



POLICY & PROCEDURES

HOLMEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: **TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES**

NUMBER: 3.5

SCOPE: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONEL

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POLICY

Our department places the highest regard for safety of the general public and law enforcement personnel and recognizes that officers must balance the public's interests in apprehension of violators of the law while insuring the safety of the public at the same time. The use of tire deflation devices is well documented and when used properly will assist with conventional pursuit methods in reducing vehicle speeds and risk, preventing accidents and injuries, and ultimately reducing liability, while attempting to apprehend a fleeing suspect.

The tire deflation device is considered a Control Option and an Induce to Stop Technique as outlined in our pursuit policy (See **3.2 Vehicle Pursuits**). Tire deflation devices are used to overcome active resistance by deflating the vehicles tires which creates vehicular dysfunction. Also, in most cases, intervention by use of tire deflation devices early in a pursuit lessens risks to the public, officers and the suspects by reducing higher speeds associated with vehicle pursuits.

Officers of this department shall abide by this policy whenever the deployment of tire deflation devices is a reasonable intervention option or when the use is requested by another agency or jurisdiction.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to establish guidelines for decision making for using tire deflation devices and includes:

- Description
- Deployment and Use
- Coordination
- Reporting

DESCRIPTION

The tire deflation device is an effective tool designed to induce a vehicle to stop by deflating tires (tube or tubeless type). The device is constructed of hollow steel spikes mounted on a flexible support which can be pulled or thrown across a roadway into the path of a fleeing vehicle. When a vehicle passes over the device, the spikes penetrate the tire, pull free from the base and then deflate the tires at a controlled rate which can, at a minimum, reduce the fleeing vehicles speed and make the pursuit more manageable.

DEPLOYMENT AND USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

Only officers that have received training in the use and are familiar with the considerations, operation, deployment and recovery of tire deflation devices are authorized to use them. The deployment of tire deflating devices will be governed by sound professional judgment, training and procedures outlined in this policy.

If a supervisor (or officer in charge) monitoring the pursuit orders that the device not be deployed, due totality of the circumstances, that order will be acknowledged and complied with by the deploying officer(s).

Intervention with tire deflation devices is authorized and may be undertaken when it is determined by the pursuing officer, supervisor or officer in charge that an incident has met the criteria of a pursuit as outlined in our pursuit policy (See **3.2 Vehicle Pursuits, Definitions & Evaluation of Circumstances**), and the following considerations have been addressed:

1. Officers should deploy tire deflation devices from the most effective locations by:
 - a. Identifying potential strategic locations well in advance of the need to use the device.
 - b. Identifying locations which provide a good line of sight to for observation and approach of the pursuit, or other vehicles.
 - c. Identifying locations with natural or man-made barriers which provide protection, cover, concealment and element of surprise which will conceal the officer from the violator's view and allow deployment of the spikes in a position of safety. Barriers such as roadway overpasses and abutments, guardrails or large, sturdy trees can provide adequate cover in the event the fleeing suspect takes evasive action or attempts to assault or target the deploying officer(s) with their vehicle.
2. Tire deflation devices shall not be used to stop vehicles with three, or fewer, wheels (tricycles, motorcycles, mopeds or similar vehicles) unless deadly force is justified.
3. In certain circumstances where the totality of the circumstances may dictate and where the risks of not deploying the device creates a greater risk to the safety of the public, the use of the device may be justified and appropriate, however, deployment of device on vehicles in the following situations is generally inappropriate and should not be undertaken:
 - a. Heavy traffic, sharp corners, construction areas, special events, and areas with pedestrian traffic may create situations where use of tire deflation devices creates inappropriate or unreasonable risk to the public.
 - b. Any vehicle transporting hazardous materials.
 - c. Any passenger or school bus transporting passengers.
 - d. Any vehicle that would pose an unusual hazard to innocent parties.

COORDINATION

Effective communication between officers deploying tire deflation devices and officers pursuing the suspects is vital and must be maintained. Coordination between the two shall be maintained in the following manner:

- i. The officers deploying the device shall be in position in sufficient time for proper deployment. All pursuing units should be notified when the device is in place.
- ii. The pursuing unit shall notify those at the deployment site upon approach of the pursuit, as far in advance as possible.
- iii. During deployment, officers at the deployment site shall seek cover. All bystanders shall be removed from the immediate area. Uninvolved vehicles, in so far as practical, shall be moved to a position beyond the set up area to minimize the possibility of collision with the suspect vehicle.
- iv. The device will be pulled off the roadway immediately after the suspect vehicle has passed and prior to passing of the pursuit vehicles.
- v. Deploying officer(s) are responsible for securing the device immediately after its use. This includes searching the immediate area where the device was used and collecting any spikes which may have become detached or separated.
- vi. If an uninvolved civilian vehicle suffers damage from the deployment, the deploying officer shall make contact with and assist the operator, making arrangements as necessary and ensure the operator that the situation will be rectified.
- vii. Deploying officers are responsible for properly maintaining and preparing the device for reuse.

REPORTING

Any officer deploying the device will submit a supplemental report, which will be filed with the original pursuit report, stating the facts surrounding the deployment.

DISCLAIMER

This policy is for internal use only and is not intended to increase a deputy's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care with respect to third party claims of any kind or nature. Violations of this policy may form the basis for departmental administrative action, but such action is not intended for use in courts of civil or criminal jurisdiction.

Chief of Police
Shane Collins