



Lakewood Police Department Policy and Procedure

**Effective Date:
05/06/2025**

Policy Number: PP – 4513 TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE

A. Policy

The use of tire deflation devices, such as Piranha® and Patrol Terminator Systems, to stop moving vehicles has been demonstrated to present a significant risk of serious bodily injury or death to law enforcement personnel deploying these devices. Additionally, the ability of these devices to safely stop fleeing vehicles has not been consistently demonstrated. Therefore, deployment of tire deflation devices shall be limited only to tactically preventing stationary vehicles from leaving the scene.

B. Procedure

1. The small hand-held tire deflation devices, such as the Piranha® or a longer tire deflation device such as the Patrol Terminator, will be the only acceptable tire deflation devices. The hand-held tire deflation devices will be available in patrol agent vehicles. The longer tire deflation devices will be available in supervisor vehicles or a SWAT vehicle.
2. Tire deflation devices should be used as a tactical tool to achieve a specific tactical goal.
3. The tire deflation device needs to be inspected, prior to deployment, to ensure the device is in proper working condition.
4. One or more agents shall remain at the scene while the device is deployed and ensure that it is monitored to prevent injury to pedestrians.
5. Whenever possible, limit or isolate traffic, restrict pedestrians, bystanders, and observers who are especially vulnerable to injury if struck by a vehicle.
6. A police supervisor must authorize the deployment of the device. Jeffcom911 Communications shall be notified of the deployment of tire deflation devices.
7. The tire deflation device may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.
8. Always move to a safe location after deploying a tire deflation device.
9. Agents will document the deployment of the tire deflation device within a police report.
10. If any property or vehicle damage occurs because of the tire deflation device deployment, agents will describe the incident and/or damage in an incident report. Agents shall notify a supervisor of any damage.

11. Post deployment, examine the tire deflation device. If there is no damage to the tire deflation device, it can be reused. If the device was struck by a vehicle the device will need to be taken out of service for inspection and repair.

C. Rule

1. Tire deflation devices shall not be used to stop moving vehicles. The use of tire deflation devices shall be limited to preventing stationary vehicles from leaving the scene.
2. Tire deflation devices shall only be deployed with the approval of a sworn supervisor.
3. NEVER deploy tire deflation devices where pedestrians are in the immediate vicinity.
4. Tire deflation devices shall not be used on any vehicle containing fewer than four wheels to include, but not limited to, motorcycles, mopeds, 3-wheeled ATVs, or similar vehicle.
5. Do not deploy in areas where heavy traffic is present.