

EMERGENCY & PURSUIT DRIVING: TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE

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**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.