



Sheridan Police Department
Policies and Procedures
19.5
Chapter 19 – Vehicle Operation
Section 5 – Tire Deflation Devices

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Signature:

Tire deflation devices are provided as an optional tool to use in vehicle pursuit situations in an attempt to lower the risks associated with pursuits.

19.5.1 Authorized Use and Restrictions

- A. Criteria to be considered prior to deployment of controlled tire deflation devices include:
 - 1. Reasonable cause to believe the driver or passenger in the vehicle has committed an offense justifying an arrest;
 - 2. The officer attempting to apprehend the fleeing driver has given notice to stop by means of both emergency lights and siren;
 - 3. The driver ignores the efforts and warnings obvious and visible to a reasonable person; and
 - 4. The risk of escape outweighs the risks inherent in using a tire deflation device.
- B. No officer shall use a tire deflation device until he or she has received training on this policy and practiced deployment under the supervision of a sergeant or field training officer.
- C. Prior approval from a supervisor shall be sought before any deployment. Officers shall only deploy stop sticks to assist an outside agency if approved by a supervisor.
- D. Tire deflation devices are designed for use on vehicles with at least four tires. It's use on motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles substantially increase risk of injury. A tire-deflation device may not be used to stop a motorcycle or three-wheeled vehicle unless the use of deadly force is justified.
- E. A tire deflation device may not be used to stop:
 - 1. A vehicle known to be carrying a dangerous chemical;
 - 2. A bus or van carrying commercial passengers;
 - 3. Any vehicle in locations where geographic configurations increase the risk of injury such as steep embankments, curves, or bridges.
- F. Controlled tire deflation devices may be used in law enforcement interventions other than pursuits. They may be used to prevent the movement of a vehicle in situations such as suicidal subjects in a motor vehicle. Such use makes it unlikely that a person would be able to escape very far if they did attempt to move the vehicle. Officers are permitted to use these devices in events such as this, or other situations in which their use may serve a valid law enforcement purpose.

19.5.2 Equipment Information

The Sheridan Police Department has one type of spike systems. Stop Sticks shall be mounted in the trunks of patrol vehicles.

19.5.3 Pre-Deployment Considerations

- A. The deploying officer shall follow the criteria as set forth in Wyoming Statute 7-17-103 for the establishment of a roadblock regarding visibility distances and use of emergency signals.
- B. An officer may deploy a tire deflation device only after the following communications have been made:
 - 1. The officer has informed the pursuing officers that the device will be deployed;
 - 2. The officer has informed the pursuing officers of the deployment location;
 - 3. The pursuing officers have acknowledged the information;
 - 4. The pursuing officer has informed the deploying officer of:
 - a. The pursued vehicle's description; and
 - b. Location updates.
- C. When time permits and safety considerations are met, the use of the Stop Stick tire Deflation device is authorized. No officer shall be permitted to deploy the devices Unless all of the following criteria are met:
 - 1. The officer has been trained in proper use and deployment as established By training and the manufacturers recommended use.
 - 2. If circumstances and time permit, prior approval from a supervisor shall be sought before deployment to terminate a pursuit.
- D. When the pursuit involves other agencies, notification must be made directly with the pursuing officers. Since they will not be familiar with Sheridan Police Department procedures, communication must be clear regarding the tire deflation device use, including time to recover the unit or a safe path for the pursuing vehicles to use.

19.5.4 Deployment

- A. General
 - 1. Police vehicles may be used to establish a temporary stationary roadblock for the purpose of channeling the fleeing vehicle across the tire deflation device.
 - 2. The officer shall select a safe location from which to deploy, stand by as the fleeing vehicle passes by, and remove the device keeping in mind the dangers presented by the pursuit and the potential that the spike strip or individual spikes may be thrown as the vehicle passes over it.
- B. Use of Stop Sticks in pursuit situations.
 - 1. The patrol vehicle shall be set at a location conducive to the proper operation of the roadblock.
 - 2. Vehicle emergency lights shall be in operation on the deploying vehicle(s).
 - 3. It is imperative that all officers involved are aware of the exact location of the deployed deflation devices, so they can slow in time to allow the removal of the device after the suspect vehicle crosses it. Measures should be taken to prevent unnecessary damage to the other uninvolved vehicles.
 - 4. The deploying officer(s) will immediately remove and collect the devices after the suspect vehicle has crossed over them.
 - 5. Stop Sticks will not be used when the pursuit involves motorcycles, three-wheeled vehicles, or all terrain vehicles. See section 19.5.1.D.
- C. Use of Stop Sticks in stationary vehicle situations.
 - 1. Stop Sticks can be used to prevent a vehicle(s) from being moved by a suspect attempting to flee a scene.

2. Stop Sticks may be used to prevent movement of a vehicle(s) which is, or possible will be, evidence.
- D. The care for human life will exceed the importance of capturing a fleeing suspect in the vast majority of situations. If the pursuit must be continued to prevent additional deaths or injuries, the pursuing officer(s) must make arrangements via radio to provide for the victim(s) immediate care.

19.5.5 Recovery and Results

- A. The tire deflation device must be removed from the road after the fleeing vehicle passes over it.
- B. Once removed, the deploying officer shall notify the pursuing officers it is safe to proceed.
- C. The pursuing officers shall proceed cautiously when approaching the deployment area and adjust vehicle speed as necessary to allow time for the deploying officer to remove the tire deflation device.
- D. The pursuing officers shall not proceed through the deployment area until the deploying officer signals it is safe to do so.
- E. The deploying officer shall search the immediate area where the device was used and collect any spikes that may have become detached.
- F. Officers should recognize the fleeing vehicle may decrease speed rapidly as its tires deflate or the driver may respond with sudden unpredictable evasive maneuvers.

19.5.6 Reporting

- A. If a vehicle not being pursued passes over the tire deflation device causing damage to the tires, the deploying officer shall obtain information on the vehicle and driver and forward it to the patrol operations lieutenant. If requested, or if the extent of the damage requires it, an accident report shall be completed.
- B. Whenever a tire deflation device is used, the deploying officer shall make note of the use in the police report and pursuit review related to the incident and submit a memorandum to the patrol operations lieutenant requesting the unit be inspected and missing spikes replaced.
- C. If a vehicle has driven over a deployed device, as soon as practicable, it shall be turned into the patrol operations lieutenant for inspection and/or replacement.