

# Truro Police Department

## TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

*Policy Number: OPS-6.00.1*  
*REFERENCE:*

*Effective Date: Sept 30, 2004*  
*Revised Date:*

*Accreditation Standards: 41.1.4., 41.2.2., 41.1.3., 41.3.2., 41.3.3., 41.3.4., 61.3.4*  
*Mass. Gen. Law Chap. 89, Sec. 7B; Chap. 90 Sec. 14*  
*Other: See OPS-6.00.1 Tire Deflation Devices*

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### **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

Vehicular pursuits are necessary to effectuate the enforcement of criminal and motor vehicle laws. Many of these pursuits are inherently dangerous and therefore create some risk of injury to the pursuing officer(s), the occupant(s) of the pursued vehicle, and the public at large. Tire deflation devices are capable of reducing the speed of a suspect's vehicle and the duration of a pursuit quickly and safely.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the Policy of the Truro Police Department to use Tire Deflation Devices, when practicable, in an effort to quickly and safely end a pursuit. The officer deploying the tire deflation device shall only do so when that officer has been trained in its use and believes that the device can be deployed safely.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Tire Deflating Device (TDD)*: A device that, when driven over, causes one or more tires of a vehicle to slowly and safely deflate.
- B. *Primary Unit*: An authorized police vehicle that is the first vehicle behind the pursued vehicle.
- C. *Secondary Unit*: An authorized police vehicle that is actively involved in the pursuit behind the primary unit as backup.
- D. *Supervisor*: The officer-in-charge or other person-in-charge.
- E. *Vehicular Pursuit*: An active attempt by an officer in an authorized police vehicle, with emergency warning equipment activated, to apprehend one or more occupants of another moving vehicle, when the officer reasonably believes that the driver of the other moving vehicle is resisting apprehension by increasing the vehicle's speed, intentionally ignoring the officer, or otherwise attempting to elude the officer.

### IV. PROCEDURE

#### A. Deployment

1. Only officers trained in the use of the Tire Deflation Device may deploy the TDD.
2. Authorization to deploy the device must be obtained by the Shift Supervisor prior to deployment.
3. The Tire Deflation device will **only be used on vehicles with four or more tires. The TDD is not to be used on motorcycles.**
4. The TDD should be used on a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt.
5. The deploying officer must notify pursuing officers of the location of the of the TDD and wait for acknowledgement.

6. Position the marked cruiser in a safe location for deployment purposes.
7. Deploy the across the roadway, leaving the TDD out of the path of the general public until the suspect vehicle approaches.
8. Upon approach of suspect vehicle, pull the TDD into the path of the suspect m/v. Be prepared to quickly remove the device once the suspect m/v has passed to avoid accidental deployment to the pursuing cruisers. Attempt to time the deployment so as to leave little time for evasive actions.
9. Inspect the device for damage and functionality.
10. If the device was successfully deployed, remove the serial number sticker from all activated sections of the device and attach the stickers to the Pursuit Reporting Form. Fax the form to StopTech, Ltd.
11. Replace any activated sections.
12. Return to the device to its storage location.

**B. Pursuing Officers**

1. Proceed cautiously and adjust speed as necessary when approaching the TDD location.
2. Allow the TDD to be removed from the roadway before passing the TDD location.
3. Be aware the pursued vehicle may decrease speed rapidly.
4. Be prepared to respond to sudden, evasive or unpredictable maneuvers by the pursued vehicle.

**C. Responsibilities of the Supervisor**

1. Prior to granting authorization for the deployment of any Tire Deflating Device the supervisor will consider the following conditions:
  - a. population density (including volume of pedestrian traffic as well as volume of vehicular traffic).
  - b. nature of the area (residential, commercial, school zone, and the volume type, speed and direction of vehicular traffic, presence of sharp curves or steep embankments).
  - c. road and weather conditions.
  - d. time of day.
  - e. quality of radio communications.

**D. Special Situations**

1. The TDD may be used to disable a vehicle before making the suspect aware of any police presence in the following situations:
  - a. Drug investigations by plainclothes officers.
  - b. Serious felony arrests/felony warrant arrests.
  - c. Hostage or kidnapping situations.
  - d. When certain clear and articulate facts are present in a situation where the immediate disabling of a vehicle is required for safety of officers and the general public.