Twitter Thread by Emily of the State



Emily of the State
@EmilyGorcenski



Ok so there's a conspiracy theory going around that this woman was faking her injury with an onion.

This is likely false. Onions are a folk remedy for pepper spray.

> Wait, so Elizabeth from Knoxville, who claims she was maced after storming the Capitol, was dabbing her eyes with an onion towel? pic.twitter.com/99UvDcS0Rj
>
> — Mike P Williams (@Mike_P_Williams) January 7, 2021

The theory, which has some merit, is that since onions make you cry, it helps flush the irritants from your eyes with natural tears.

However, this is not recommended as a treatment for pepper spray and is ultimately not very effective.

Pepper spray, tear gas, mace, CN, HC, and other agents are best removed with a flush of water or, if you have the proper mixture, saline. Nothing else.

We do not do chemistry in our eyeballs. We are not putting chemicals in our eyes. We are not putting produce in our eyes. We are removing the chemicals with safe, neutral water.

For more information, see here: https://t.co/5Y8kL1QCrT

> Don\u2019t do this. You\u2019re gonna risk scratching your corneas with any solution derived from a powder if yoo get it in your eyes.
>
> Just use water. https://t.co/6QiiMxrwiT
>
> — Emily of the State (@EmilyGorcenski) May 28, 2020

I know you will try to be clever by suggesting milk or LAW or apple cider vinegar but you are wrong

Once again, we are not trying to bind anything, particularly things our patients may be allergic to, to capsaicin molecules we cannot be certain are present in the irritant.

There are at least half a dozen different chemical irritants in common use and unless the cop who sprayed you also gave you the MSDS, you flush with water.

And if they did give you the MSDS, it would tell you to flush with water.

When you are in a chemistry lab, there is no milk flush station. There is no vinegar flush station. They do not keep a supply of fresh onions.

There is a water flush station because what we flush our eyes with is water.