

Tire Deflation Devices TDD

504.1 POLICY

Vehicle pursuits are among the most hazardous functions performed by law enforcement. These acts can endanger citizens, officers, motorists, and the fleeing suspect and passengers. In an effort to save lives, prevent personal injury, reduce accidents, hazards and property damage, and minimize the potential for civil liability of a vehicle pursuit, the Urbana Police Department (herein referred to as the Department) will utilize tire deflation devices to slow fleeing vehicles.

504.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to officers utilizing tire deflation devices (TDD).

504.3 DEFINITIONS

- (a) **Tire Deflation Device** – a deployable tool used to terminate or reduce the speed of a vehicle fleeing from officers by embedding spikes into the tires of that vehicle causing controlled deflation of its tires and thereby reducing its speed, while allowing the driver to maintain control of the vehicle.
- (b) **Squad Car** – A police vehicle, either marked or unmarked, with emergency lighting, a siren, and an outside spotlight.
- (c) **Pursuit** - An active effort by a police officer, operating a police vehicle and utilizing emergency lights and siren, to apprehend the occupant(s) of a fleeing vehicle whose driver is resisting apprehension by increasing speed, maintaining high speeds, or otherwise disobeying traffic laws or attempting to elude the officer.
- (d) **Shift Supervisor** – The command officer who is responsible for field operations of the department at a particular time.

504.4 DEPLOYMENT RULES

- (a) Any officer who deploys a TDD shall be trained in proper deployment, use, and removal of the TDD from the roadway.
- (b) Explicit approval of the shift supervisor is required prior to the deployment of a TDD.
- (c) A TDD shall not be utilized on vehicles with fewer than four (4) wheels.
- (d) Whenever possible, officers should place their squad cars on the side of the road facing the same direction of the pursuit travel with all emergency lighting activated.
- (e) Whenever possible, at the commencement of deployment of a TDD, officers shall activate their in-car video and audio recording device. The recording shall include the actual deployment of the TDD, the fleeing vehicle driving past the point of deployment, and the removal of the TDD from the point of deployment.
- (f) Officers shall allow for at least one full lane of travel, across which the TDD can be deployed. Officers shall not block all routes of escape, nor should they fully block the

Urbana Police Department

Urbana PD Policy Manual

Tire Deflation Devices TDD

road. However, officers may position a squad car so as to funnel a fleeing vehicle in a particular route so as to increase the likelihood of a fleeing vehicle running over a TDD.

- (g) Officers utilizing a TDD shall notify all officers engaged in a pursuit that a TDD has been deployed and specifically where so as to avoid unintended deflation of squad car tires. In order to prevent injury to the officer from oncoming vehicles, flying debris or other risks to safety, once the TDD has been deployed, officers shall utilize every piece of cover for protection from the fleeing vehicle as possible and practicable, except the squad car, and will endeavor to be as far from the roadway as possible.
- (h) Officers deploying a TDD are prohibited from being inside of their squad car during the deployment when the fleeing vehicle has not yet passed.
- (i) The deploying officer will immediately remove the TDD from the roadway. At the conclusion of the event, all missing spikes will be replaced and the entire unit will be inspected by the shift supervisor for damage. The deploying officer will immediately properly package the TDD, per the manufacturer's instructions, and return it to its storage location.

504.5 RESPONSIBILITY

The officer deploying the TDD is responsible for proper placement of the unit on the roadway. Care should be taken to avoid deploying it under the following circumstances:

- (a) Vehicles with fewer than 4 wheels – use prohibited
- (b) Roadways bounded by steep descending embankments – use prohibited
- (c) Areas of special activities or events – use prohibited
- (d) Curves or locations where the safety of oncoming traffic cannot be ensured i.e., blind hills and curves – use prohibited
- (e) Construction zones – use prohibited
- (f) School buses when children are on board – use prohibited
- (g) Any vehicle transporting hazardous materials – use prohibited

The officer deploying the TDD is required to complete a report on the details concerning the use of the TDD as described in this policy. Officers should be aware that any time the TDD is deployed, a vehicle, particularly a vehicle traveling at higher speeds, will lose some capability to effectively turn, stop, or accelerate. In making the risks of allowing a pursuit to continue or of discontinuing pursuit.

Supervisors authorizing and officers deploying a TDD should give careful consideration on the use of the TDD based on the information they have at the time of the request or order to deploy the TDD. Supervisors and officers have the authority to refrain from deploying the TDD if they deem it appropriate.

Urbana Police Department

Urbana PD Policy Manual

Tire Deflation Devices TDD

504.6 TRAINING

- (a) Only trained officers will deploy a TDD. The Department will make every attempt to provided training to all officers.
- (b) The training will consist of viewing the TDD manufacturer's training video, review of this policy, viewing a video of a deployment of a TDD from Dane County Sheriff's Office, and demonstration of deploying, utilizing cover, and repackaging the TDD unit.
- (c) The training will be documented by the Department training coordinator. The Department training coordinator will then ensure that the training is documented in the officer's training file. Officers shall periodically review the proper use of the TDD and this policy.

504.7 REPORTS

Any officer deploying a TDD shall prepare a written report of the incident. The report shall include the following information:

- (a) Name of supervisor authorizing deployment of TDD
- (b) Location TDD deployed
- (c) Physical surroundings of area where TDD was deployed
- (d) Effects TDD had on fleeing vehicle
- (e) What, if any, damage was caused to or by the TDD
- (f) Measures taken by the officer to remove the TDD from the road and to repackage it

In any circumstance where a TDD is deployed and makes contact with a vehicle, officers shall:

- (a) Photograph TDD prior to replacement of missing spikes
- (b) Photograph the vehicle's tire and embedded spikes when and if the vehicle is located

504.8 USE OF TDD DURING INTER-JURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS

Supervisors are authorized to use the TDD during pursuits initiated by other agencies but are required to follow the Department's policy governing the use of a TDD. Supervisors are encouraged to consult with pursuing officers and/or supervisor from those other agencies if practicable.