harm it causes can be more extensive:



Eyes respond to the chemicals by producing tears to wash them out.



Tear gas is not a gas. The chemicals are solids dispersed in a thick fog.



Collectively tear gas and pepper spray are called Riot Control Agents (RCAs).

PEPPER SPRAY

Pepper spray contains the organic chemical capsaicin; a natural ingredient taken from Chili peppers. Some contain synthetic alternatives. These chemicals:



Cause inflammation and severe pain in the eyes, nose, and mouth.



Rank higher on the Scoville scale than the hottest chili pepper.



Are often mixed with alcohol and anti-freeze.

INTRODUCTION

From Brazil to Brussels, Thailand to the Occupied Territories of Palestine, tear gas and pepper spray are used on civilians.

Banned from war but permitted for use by the police, these so-called 'less lethal' weapons are marketed as safe and

humane. However, they have resulted in injury, death, and human rights violations.

Anyone can be hurt by tear gas or pepper spray. People at greater risk include the young, old, asthmatics, epileptics, and those with a weak heart or lung complications.

TIMELINE

1914 — Battle of the Frontiers, France

Soldiers fighting in WWI are the first to fire tear gas grenades into German trenches.

1928 — Middlebury College, USA

Chemists Ben Corson and Roger Stoughton discover a new type of tear gas. It's named CS after their initials.

1936 — The British Empire

Government grants the police permission to use tear gas on civilians.

1950s — Porton Down, Britain

Government secretly test tear gas on animals, and on soldiers without their permission.

1971 — Derry, Northern Ireland

In a review of CS tear gas use in Northern Ireland, the Himsworth Committee test the weapon as if it were a drug, and publish a report declaring it safe for use on civilians.

1987 — Washington, USA

The FBI start to use pepper spray. International forces follow their example.

1993 — International

The Chemical Weapons Convention states that soldiers can't use RCAs during war.

2011 — International

Police use RCAs against civilians during the 'Arab Spring' and Occupy protests.



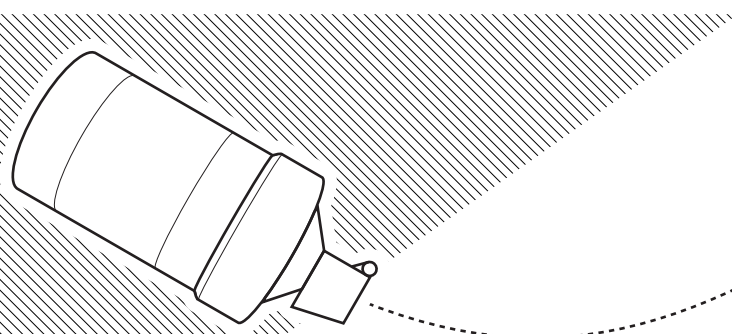
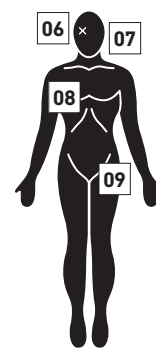
EFFECTS ON THE BODY

Left:

- 01. Panic
- 02. Vomit
- 03. Sore throat
- 04. Heart attack
- 05. Stomach ache

Right:

