



## 2-11 USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

### Related SOP(s):

2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle

#### 2-11-1 Purpose

The purpose of tire deflation devices ~~can~~may be used in proactive situations to prevent an offender from fleeing the scene in a vehicle, or in reactive situations to stop a fleeing vehicle. Tire deflation devices must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, departmental training, departmental policy, and/or the directions of supervisory personnel. ~~The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines on the safe use of tire deflation devices.~~

#### 2-11-2 Policy

~~It the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to establish procedures, use considerations, roles and responsibilities for the safe use of tire deflation devices. Tire deflation devices may be used in proactive situations to prevent an offender from fleeing the scene in a vehicle, or in reactive situations to stop a fleeing vehicle. Tire deflation devices must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, departmental training, departmental policy, and/or the directions of supervisory personnel.~~

#### 2-11-3 Definitions

##### A. Certified Officer

Any officer who has received Department approved training is certified in the use of a tire deflation device.

##### B. Tire deflation device (TDD)

~~—A device that utilizes sharp, hollow spikes to penetrate the tires of a vehicle. The spikes remain in the tire(s) of the vehicle, allowing air to pass through the spikes for a rapid and controlled deflation of the tires.~~

~~1. Certified Deploying officer — Any officer who is certified and is actively involved in the use deployment of a tire deflation device.~~

~~(Refer to APD SOP 2-45, Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for pursuit related terms and definitions)~~

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2-11-4 Procedures

A. Only officers who have successfully completed certification training in the proper use and deployment techniques of the tire deflation device ~~are authorized to deploy the system.~~

~~A.~~

B. Only department issued tire deflation devices will be utilized, which include:-

1. ~~Federal Signal Spike Belt~~  
~~— Stinger Spike System~~
2. ~~Stop Stick~~  
~~— Stop Stick~~  
~~— Terminator~~  
~~— Patrol Terminator~~
- ~~B. Piranha~~

C. The tire deflation device may be utilized:

~~C.~~

1. ~~During pursuits which have been authorized by a supervisor:-~~
- 4-
2. ~~On stationary vehicles, if feasible:-~~
- 2-
3. ~~Where the driver of a vehicle would be subject to lawful detention or arrest and is fleeing in the vehicle but a vehicle pursuit would not be authorized and officers are not actively pursuing the vehicle (e.g. stolen vehicle, subject committed a crime not classified as a violent felony, reckless driver, DWI, etc.). In situations such as these, the use of a tire deflation device would be permitted, with a supervisor's authorization, to slow the vehicle, increase safety to the public and allow for apprehension. In determining whether to utilize a tire deflation device, the officer must balance the totality of the circumstances and the need for apprehension against the potential risks to the certified deploying officer, the public, and the fleeing subject.~~

~~3.~~

D. The tire deflation device shall will not be used deployed on two or three wheeled vehicles unless the use of deadly force is justified.

~~D.~~

~~2-11-5~~ 2-11-5 Use Considerations

4-A. The use of a tire deflation device in an attempt to stop a fleeing motor vehicle, or prevent a stationary vehicle from fleeing, is considered a seizure under the 4th Amendment.

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~~2-B.~~ Motor vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous and attempts by officers to bring a pursuit to a safe conclusion, including the ~~use~~ deployment of tire deflation devices, carry with them additional risks and dangers. In order to reduce the risks to officers ~~using~~ deploying a tire deflation device, the following safety issues should be considered:

1. Officers should ~~use~~ deploy the device from behind cover, which will provide them protection from a motor vehicle traveling at high speed (e.g. bridge abutment, overpass pillars, guardrail, concrete barrier, or large trees).

~~a-~~

2. ~~Certified~~ Deploying officers should not use a vehicle as cover when deploying the tire deflation device.

~~b-~~

3. Deployment location should allow the officer to safely observe the suspect vehicle and other traffic as it approaches.

~~c-~~

4. ~~Certified~~ Deploying officers should always have an escape route available.

~~d-~~

— Although low-light and dark conditions can provide an officer with a level of concealment, it can make judging distance and the lane position of a vehicle difficult.

~~e-5.~~

f. — ~~Certified~~ Deploying officers should allow for sufficient time for ~~the~~ a proper placement of a tire deflation device ~~deployment~~, as rushed deployments are often ineffective and dangerous.

~~6.~~

C. ~~Certified~~ Deploying officers shall not enter the roadway, or lanes of travel, in order to remove the tire deflation device until such time when all vehicles involved in the pursuit have passed and it is safe to do so.

~~g-~~

~~h. — Certified Deploying officers shall not enter the roadway, or lanes of travel, in order to remove the tire deflation device until such time when all vehicles involved in the pursuit have passed and it is safe to do so.~~

~~i-~~

~~2-11-6~~ **2-11-6 Roles and Responsibilities**

A. Pursuing Officers

1. Officers involved in the pursuit must ensure their actions are in accordance with SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle.

~~a. — within policy (Refer to APD SOP 2-45, Pursuit by Motor Vehicle).~~

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- 2. Maintain communications with the certified~~deploying~~ officer.
  - ~~b-~~
- 3. Pursuing officers will decrease vehicle speed as they approach the tire deflation device ~~deployment~~ location and proceed cautiously through the ~~deployment~~ area.
  - ~~c-~~
  - In the event the tire deflation device has not been removed from the roadway, officers involved in the pursuit should continue driving over the system. Do not attempt to swerve or come to an abrupt stop.
- 4.

B. ~~6-7~~ 2. Certified~~Deploying~~ Officers

- 1. Notify the supervisor ~~and/or Communications~~ of the use~~deployment~~~~deployment~~ of a tire deflation device and the ~~deployment~~ location.
  - ~~a-~~
- 2. Ensure that they communicate with the pursuing officers the exact location of the planned tire deflation device ~~deployment~~.
- ~~b-~~
- 3. Monitor radio transmissions of the ongoing pursuit.
  - ~~c-~~
- ~~d-~~ 4. Determine whether the totality of the circumstances justifies the utilization of a tire deflation device under these circumstances.

C. ~~3-~~ 3. Reporting requirements

- 1. Certified~~Deploying~~ officers will complete a report when a vehicle has struck~~documenting their use~~~~deployment~~ of the tire deflation device(s).
  - ~~a-~~
- 2. A supervisor will review all related~~ensure a report is completed~~s when a tire deflation device~~vehicle has struck a tire deflation device~~.
  - ~~b-~~ has been deployed for proper and complete documentation.

D. ~~4-~~ 4. Training

- 1. All officers who are wanting to become certified in a particular tire deflation device must complete the required training for the device prior to being issued the device and prior to using the device.
- ~~a-~~ 2. Only certified officers are allowed to be issued a tire deflation device and utilize it. The initial tire deflation device certification will consist of a minimum of 4 hours of classroom and practical training.

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