



Tire Deflation Device	Related Policies: Stops, Search & Arrest; Vehicle Pursuits, Use of Force.
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable Arkansas Statutes:	
CALEA Standard:	
Date	Review Date:

- I. **Policy:** A tire deflation device when properly used has the potential to save lives, reduce property damage, and reduce the potential for civil liability suits by reducing the hazards of police pursuits. Officers must be aware however, that any time the device is deployed, a vehicle – particularly a vehicle traveling at higher speeds – will lose some capability to effectively turn, stop, or accelerate. In making the decision to deploy a tire deflation device, an officer/supervisor must weigh the risk against that of allowing a pursuit to commence or continue.

The use of the tire deflation device must comply with the established Use of Force and Vehicle Pursuit Policy of this department.
- II. **Purpose:** This directive is intended to establish a procedure for the deployment of a tire deflation device.
- III. **Definitions:**
 - A. **Stopped Vehicle:** Any vehicle with four or more tires, which has the apparent ability to be driven away from the scene of an incident.
 - B. **Moving Vehicle:** Any vehicle with four or more tires, which is being operated in such a manner as to avoid the arrest of the occupant.
 - C. **Tire deflation:** Tire deflation devices are used by law enforcement agencies across the nation as a tool to end police pursuits by deflating the tires of the suspect vehicle. Tire deflations device are comprised of expandable segments with spikes that are connected and can be placed across a road. When a vehicle hits the device, it injects metal tubes into the tires that cause them to deflate slowly. The tires do not blow out rather they slowly deflate in several seconds.
- IV. **Procedures:**
 - A. **Stopped Vehicle**
 - a. A tire deflation device may be deployed when the possibility exists that a wanted or dangerous person may enter a vehicle and leave an area of containment.

- b. A tire deflation device may be utilized to contain a suspected drunken driver who refuses to exit a vehicle and may attempt to drive away after being stopped by an officer.
- c. A tire deflation device may be used when an officer, based on the information available at the time, feels it is prudent to prevent or significantly slow a vehicle, which may leave the scene of an incident.

B. Moving Vehicle

- a. A tire deflation device may be deployed when the operator of a vehicle is failing to stop for an officer who is attempting to stop and/or arrest the occupant.
- b. Prior to deploying the tire deflation device, the deploying officer will advise the 911 center of the location of the deployment. Once the suspect vehicle has passed over the device, the deploying officer will remove the device from the roadway and advise the 911 center that the device has been removed.

C. General use of a tire deflation device

- a. No officer will be permitted to deploy a tire deflation device until he or she has been trained in the proper use of the device.
- b. A tire deflation device shall not be deployed until authorization has been received from a Supervisor.
- c. A tire deflation device will not be deployed on two or three-wheeled motorcycles unless deadly force is authorized.
- d. Officers shall evaluate the need to deploy tire deflation devices on vehicles carrying hazardous materials and buses carrying passengers, against the potential hazard of allowing continued movement of the vehicle. A tire deflation device works best on paved surfaces.
- e. Officers must be vigilant at all times and recognize the dangers associated with high speed vehicles, suspect behavior and trailing officers focus on the vehicle being pursuit and low light environment. An officer deploying the device shall use any available barriers, such as Guardrails, abutments, bridges, overpasses, or vehicles, to provide protection during deployment.
- f. A deployment location should have a good line of sight distance for the deploying officer.
- g. A tire deflation device should not be deployed around curves, along roads with steep shoulders, blind turns or on bridges.
- h. The use of a tire deflation device may not force some individuals to stop.

D. Reporting

- a. Deploying officers shall document in the offense report anytime a tire deflation device is deployed, outlining the circumstances of the deployment and any damage, which occurred.
- b. Deploying officers will re-pack the tire deflation devices and place back into squad car and prior to the end of shift the tire deflation device will be inspected

and any missing spikes will be replaced at that time. The fully functional device will then be rolled and returned to the squad.