- 06. Burning eyes
- 07. Painful nose
- 08. Short breath
- 09. Diarrhoea



TEAR GAS AND PEPPER SPRAY

Design by Minute Works

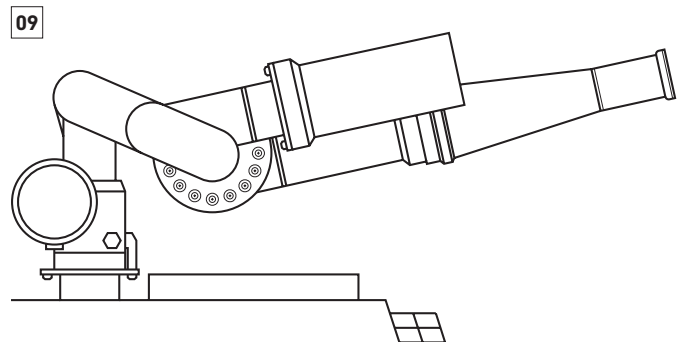
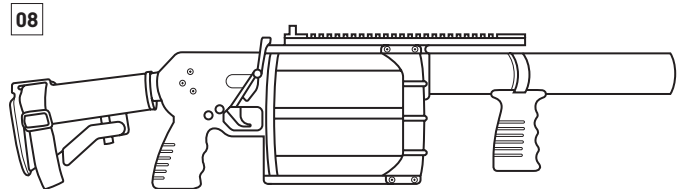
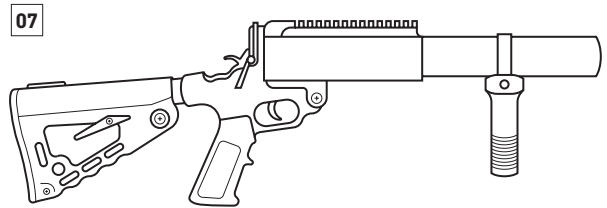
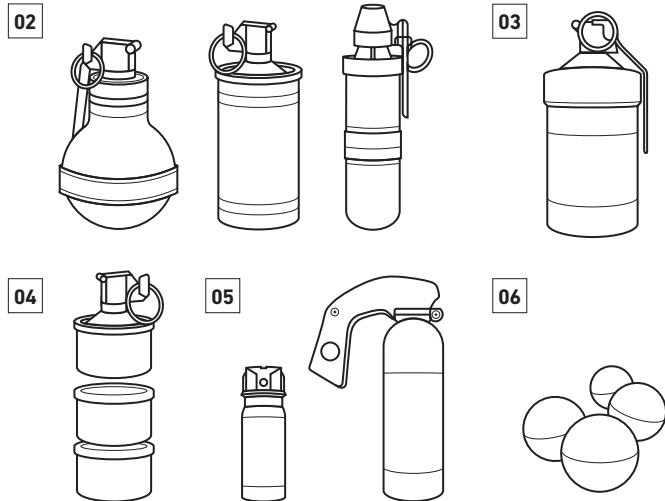
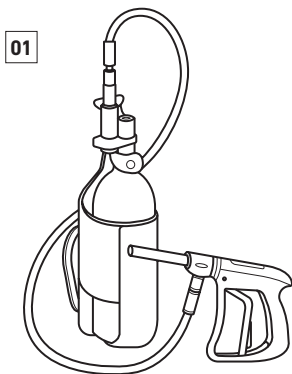


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DISPERSAL

RCAs can be fired, thrown, or sprayed from:

01. Backpacks
02. Hand Grenades
03. Bouncing Grenades
04. Grenades that split apart
05. Aerosol cans
06. Pepper Balls
07. Single Launchers
08. Multiple Launchers
09. High Pressure, Vehicle Mounted Water Cannons



VARIABLES

RCAs should not be used:



In closed rooms



Inside vehicles



On people who have been locked-up



On people who can't get to fresh air



On people who have been restrained



Once the use-by date has passed

RCAs spread quickly. Their effects depend on:



Amount of chemicals released into the air



Weather conditions



Proximity of people to the chemicals



Level of access to open spaces

After the use-by date has expired, tear gas and pepper spray become hazardous waste and must be safely destroyed.

DANGERS AND ENVIRONMENT

RCAs can be fatal. This risk increases when:



Too much is used in a confined space



It's used against babies or the elderly



Panic results in accidental harm



Canisters/grenades explode in the hand



A canister/grenade is fired at a person



Exploding canisters/grenades start a fire

Low doses of toxic RCAs can cause harm to/kill:



Birds



Cats



Dogs



Crops and soil

Read more: www.inclo.net/issues/lethal-in-disguise