

EMERGENCY & PURSUIT DRIVING: TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the use of tire deflation devices for the purpose of stopping fleeing violators.

POLICY: Tire deflation devices, when properly used, have the potential to save police officers' lives, innocent citizen's lives, and tens of thousands of dollars in property damage, as well as reducing the potential for liability suits. The use of a tire deflation device is not considered as an application of deadly force in that they produce a slow controlled deflation of the pursued vehicle's tires which will allow the vehicle to slow at a safe speed and will not cause the vehicle to lose control.

PROCEDURES:

I. AUTHORIZATION TO DEPLOY A TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE

- A. The deployment of the tire deflation device shall be implemented only after all provisions of Policy 16-1: Emergency and Pursuit Driving have been met.
- B. The decision to deploy a tire deflation device rests with the shift supervisor or higher ranking official within the Department.
- C. The tire deflation device may be deployed covertly in the path of a fleeing vehicle.
- D. When time permits and the safety provisions of Policy 16-1: Emergency and Pursuit Driving are met, the use of a tire deflation device is authorized. No officer, auxiliary, or other Department employee shall be permitted to deploy such devices unless all of the following criteria are met:
 - 1. The officer has been trained in the use of a tire deflation device as established by training and manufacturer's recommended use; and
 - 2. When possible, the pursuing officers will be made aware of the location of where the tire deflation device is deployed.
- E. All uses of a tire deflation device will be reported to the Chief of Police.

II. USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

- A. Tire deflation devices are only to be used on motor vehicles, cars, trucks, etc. They are not to be used on motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), etc.
- B. Tire deflation devices shall be assigned and stored in the trunk of the assigned officer's car. The device should be accessible twenty-four (24) hours a day and all employees must be aware of their storage locations.
- C. The tire deflation device work best when used on a paved surface or roadway.
- D. Vehicle Placement
 - 1. When possible, the preferred place of deployment is a straight, level roadway. The officer should not deploy the tire deflation device at the crest of a hill, in a curve, etc.
 - 2. The officer's vehicle will be placed on the side of the roadway, with all emergency lights activated. The officer's vehicle will not be used to block one lane of traffic, therefore forcing the suspect to drive over the tire deflation device.
 - 3. The patrol vehicle will not be occupied.
- E. Officer Positions: The officer should be ten to twenty (10'-20') feet away from the officer's vehicle placing the officer's vehicle between the officer and the oncoming suspect vehicle.

III. DEPLOYING TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

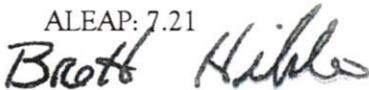
- A. If possible, radio pursuing units of your location and that the tire deflation device is being deployed. It is imperative that all officers involved are aware of the exact location of deployed deflation device so they can slow down in time to allow the removal of the device after the suspect's vehicle crosses it.
- B. Remove the tire deflation device unit along with the attached cord reel from the trunk (time permitting).
- C. Time permitting, place the tire deflation device perpendicular to the roadway on the shoulder and un-reel the cord across the roadway to a position of safety. DO NOT attach the reel to yourself or wrap the line around any part of your body.
- E. If time does not permit the above deployment method, then toss the tire deflation device across the roadway to the opposite shoulder as demonstrated in the service training.
- F. Keep the line close to the ground so that other vehicles may drive across safely, then as the suspect's vehicle approaches, pull the tire deflation device into position.
- G. Immediately after the suspect vehicle has run over the deflation device, if possible, the officer should pull the sticks out of the way of following police vehicles and notify pursuing units if the suspect vehicle's tires struck the deflation device.
- H. The deploying officer stays with and collects the device, while keeping aware that the suspect vehicle will be slowing rapidly. The pursuing officer should be prepared to take evasive action to avoid contact with the suspect's vehicle

IV. PURSUIT INITIATED BY ANOTHER POLICE AGENCY

When an officer from another agency requests assistance with a pursuit entering Jacksonville City limits, that request will be honored only when circumstances are as outlined in this policy and Policy 16-1: Emergency and Pursuit Driving. The initiating unit and jurisdiction shall remain responsible for the pursuit.

This Department will not assume the role of a primary pursuit vehicle and will deploy the tire deflation device at the authorization of the Shift Commander.

ALEAP: 7.21



Brett C. Hibbs
Chief of Police