

## Cleanup Stations for Pepper Spray Training

With the issuance of EC 1130-2-214 on 22 April 2002 covering implementation of the Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray) Program, there will be many districts and/or MSC's that embark on training soon. There will be two levels of training. The first will involve a Train-the-Trainer course during which a Corps team member covers an introduction to the program, including the history of how we arrived at this juncture, as well as a policy explanation. The second level of training is that which these instructors will then carry out to the Park Rangers, Specialists, and Natural Resource managers who will actually carry the self-defense tool in their day-to-day activities.

In order to be an instructor, each participant must undergo a spraying with the pepper spray product. It is further recommended (though not required) that those Corps NRM employees that participate in the program and carry Pepper Spray be sprayed to experience the effects as part of their training. In either case, there is a need to have a proper and effective after-care clean-up station in place for the training. Prompt and effective decontamination will greatly reduce the time during which the spray is present and painful. Participants in Fort Worth found that a multi-faucet water rinsing station combining shower-head type sprayers and misting heads is very effective. These were built with three or four sets of each type sprayer on opposite sides, since trainers will be spraying more than one student at a time. There is also a simple riser at each end, under which a plastic or metal bucket is placed and filled with water to an overflow point which results in a re-circulating and skimming action to maintain fresh water for facial immersion. It can be assembled from inexpensive PVC and plastic spray faucets. Put the station on a picnic table, hook it up to garden hoses, and you're ready to go. It is also important that these stations should be placed on well-drained asphalt or concrete (like a parking lot); if placed on grass or soil, your decontamination station turns into a mud wallow in a short time. The participants should employ a buddy system, with one student (not sprayed) guiding each one that is. One photo shows the use of baby shampoo in the cleanup operation, and it is an extremely important component in that it gets the pepper spray oil out of the skin and hair without further irritation to the tissues. You will also need paper towels for final drying. Several pictures of clean-up station examples created in the first two years of training in the Fort Worth District follow.



