



GOODYEAR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

POLICY 3.37 GRAPPLER POLICE BUMPER

Effective:
02/26/2025

Replaces:
12/04/2024

Approved:


1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with a tactical option to stop a driver where probable cause exists for an arrest, who refuses to stop for officers, or known factors surrounding the probable cause of an arrest would lead a reasonable officer to believe the suspect(s) will likely flee when a traffic stop is initiated. The Grappler Police Bumper shall not be used in the apprehension of property crime suspects unless articulable facts and circumstances would lead an officer to believe the suspect(s) pose a significant risk to the safety of the public. Officers may utilize the Grappler Police Bumper when the facts and circumstances, coupled with their training, experience, and available equipment, justify the use of this device or technique.

2. DEFINITIONS

1. **GRAPPLER POLICE BUMPER:** A device designed to entangle and seize the rear most driver or passenger side tire, axle, or suspension components of a moving vehicles with a lowered net attached to a Department vehicle. Once the net captures the tire, axle, or suspension component of the target vehicle, the Department vehicle applies braking to bring the target vehicle to a stop.

3. PROCEDURES

1. Deployment Considerations
 - A. The use of the Grappler device is a way to conclude or avoid pursuits while in the process of apprehending suspects, while minimizing potential danger to the suspect, public, and officers involved.
 - B. Before deploying the device, numerous factors should be considered including, but not limited to:
 1. Whether probable cause exists for an arrest.
 2. Environmental conditions.
 3. Heavily populated pedestrian areas should be considered as a last resort (i.e. parking lots, gas stations, etc.). School zones should be avoided for any deployment consideration.
 4. Target vehicle's driving behavior and speed.
 5. Traffic conditions.
 6. Traffic breaks should be conducted when feasible on all roadways.
 7. If on an interstate or highly traveled roadway (Loop 101, Loop 202, Loop 303, etc.) a traffic break shall be conducted prior to deployment of the Grappler device.
 8. Lines of communication with additional officers.
 1. It is the expectation of the Grappler operator to communicate effectively with responding officers.
 9. A minimum of three (3) officers will be involved in the deployment to include the Grappler operator.
 10. Due to the potential of a front wheel drive vehicle to become non-compliant two (2) additional units should be with the grapple vehicle to safely conduct the stop.
 - C. Deployment should be avoided in the following circumstances, unless the use of deadly force is justified:
 1. Vehicles with fewer than four (4) wheels.

2. Grappler Deployment

- A. Only officers who have completed departmental approved Grappler training are authorized to deploy the device.
 - 1. Supervisor approval is required prior to the use of the Grappler device.
 - 2. Supervisors will consider all the facts and circumstances known at the time of the incident before granting approval.
- B. Prior to deployment, involved officers shall activate their Body Worn Cameras.
- C. The best performance for the device is on a dry, hard surface such as blacktop or concrete.
- D. Target vehicle speed needs to be at least fifteen (15) miles per hour, but less than seventy-five (75) miles per hour, unless the use of deadly force is justified.
- E. Support officers will be present at the time of deployment or close enough to assist post-deployment.
 - 1. Grappler deployment should be avoided without adequate support personnel.
 - 2. When possible, the use of a cover vehicle directly behind the suspect vehicle should be used. The cover vehicle's purpose is shielding of the Grappler net deployment from the suspect's view.
 - 3. Once the Grappler net is deployed, the cover vehicle will move left or right to allow the Grappler vehicle to close and capture the suspect vehicle's tire.
- F. Department Grappler equipped vehicles will not become involved in outside agency pursuits unless requested by the outside agency and supervisor approval is granted.

3. Post-Deployment

- A. When it is practicable, officers will advise if the deployment was successful or not.
- B. After deployment, officers will not attempt to drive or move the suspect vehicle with the net still attached.
- C. Employees may request a contract tow company respond to assist with the removal of the affected tire from the vehicle.
- D. A Department employee will then remove the net from the tire, which will be placed back onto the vehicle by the tow company.
- E. After removal of the net, place the manufacturer supplied warning sticker on the inside of the windshield on the driver's side where it would be readily seen by an operator of the vehicle.
- F. Photographs taken of the suspect vehicle post-deployment and uploaded into evidence.com.
- G. When clearing the call, the grappler operator will clear their appropriate disposition to include "45 Grappler Deployed".

4. DOCUMENTATION

- 1. Any use of the Grappler device, whether successful or unsuccessful, will be documented in BlueTeam as a "Grappler Deployment", as well as in the Case report.
- 2. The BlueTeam entry should include the following:
 - A. Date, time, and location.
 - B. Report number.
 - C. Officer's vehicle number.
 - D. Road surface, road conditions, and speed at the time of deployment.
 - E. Crime associated with the suspect vehicle.
 - F. Successful or unsuccessful deployment.
 - G. Collision or no collision.
 - H. Wheel where the Grappler deployed.

- I. Injuries associated with deployment.
 - J. Grappler operator information.
3. The above information will be copied and e-mailed to gdygrappler@goodyearaz.gov.
 4. Supervisor Review. Grappler deployments are required to have a two-level chain of command review. The first line supervisor will review the Body Worn Camera video and written report, and if necessary, speak with the officer who deployed the grappler to better understand the deployment. The first reviewing supervisor will answer the following questions and document them in the BlueTeam entry:
 - A. Was the grappler deployment within policy?
 - B. Was the body worn camera video reviewed? If not, why?
 - C. Was the written report reviewed?
 - D. Noting if there should be a review of how the policy is written.
 - E. Noting if there should be a review of department training specific to the deployment.
- 5. TRAINING**
1. All Grappler operators will attend biannual training scheduled by the Grappler instructors.