



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-11

Effective: 7/24/18 Review Due: 01/24/19

2-11 USE OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

2-11-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines on the safe use of tire deflation devices.

2-11-2 Policy

Tire deflation devices may be used in proactive situations to prevent an offender from fleeing the scene in a vehicle, or in reactive situations to stop a fleeing vehicle. Tire deflation devices must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, departmental training, departmental policy, and the directions of supervisory personnel.

2-11-3 Definitions

1. Tire deflation device (TDD) – A device that utilizes sharp, hollow spikes to penetrate the tires of a vehicle. The spikes remain in the tire(s) of the vehicle, allowing air to pass through the spikes for a rapid and controlled deflation of the tires.
2. Deploying officer – Any officer who is actively involved in the deployment of a tire deflation device.

(Refer to APD SOP [2-45, Pursuit by Motor Vehicle](#) for pursuit related terms and definitions)

2-11-4 Procedures

1. Only officers who have successfully completed certification training in the proper use and deployment techniques of the tire deflation device are authorized to deploy the system.
2. Only department issued tire deflation devices will be utilized.
3. The tire deflation device may be utilized:
 - a. During pursuits which have been authorized by a supervisor.
 - b. On stationary vehicles, if feasible.
 - c. Where the driver of a vehicle would be subject to lawful detention or arrest and is fleeing in the vehicle but a vehicle pursuit would not be authorized and officers are not actively pursuing the vehicle (e.g. stolen vehicle, subject committed a crime not classified as a violent felony, reckless driver, DWI, etc.). In situations such as these, the use of a tire deflation device would be permitted, with a supervisor's authorization, to slow the vehicle, increase safety to the public and allow for apprehension. In determining whether to utilize a tire



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deflation device, the officer must balance the totality of the circumstances and the need for apprehension against the potential risks to the deploying officer, the public, and the fleeing subject.

4. The tire deflation device will not be deployed on two or three wheeled vehicles unless the use of deadly force is justified.

2-11-5 Use Considerations

1. The use of a tire deflation device in an attempt to stop a fleeing motor vehicle, or prevent a stationary vehicle from fleeing, is considered a seizure under the 4th Amendment.
2. Motor vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous and attempts by officers to bring a pursuit to a safe conclusion, including the deployment of tire deflation devices, carry with them additional risks and dangers. In order to reduce the risks to officers deploying a tire deflation device, the following safety issues should be considered:
 - a. Officers should deploy the device from behind cover, which will provide them protection from a motor vehicle traveling at high speed (e.g. bridge abutment, overpass pillars, guardrail, concrete barrier, or large trees).
 - b. Deploying officers should not use a vehicle as cover when deploying the tire deflation device.
 - c. Deployment location should allow the officer to safely observe the suspect vehicle and other traffic as it approaches.
 - d. Deploying officers should always have an escape route available.
 - e. Although low-light and dark conditions can provide an officer with a level of concealment, it can make judging distance and the lane position of a vehicle difficult.
 - f. Deploying officers should allow for sufficient time for a proper tire deflation device deployment, as rushed deployments are often ineffective and dangerous.
 - g. Deploying officers shall not enter the roadway, or lanes of travel, in order to remove the tire deflation device until such time when all vehicles involved in the pursuit have passed and it is safe to do so.

2-11-6 Roles and Responsibilities

1. Pursuing Officers
 - a. Officers involved in the pursuit must ensure their actions are within policy (Refer to APD SOP 2-45, Pursuit by Motor Vehicle).
 - b. Maintain communications with the deploying officer.



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- c. Pursuing officers will decrease vehicle speed as they approach the tire deflation device deployment location and proceed cautiously through the deployment area.
- d. In the event the tire deflation device has not been removed from the roadway, officers involved in the pursuit should continue driving over the system. Do not attempt to swerve or come to an abrupt stop.

[6-7] 2. Deploying Officers

- a. Notify the supervisor and/or Communications of the deployment of a tire deflation device and the deployment location.
- b. Ensure that they communicate with the pursuing officers the exact location of the planned tire deflation device deployment.
- c. Monitor radio transmissions of the ongoing pursuit.
- d. Determine whether the totality of the circumstances justify the utilization of a tire deflation device under these circumstances.

3. Reporting requirements

- a. Deploying officers will complete a report documenting their deployment of the tire deflation device.
- b. A supervisor will review all related reports when a tire deflation device has been deployed.

4. Training

- a. The initial tire deflation device certification will consist of a minimum of 4 hours of classroom and practical training.