

USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

<p style="text-align: center;">POLICY & PROCEDURE NO.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">1.04A</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 41.2.2; 41.2.3</p>	<p>ISSUE</p> <p>DATE: July 1, 2024</p> <hr/> <p>EFFECTIVE</p> <p>DATE: July 1, 2024</p> <hr/> <p>REVISION</p> <p>DATE:</p>
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I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Tire deflation devices are designed to reduce the speed of a vehicle pursuit. Embedded spikes in the devices cause a controlled deflation of a vehicle’s tires, allowing the driver the opportunity to maintain control of the vehicle at a reduced speed and bring it to a controlled stop. Tire deflation devices better manage pursuit risks by reducing speeds and increasing the likelihood that a pursued vehicle will stop.

II. POLICY

Ashfield Police Department **Policy and Procedure 1.04 “Vehicular Pursuit,”** states that “The only forcible stopping technique authorized by the Department is the use of tire deflation devices, subject to the provisions” of this Procedure.

This procedure provides guidance in the use and deployment of tire deflation devices.

III. DEFINITIONS

Tire Deflation Device (TDD): A device that, when driven over, causes one or more tires of a vehicle to deflate in a controlled manner.

Chief of Police: Select Board:

IV. TRAINING [41.2.3(C)]

No officer shall deploy a TDD unless he/she has received the designated training on Department-authorized forcible stopping techniques, as approved by the Training Unit.

V. SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZATION [41.2.2; 41.2.3(D)]

1. The Chief of Police or Sergeant shall be apprised of the intention to use a TDD and must give his/her approval before any deployment can occur.
2. While the use of a TDD may be permitted in most situations where pursuit is justifiable, the patrol officer must determine whether the specific circumstances involved warrant the use of a TDD. This requires the consideration of the following factors: [41.2.3(a)]
 - a. The seriousness of the offense
 - b. The safety of the public
 - c. The safety of uninvolved passengers in the suspect vehicle
 - d. The safety of Department members involved in the deployment
 - e. The available time frame for deployment
 - f. The suitability of the deployment location, and
 - g. Any traffic-related or environmental hazards that could affect a successful deployment.

VI. DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES [41.2.3(B)]

1. The officer who intends to deploy the device is known as the Deploying Officer. The Deploying Officer will:
 1. Position his/her cruiser in a safe location for deployment purposes.
 2. Set up the TDD over the roadway as trained.
 3. Take a cover position away from the TDD; if possible, from behind a fixed object other than the cruiser.
 4. Notify the pursuing officers of the location of the TDD and wait for acknowledgement from them before any use.
 5. Standby at the scene and eliminate the TDD's functionality after the pursued vehicle passes.
 6. Inspect the TDD for damage and functionality after usage.
 7. File an incident report and TDD Report if the TDD was activated

VII. PURSUING OFFICER CAUTIONS

1. Any officers involved in the pursuit of a vehicle that is approaching a TDD location should:
 - a. Proceed cautiously and adjust vehicle speed as necessary when approaching the TDD
 - b. Allow the TDD to be functionally disabled before passing its location
 - c. Be aware that the pursued vehicle may decrease speed rapidly, and
 - d. Be prepared to respond to sudden, evasive or unpredictable maneuvers by the pursued vehicle

VIII. TDD USE PROHIBITIONS

A TDD should not be deployed to stop the following vehicles, unless their continued movement would result in an unusual hazard to others:

- Any vehicle transporting flammable or hazardous material
- Any passenger bus transporting passengers
- Any school bus transporting pupils, or
- Any vehicle that would pose an unusual hazard to innocent parties based on information known to the officers.

IX. MOTORCYCLE PROHIBITION

A TDD shall not be deployed to stop any motorcycle, two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicle unless the use of deadly force would be justified.

X. SPECIAL SITUATION USAGE

A TDD may be used to disable a stationary vehicle before notifying suspects of the presence of the police in the following situations:

- Drug investigations by plainclothes officers
- Stolen vehicles, or
- Serious felony arrest or warrant incidents.

XI. REPORTS [41.2.2; 41.2.3E]

The Primary Pursuit Officer shall include within his/her incident report of a pursuit any information related to the deployment of the TDD.

Any other officer utilizing a TDD per the circumstances outlined in *Section X* shall include information related to the deployment of his/her incident report.

The Chief of Police or his/her designee will conduct an administrative review of each TDD deployment. This review may be a part of the annual documented analysis of pursuit reports required per ***Policy and Procedure 1.04 "Vehicular Pursuits,"***