	Matthews Police Department		
	General Order: TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES	Section .04: Equipment and Personal Appearance	Order #: 04-08
	Review: Annually in March by the Administrative Division Commander	Issue Date: 01/01/2011	

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policies and procedures for the use of Tire Deflation Devices (i.e. Stop Sticks, Stingers, etc.)

II. CROSS-REF:

III. DISCUSSION:

The primary purpose of tire deflation devices is to reduce the risk of injury to officers, suspects, and the general public due to reckless drivers or high-speed pursuits by puncturing the vehicle's tires, causing the vehicle to slow and/or stop. Only officers who have completed training in the use of issued tire deflation devices shall be authorized to use them in the field.

IV. POLICY:

It is the policy of this department that tire deflation devices should be used to prevent or stop a vehicle pursuit before it can endanger the lives of the officers involved and/or the citizens of the community.


V. DEFINITIONS:

VI. CONSIDERATIONS / JUSTIFICATIONS:

1. There has to be a reasonable cause to believe the suspect has committed an offense justifying his/her arrest.
2. Generally, tire deflation devices shall be used only after an officer has attempted, utilizing blue lights and siren, to apprehend the fleeing suspect.
3. Tire deflation devices may be used to prevent stationary vehicles from being moved in an attempt to flee a scene; supervisory approval is required for this purpose.
4. If another agency pursues a suspect into our jurisdiction, officers may use tire deflation devices in accordance to this policy, with a supervisor's approval and upon notification of the pursuing agency's officer.
5. Tire deflation devices SHALL NOT be deployed under the following conditions:
 - A. Upon any vehicle of less than four (4) wheels;
 - B. Within curves of the roadway / highway
 - C. Upon any bridge;
 - D. In areas of roadway construction;
 - E. In close proximity to any special events or areas populated with pedestrians;
 - F. Or in any location where reasonable judgement under the circumstances present would dictate non-usage.

VII. DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Barriers such as roadway overpasses, guardrails and shrubbery should be considered prior to using a tire deflation device. These barriers will conceal the officers from the suspect's view and allow deployment of the device from a relatively safe position.
2. During the course of a vehicle pursuit, or other circumstances justifying the deployment of tire deflation devices, trained officers not involved in the pursuit should begin to position themselves in strategic locations for possible deployment should the pursuit take that route.

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Any such officers shall advise the supervisor of their intent.

3. The deployment officer(s) should inform the pursuing officer(s) of his/her deployment location once in position.
4. The deployment officer shall give advance notice of his/her position and intention to deploy the device so as to prevent from pursuing officers from driving over the device.
5. The Emergency Communications Center shall notify any assisting agency of the imminent use of the device and the intended location of the deployment.
6. After deploying the device, all deployment officers shall seek immediate protection after pulling the device out of the roadway.

VIII.POST-DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES:

1. When safe to do so, the deploying officer(s) shall search the immediate area where the device was used and pick up any spikes or points, which may have become detached.
2. If the device was not struck, it shall be thoroughly inspected before being re-secured within the officer's vehicle and placed into service.
3. If the device was struck or damaged in any way, the device should be packaged and submitted to the department's Fleet / Equipment Manager's office.