

# StoppaRed UV Official Users Guide



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# Introduction

## StoppaRed UV - Self Defence Spray

StoppaRed UV self defence spray has been developed to provide a UK legal deterrent that anyone can carry and use when faced with unlawful violence and other unlawful acts.

Due to the unpredictability and variety of situations you might encounter that might require or benefit from the deployment of your StoppaRed UV canister it is important that you think about and plan for the various situations you might find yourself in.



MK3 StoppaRed UV



MK9 inside Nylon holster

StoppaRed UV projects a thick ballistic stream onto the attacker. It is very difficult to remove without running water and its bright red colour helps the user direct the stream with great accuracy. The stream is virtually unaffected by wind conditions with only the strongest winds having an effect at longer ranges.

Each type of canister has a different effective and maximum range. It is important that you know which canister you are using and its unique properties. Please note that maximum ranges are the actual distance the ballistic stream will travel but effective ranges describe the range at which the stream will have the most 'deterrent' effect in emergency situations. The maximum range will probably be of most interest to Security Guards when utilising the marking properties whilst the effective range is important to anyone deploying StoppaRed UV in response to a personal assault.

MK3: Maximum range is greater than 3 metres, effective range <2 metres

MK9: Maximum range is 4+ metres, effective range 3 metres

## Tactical L Response

This easy to remember response to an assault is based on your instinct to step backwards when charged or attacked. When time and space allows you can increase the effectiveness of such a response by taking additional steps to the left or right. You should practice drawing your spray during the initial two or three steps. Care should be taken to maintain your balance during this phase, ask your local instructor if you are unsure.

***Straight Draw Right/Left*** - This is a draw where the unit is worn on either the strong or weak side. The user unfastens the holster with the hand on the same side as the unit, removes the unit with the same hand and then assumes a ready position. The holster can be positioned behind the hip on the side it is being worn for better concealment.

***Tactical Draw*** - This is a draw where the unit is worn on either the strong or weak side. The user unfastens the holster with the hand opposite to the unit, removes the unit from the holster with the hand on the same side as it is being worn and then assumes a ready position. The holster must be positioned in front of the hip on the side it is being worn to allow it to be drawn from the opposite hand.

The Straight Draw is necessary if you only have the ability to use one hand to deploy StoppaRed UV with. You need to practice this type of draw because you might find that your other hand is injured, holding something (or someone) or being used to to balance yourself with. It also avoids having your opposite hand 'trapped' across your body. By turning away to the side where the unit is being worn you automatically protect the unit and your drawing hand from your attackers attempts to bind the draw. The straight draw should be the first draw you learn and practice with. We recommend that you consider the straight draw when faced with close attackers or have only a small amount of time in which to execute the draw.

The Tactical Draw is less prone to 'fumble' because the necessary steps are completed with two hands. It does however place your opposite arm across your body which could be a hindrance or your attacker could grab the opposite hand to bind your draw. It is a useful draw to use if you need to deploy your unit with the opposite hand for some reason. Use the tactical draw when there is more time or space or if you need to use the opposite (weak) hand to deploy with.

Regardless of the type of draw, it should be completed in the most streamlined motion. Consider having a maximum of only three separate movements to complete the draw.

**Step One** - unfasten and lift the holster's flap

**Step Two** - take control of the unit with the hand you intend using to deploy your unit with

**Step Three** - Remove the unit from the holster, placing your finger or thumb on the firing button to assume your ready position.

Experiment with different methods until you find one that you feel the most comfortable with. It is very important however that you ensure that the three steps described above are kept separate, at least until you have mastered the draw. This is to prevent you attempting to tug the unit from the holster until the flap has been fully opened for example. If you encounter a snag there is a danger that your mind will go blank and that you will freeze in a real situation.

Start off by practicing your draw standing still and a very slow pace, building up the tempo as you feel 'better'. Once you can do it quickly practice drawing the unit whilst executing the Tactical L response, turning round to face an attacker, sitting, running etc. The Mk3 unit has a lip on the front of the canister, under the nozzle to help you position your fingers properly when drawing and holding it.

**TIP:** When practicing your draw, if you mess it up try and solve the problem as if it were a real situation. Never give up, cancel the draw and start again as you will not have the time to do so in a real life situation. Train your mind and

your hands to open and draw the unit regardless of how 'smooth' that particular attempt felt. The Mk3 unit has a lip on the front of the canister, under the nozzle to help you position your fingers properly when drawing and holding it.

Self Adhesive Velcro can be used to attach both the Mk3 and Mk9 canisters to suitable flat surfaces such as car interiors, walls, counter tops or just beside your front door.

### **Finger Positions to deploy the Mk3 (or Mk4) unit**

Either the index finger or thumb can be used to deploy the Mk3 canisters. Use whichever feels the most comfortable as this is the correct position for you to use however the thumb position does have slightly more benefits.

#### Thumb position benefits

When using the thumb to fire the unit, if the user is attacked from close range they can simply lift the thumb off the firing button and place it naturally to the side of the unit or on the flip top safety to gain control of the unit or to use the canister as an emergency impact tool. Please ask your instructor about impact techniques.

One possible disadvantage however is that some users may find that their thumbs are too large to fit inside the flip top and onto the firing button, particularly when wearing heavy winter gloves. Users should ensure that their gloves will not hinder attempts to either draw or fire the unit.

### **Ready Positions**

*The Two Hand Stance* - With your strong leg back, canister held in rear hand, bottom of canister over or no further forward than the users front foot. Do not fully extend the arm holding the unit, place your front hand palm down on top of the wrist holding the unit.

Advantages - Presents the most precise method of spraying subjects with great accuracy, with a dominate posture. Good for security guards in marking/warning situations.

