



BETHLEHEM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tire Deflation Device	Related Policies: Vehicle Pursuit & Emergency Vehicle Operations Response to Resistance
<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 New Hampshire Statutes:	
CALEA Standard:	
Date Implemented: 07/22/2015	Review Date:

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish use and reporting guidelines for the utilization of the Tire Deflation Device.
- II. **Policy:** Vehicular pursuit of fleeing suspects present a danger to the lives of the public, officers and suspects involved in the pursuit. It is the policy of this Department to protect all persons' lives to the extent possible when enforcing the law. In addition, it is the responsibility of the Department to assist members in the safe performance of their duties. To affect these obligations, it shall be the policy of the Department to regulate the manner in which the use of a Tire Deflation Device is undertaken and performed.
- III. **Definitions:** Tire Deflation Device: a tire-puncturing apparatus which can be placed on a road surface in front of a moving vehicle such as an automobile. A special spike is used to first penetrate the tire's surface and then embed a hollow quill in the tread of the tire such that the tire will deflate at a controlled rate, rather than causing a blowout and subsequent loss of control of the vehicle.
- IV. **Procedure:**
 - A. **Deployment Guidelines:** The deployment of a tire deflation device on a moving vehicle during the course of a pursuit is considered a use of force and shall be used in accordance with the Department's Use of Force Policy and Pursuit Policy.
A Tire Deflation Device will be deployed only with the approval of a supervisor. Supervisory approval may be given via dispatch personnel.
The Supervisor must give consideration to all available information and authorize the use of the Tire Deflation Device only when his/her opinion the use of the device is necessary to bring a pursuit to an end.
 - 1. No Officer or other Department employee shall deploy a Tire Deflation Device unless the following criteria are met:
 - a. The Officer has received the designated training for deployment of the Tire Deflation Device.



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- b. The Sergeant or Chief has authorized the deployment of the Tire Deflation Device. Exceptions to prior approval are justified when in the totality of the situation or the circumstances surrounding the pursuit presents additional risks that clearly outweigh prior approval of the deployment of a device.
 - c. The Officer deploying the Tire Deflation Device must advise pursuing vehicles, by radio, that a Tire Deflation Device will be used, where the device will be used, and any officer-controlled lane restrictions established.
 2. With prior authorization, a Tire Deflation Device may be deployed in stationary vehicle situations for the following purposes:
 - a. To prevent a vehicle(s) from being moved by a suspect attempting to flee a scene.
 - b. To prevent movement of a vehicle that is, or possibly will be evidence.
 3. When and where Tire Deflation Device should **not** be deployed:
 - a. To terminate pursuit involving motorcycles, other two wheel vehicles, or any vehicle transporting flammable or hazardous materials.
 - b. Roadways bounded by steep descending embankments.
 - c. Areas of special events or activities.
 - d. Curves or locations where the safety of oncoming traffic cannot be ensured (blind hills and curves).
 - e. Construction zones.
 - f. Pedestrians in the immediate area.
 4. Requests by outside agencies for the use or deployment will be at the discretion of the supervisor.

B. Deployment Process:

1. The Tire Deflation Device will be maintained as per instructions and secured within the designated area in the patrol vehicle.
2. After removal from the vehicle the Tire Deflation Device will be deployed and secured in accordance with training and manufacturing's instructions.
3. The Tire Deflation Devices are not waterproof and must be wiped dry before they are returned to the storage case.
4. The damaged portion of a Tire Deflation Device used to successfully stop a vehicle involved in a pursuit should be placed in evidence. The undamaged portion(s) of the device may be returned to service.

C. Reporting Required:



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1. The deployment of the Tire Deflation Device must be documented with an Incident Report, a Pursuit Report, and a Response to Resistance Report on the device usage by the deploying officer. The reports will be turned in to the Chief the next day he returns to work.
2. In the event the deployment of a Tire Deflation Device results in a fatality, the device will be turned over to the investigating forensic unit as evidence in any ensuing investigation.

D. Replacement: All damaged devices will be turned in for service or replacement.

E. Officer Safety Consideration: Officers must use discretion in the proper positioning of the patrol vehicle to ensure their safety.

1. Whenever possible, officers should place their patrol vehicle out of sight of the approaching suspect vehicle in order to reduce the chance of avoidance by the suspect vehicle.
2. The positioning of the patrol vehicle(s) must allow for a lane of traffic to remain open, across which the Tire Deflation Device may be deployed.
3. The officer shall remain outside his/her patrol vehicle when deploying the device.
4. After preparing the device for deployment, the officer must take a safe cover position away from the point of contact between the suspect vehicle and the device.

Remember, officer safety is a priority

5. The officer should get a safe distance away from the device, and when possible use cover behind a fixed object and something other than the patrol vehicle.