

St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



DIRECTIVE TYPE: SPECIAL ORDER		INDEX NUMBER: SO0004
SUBJECT: Tire Deflating Devices (Stop/Spike Strips)		
ISSUE DATE: August 4, 2000	REVIEW DATE Annual	AMENDS/RESCINDS: No Previous
Revision Dates: 12/05/07, 01/12/12		DISTRIBUTION: B (Sworn Members)

I. POLICY:

1. The use of Department issued tire deflating (stop/spike strip) devices to stop vehicles will be governed by sound professional judgment and the procedures outlined in this Special Order. The decision to deploy tire-deflating devices must be based on the member's conclusion that the immediate danger to the public is greater than the risks associated with deployment.

II. PROCEDURE:

- A. Prior to utilizing the devices, members will receive Department instruction with regard to the same.
- B. Extreme care should be exercised during deployment and activation to reduce the possibility of personal injury and/or damage to uninvolved vehicles.
- C. The tire deflating device may be deployed in the following circumstances;
 1. To stop fleeing vehicles/ vehicles failing to pull over;
 2. To stop vehicles avoiding checkpoint operations;
 3. At security checkpoints
(use of the device during checkpoints shall be outlined in the special operations procedures for that checkpoint)
- D. The tire deflating device should not normally be used to stop the following vehicles unless continued movement of the suspect vehicle would result in an extreme hazard to others:
 1. Any vehicle transporting hazardous materials;
 2. Any passenger bus transporting passengers;
 3. Any school bus transporting pupils;
 4. Any vehicle that has one or more flat tires;
 5. Any two- or three-wheel vehicle, unless lethal force is justified.
- E. Close coordination between the pursuing member and the member deploying the tire-deflating device is essential. The following guidelines will be followed:

1. A supervisor's permission shall be obtained prior to deployment. The supervisor must take into consideration the position and vulnerability of both public and private property, as well as other assisting units and equipment.
 2. The member deploying the deflating device should be in position at a predetermined location in sufficient time for proper deployment and, if possible, should advise all units when it is in place.
 - a. Deployment locations should have reasonably good sight distances that enable the member deploying the deflating device to observe the pursuit and other traffic as it approaches.
 - b. The deflating device shall not be used in locations where geographic configurations increase the risk of injury to the suspect or others (i.e. roadways bounded by steep descending embankments, curves, where opposing traffic is at an increased risk, etc).
- F. After deploying the deflating device, all members present should immediately move to the safest possible location.
- G. The deploying officer is responsible for activation of the spikes and upon completion of a controlled spiking, should retract the spikes as soon as practical to prevent tire damage to other vehicles.
- H. The member deploying the deflating device is responsible for securing the same after use. This will include searching the immediate area where the strip was used to collect any spikes that may have detached.
- I. The deploying member shall complete a detailed report of usage and deliver the device to Police Garage personnel, who will ensure that it is properly repaired, inspected and prepared for reuse and/or replaced.
- J. The deploying member's supervisor shall ensure that a report on the deflating device's use is completed and sent to the Patrol Commander, the Professional Standards Officer, and the Chief of Police.

Christopher Connally Chief of Police

Date