Disadvantages- If the attacker is close enough to grab the user they will control both of the users arms.

*One Hand Stance* - With your strong leg back, canister held in rear hand, bottom of canister over or no further forward than the users front foot. Do not fully extend the arm holding the unit. The opposite arm held behind the unit.

Advantages - Presents a dominate posture. The user can use their free hand to operate a radio or mobile telephone or to make a quick transition to a weapon (where legally allowed such as private property). The free hand is also available as a checking or clearing hand to protect the unit and to maintain distance. Good for most users, especially professional or uniformed users.

We recommend the *Defensive Stance*

Open Holster flap, pull canister out and place thumb immediately over the trigger (all with the same hand). When doing this, position feet in the "L" response. Hold canister close to your chest, to prevent dropping it, or it being taken from your hand in a close quarter confrontation. Hold your opposite hand out in front of you, this helps to keep your distance, and maybe parry and defend an attack. Hold defending hand slightly off centre, so your hand is not in the line of the spray.

*The Low Profile Carry* - The user palms the unit inside the hand they wish to deploy with, keeping the flip top safety close to their rear of their leg if standing still or down by their side if walking.

Advantages - This stance should be used when walking through high risk areas. It is non threatening and does not make it obvious to an attacker how the user might try to defend themselves which gives the user the element of surprise should they need to deploy StoppaRed UV. In this position the unit is hidden but immediately available. Remember that you are not armed with a unit that is not yet in your hand! It is important though that the designated finger is *ABOVE* the flip top safety until the decision to fire the unit is taken.

## **Spraying Techniques**

StoppaRed UV has a Ballistic Stream. This stream is very accurate and is unlikely to be affected by wind conditions.

We recommend two spraying techniques when deploying StoppaRed UV

*Circular or Spiral method* - *this is the best way to use a Ballistic stream as it ensures the stream covers a wider area should the attacker be advancing, moving, bobbing or weaving.*

*Horizontal method* - spray Ear to Ear across the eyes, especially useful if you are facing multiple attackers.

*Which ever method you use always depress the units firing button using a STRONG, steady pressure.*

*As a general rule - you should use shorter bursts the further away the subject is from you. When using StoppaRed UV in an emergency personal defence situation it is always better to wait until the attacker is a little more than an arms length away and to use one long spray with a view to causing much surprise and vision disruption. As you spray to deter an advancing subject it is advisable to shout "NO!" "STOP!" etc to further force home the message that you will not tolerate the assault. It will also help potential witnesses to understand exactly what they are seeing. Always aim at the face in an emergency as this is likely to be the largest area of skin that is unprotected by clothing. The thick gel will also disrupt an attackers vision for a few moments.*

If faced with an offender wearing a crash helmet and visor you should consider using a short one or two second burst to cover the visor. This will obscure his view and force him to lift his visor. If his visor is tinted he may not want to lift it for fear of showing his face. If he does lift his visor use the remaining StoppaRed UV to cover his face.

*Try to keep the unit vertical when spraying and expect the attacker to try and take the canister from you, train to retain the canister - talk to your local instructor and practice.*

## **StoppaRed UV storage and other considerations**

StoppaRed UV has the longest shelf life of any similar products available anywhere in the World today at FIVE years. The manufacturer refers to this shelf life as it's 'At it's best before date'. Although we recommend replacing old canisters after five years it is in no way essential that you do so but of you need it after 5 years and the unit does fail in some way - don't say that we did not warn you!

If the unit is to be stored for an extended period it is advisable to turn the canisters upside down to help to keep the seals moist and prevent them from drying out. Units carried on the belt or inside a vehicle should be shaken a number of times at the start and end of the day.

All aerosols can burst or the seals fail if exposed to prolonged temperatures of 120F/48C heat. In car temperatures can easily exceed this during the summer. Never store your unit in direct sunlight.

Prolonged exposure at 0C / 32F may result in slower discharge of your StoppaRed UV. Do not store StoppaRed UV outside (even in your car) during the winter months.

The most ideal storage conditions are cool and dry. Comfortable room temperatures are the best. If you are happy then so is your StoppaRed UV!

### **Firing Instructions**

Each of our canisters has been designed to be easy to deploy and safe to carry, free from the worry or hassle of an accidental discharge. You should not need to glance at the canisters prior to firing and you should easily be able to determine the orientation of the unit - even in the dark!

The Mk3 canister has a spring loaded flip top safety which effectively protects the firing button until you place a finger underneath it and press downwards with a steady pressure..

The Mk9 canister has a primary and secondary safety system. The primary safety feature is the yellow nipple found forward of the large yellow firing lever. To fire the Mk9 canister the user simply presses down HARD onto the raised end of the yellow firing lever. The yellow nipple will shear off and the unit will discharge.

The secondary safety Mk9 safety feature is the metal 'safety pin' that slots into holes under the yellow firing lever. It's purpose is to physically stop the downward movement of the firing lever and prevent the yellow nipple from shearing.

It is recommended that users employ both type of safety feature when carrying the Mk9 in a holster, bag or in storage. When affixed to a flat surface for example under a countertop, inside a vehicle or on the wall it is perfectly safe to remove the 'safety pin' and rely on just the yellow nipple.

### **IMPORTANT**

USERS ARE REMINDED THAT STOPPARED UV SHOULD ONLY BE DEPLOYED WHEN IT IS FELT TO BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY AND TO DO SO IS REASONABLE.

IN DYNAMIC PHYSICAL SITUATIONS USERS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR AND WILLING TO AUGMENT THE DEPLOYMENT WITH PHYSICAL ACTION SUITABLE FOR THE PARTICULAR SITUATION - each situation being different. PLEASE TALK TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.