

## VEHICLE OPERATIONS

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### PURSUIT TERMINATION DEVICE

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish Department Policy regarding pursuit operation of department vehicles, the use of pursuit termination devices, and to provide all officers with guidelines for the deployment of such devices.

**Policy Statement:** The North Little Rock Police Department recognized the hazards of vehicular pursuits while acknowledging that pursuits are sometimes in the best interest of public safety. Every pursuit must be concluded as quickly and safely as possible. Pursuit termination devices are a safe and effective tool in stopping fleeing vehicles. It is the department's policy to utilize pursuit termination devices to terminate any pursuit when it is reasonable and safe to do so. [CALEA 41.2.3]

#### Summary of Changes:

#### Definitions:

**Pursuit Termination Device (PTD):** A device designed to penetrate and deflate the tire(s) of a moving vehicle in a manner that will avoid a catastrophic failure of the penetrated tire(s), thus ensuring the safest possible means of reducing the mobility of a suspect's vehicle.

**Procedure:** [CALEA 41.2.3b]

#### 1 Support Units

- 1.1 Officers trained and equipped with pursuit termination devices may engage in emergency driving in order to position themselves to allow for the deployment of the pursuit termination device.
- 1.2 When officers are utilizing 'Code 3' to position themselves to deploy a PTD, the Departments policy on Emergency Driving (non-pursuit), Policy Directive 60-02, applies.

#### 2 Other Agencies

- 2.1 Utilization of the pursuit termination devices to assist other agencies inside the North Little Rock city limits is permitted only at the request of a supervisor of the pursuing agency
- 2.2 Utilization of the PESs to assist agencies outside North Little Rock city limits is permitted only at the request of a supervisor of the pursuing agency with the concurrence of the patrol duty lieutenant.
- 2.3 PTDs may only be utilized to assist outside agencies when the outside agency shares a common radio channel with the NLRPD

#### 3 Officer's Responsibilities

- 3.1 Only those officers who have been trained may deploy the Department's pursuit termination devices.  
[CALEA 41.2.3 c]
- 3.2 When utilizing a PTD, the officers must remain in constant contact with the pursuing officers and keep them informed of the place of deployment and other information necessary to prevent unnecessary damage to department vehicles.
  - 3.2.1 Officers must inform the pursuing officers, in plain language, that they are deploying "spikes"
  - 3.2.2 Upon actually deploying PTDs, the deploying officer shall repeat "spikes" three times over the radio.
- 3.3 Upon approaching the location that PTDs are being deployed, officers pursuing a violator must back off from the violator's vehicle a sufficient distance to ensure their tires do not come into contact with the PTD.
- 3.4 PTDs will normally be picked up by the suspect vehicle and moved 10- 15 feet down the roadway after impact. At higher speeds it may become entangled in the suspect's vehicle.
- 3.5 The pursuing officer should proceed with caution when approaching and traversing the deployment area. The fleeing vehicle will decrease speed rapidly as its tires deflate.
- 3.6 Officers utilizing a PTD must complete a supplemental report detailing the facts pertaining to the use of the device.  
[CALEA 41.2.3e]

- 3.7 When a pursuit termination device is used to end a pursuit, a copy of the pursuit report along with all supplemental reports, and the damaged device, will be delivered to the patrol administration for repair or replacement.
- 3.7.1 A copy of the supplemental report will be included in the pursuit file along with any photographs of damage, or lack thereof, to any vehicles involved.
- 3.8 Pursuit Termination Devices will be assigned to each Area commander.
- 3.8.1 the Area Commanders are responsible for ensuring that on on-duty area officer trained in the use of the PTD has one available for use at all times.

#### **4 Use of Pursuit Termination Devices**

- 4.1 No pursuit termination device(s) will be utilized except those approved by the Chief of Police or his designee
- 4.2 PTDs shall not be handled unnecessarily.
- 4.2.1 The device will never be left out of the case or lying with the case open while unattended.
- 4.2.2 After each use the PTD shall be inspected thoroughly for damage. The assigned officer shall inspect for loose screws, damaged or missing spikes, etc.
- 4.2.3 Devices found not to be in working order will be taken out of service and delivered to patrol administration for servicing.
- 4.2.5 PTDs shall be deployed only when it is safe to do so relative to the hazard of the pursuit.
- 4.2.6 Gloves will be worn when deploying PTDs
- 4.2.7 Officers deploying PTDs must never wrap the rope around his/her hand or wrist.
- 4.2.8 Officers must also keep their feet and legs from becoming entangled in the rope upon deployment.

#### **5 Deployment Considerations**

- 5.1 Deployment strategies should be developed during daily patrol.
- 5.1.1 Officers should identify those locations in each area that would offer cover and concealment to provide the element of surprise.
- 5.1.2 All officers equipped with PTDs should position themselves in strategic locations covering possible routes throughout the area.
- 5.2 No PTD will be used on motorcycles, three wheeled vehicles, or ATVs.
- 5.2.1 Use of PTDs on school buses, transit buses, and trucks carrying hazardous materials may pose an increased risk when compared to other types of vehicles. These increased hazards and reason for pursuit should be considered before deployment on any of these vehicles
- 5.3 Choice of location to deploy PTDs should be made with the following in mind:
  - 5.3.1 adequate sight distance in all directions,
  - 5.3.2 traffic condition, time of day, and population density,
  - 5.3.3 natural barriers, such as shrubbery, trees, bridges, etc. for concealment purposes,
  - 5.3.4 roadway configurations such as curves, steep embankments, or hills should be avoided, and
  - 5.3.5 the safety of the deploying officers.
- 5.4 The deploying unit should be in position to allow sufficient time for proper deployment. A rushed deployment is ineffective and dangerous.
- 5.5 Deploying officers should have a pre-established escape route planned and keep a watch on other traffic in the event evasive action is necessary.
- 5.6 The deploying officer should park the patrol unit in a manner that contributes to the element of surprise.
- 5.7 The deploying officer shall not use emergency lighting equipment during the deployment of PTDs.
- 5.8 The target vehicle must be confirmed by visual observations to reduce the possibility of spiking the wrong vehicle.
- 5.8.1 The lead pursuit vehicle and the deploying officer must stay in constant radio contact to ensure proper visual confirmation by the deploying officer.

#### **6 Recovery**

- 6.1 The PTD must be recovered immediately and secured to prevent further damage or injury.
- 6.2 The immediate area must be searched to locate any spikes that may have become detached.

**7 Supervisor Responsibilities** [CALEA 41.2.3d]

7.1 Supervisors shall monitor the progress of the pursuit and the subsequent implementation of pursuit termination device to ensure compliance with policy and safety to the public.

7.2 Routinely inspect the working condition of the devices assigned to their area.

7.3 Conduct an administrative review of the pursuit and implementation of the pursuit termination device to ensure compliance with policies and determine the need, if any, for policy modifications or training issues. [CALEA 41.2.3e]

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Patrick Thessing  
Chief of Police