



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Tire-Deflation Devices*

Number: *232-B*

Effective Date: *December 7, 2001*

Revised Date: *April 3, 2026*

Rescinds: *232 Stinger Spike System*
232-A Stinger Spike System

Dated: *12-07-2001*
10-21-2019

Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the training, deployment, reporting, and storage of tire-deflation devices.

II. DISCUSSION

Every year, there are thousands of high-speed pursuits throughout the country; some end with loss of life, property damage, and liability. Law enforcement agencies are looking for a solution to the high-speed pursuit problem. One very effective solution to this problem is the use of tire deflation devices.

III. PROCEDURE

1. The tire-deflation device will be located in the trunk area of selected patrol vehicles and will remain within its carrying case. At no time will the system be allowed to be transported inside of the passenger area of the patrol car, as it could become a projectile if the patrol car is involved in an accident.
2. Officers assigned as Support Units during an authorized pursuit may use department-issued tire-deflation devices to halt fleeing vehicles.
3. Only personnel who have been trained in the use of agency-authorized tire-deflation devices and Departmental procedures are authorized to deploy tire deflation devices.

4. The device may be used against vehicles with four (4) or more tires only. It will not be deployed against motorcycles, mopeds, or similar two or three-wheeled vehicles unless the use of lethal force is authorized.
5. The deploying officer **WILL NOT** attempt to overtake a fleeing vehicle in an attempt to set up a deployment. **A rushed deployment is often ineffective and dangerous.**
6. Unless the continued movement of the fleeing vehicle would result in an extraordinary hazard to others, the device will not be deployed against the following vehicles:
 - a. School buses transporting students;
 - b. Passenger buses transporting passengers;
 - c. Vehicles carrying any form of hazardous materials;
 - d. Any other vehicle that could reasonably be expected to be above normal risk of causing serious damage or injury.
7. In planning where to deploy the device, consideration will be given to geographic locations that are conducive to minimizing the risk of injury to any individual or damage to property. Every reasonable effort will be made to avoid using tire deflation devices on road surfaces that are affected by:
 - a. Standing water;
 - b. Ice or snow;
 - c. Exceptionally rough pavement or gravel;
 - d. Unpaved roads; or
 - e. Other unique circumstances that could indicate a foreseeable increase in the risk of a serious traffic collision unless deadly force is justified.
8. The Incident Commander (IC) holds the authority to terminate the use of a tire inflation device after reviewing available information and making the decision to use the device is in the best interest of the department, officers, and the public, and following Departmental policy.
9. **OFFICER SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.** Officers and their patrol vehicles should be in a safe position and completely off the roadway when

deployment is initiated. The deploying officer should be in position at a predetermined location to allow sufficient time for a proper deployment. The deploying officer should have a predetermined **escape route** in case the suspect attempts to avoid the spikes and leave the roadway.

10. The deploying officer will not attempt to deploy the unit from a vehicle.
11. Officers of this Department will use one of the following deployment methods:
 - a. The pull method,
 - b. The slide method, or
 - c. Placement in front of and/or behind the tire of a stationary vehicle (normally used to prevent an unconscious driver or a high-risk vehicle from fleeing).
12. When deploying the device, officers must insure there is sufficient time and distance for the suspect and other civilians to stop and avoid the device.
13. After deployment, pursuing units will exercise care when approaching the location of deployment so as not to travel over the devices themselves. The device will promptly be removed from the roadway once the suspect vehicle crosses the device.
14. The deploying officer is responsible for the recovery of the unit and replacing any used spikes. After the spike system has been deployed and recovered, the deploying officer will not become active in the pursuit but will instead repackage the unit and be prepared to redeploy the unit if necessary.
15. After the pursuit has been terminated, a Supplemental Report shall be completed by the end of the shift with the narrative describing why, when, where, how, and by which officer the unit was deployed.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Communication between the pursuing officer, deploying officer, and other involved personnel (i.e., dispatcher, supervisor, etc.) is essential in achieving a safe and successful end to the pursuit.
2. As for any pursuit, the following information should be communicated to involved units:

- a. Identify the pursuing unit(s) and establish communication with that unit.
- b. The pursuing unit(s) should be advised of the deploying unit's location.
- c. Identify the location, direction, and speed of the pursuit.
- d. Identify the suspect vehicle description, weapon involved (if any), and potential risks involved, such as lack of headlights, D.U.I., etc.
- e. Identify any other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

V. Inter-Agency Pursuits

1. The device can be used in pursuit situations where a vehicle is pursued into our jurisdiction by an outside agency only if:
 - a. Communication can be established with the pursuing units, and
 - b. The pursuit would be authorized by MBPD Procedure 207.

VI. Reporting

1. All Officers involved in deploying a tire-deflation device will complete a Supplemental Report documenting their activities and locations by the end of the shift. They will also upload BWC and in-car camera video as soon as practicable after the deployment.
2. Any Officer who deploys a tire-deflation device will complete a Loss Report whenever the deployment results in injury and/or property damage.