

James W. Johnson
Chief of Police



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“INTEGRITY...FAIRNESS...SERVICE”

SPECIAL ORDER # 2014-01

DATE: March 6, 2014

TO: All Police Department Personnel. To be Announced at Roll Call and a Copy Posted on the Bulletin Board for 30 Days.

RE: Tire Deflation Devices (TDDs).

EFFECTIVE: Immediately.

BACKGROUND: Over the past several years, technology has developed several tools available to law enforcement agencies to assist with reducing or ending vehicle pursuits; Tire Deflation Devices (TDDs) are one of these tools. These advancements have become assets for law enforcement to enforce laws and to keep the public safe. TDDs are utilized by placing them in the path of the target vehicle and, upon contact with the tires, releasing hollow spikes into the tire(s) allowing for the air to escape in a safe, controlled manner. Once the tires are deflated, the vehicle's speed and maneuverability are greatly reduced or stopped.

PURPOSE: This Special Order establishes procedures for the Department to follow when members deploy a TDD.

RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENTAL VALUES: This Special Order supports the Department's commitment to **SERVICE** by permitting the use of TDDs to increase the safety of the public we serve and decrease property damage.

POLICY: It is the policy of this Department to allow members to deploy TDDs in circumstances that do not expose the member or the public to an unreasonable risk of injury or property damage.

ISSUANCE: TDD units will be distributed and maintained by the Materials & Facilities Management Unit (MFMU).

DEFINITION:

Deployment - anytime a member places a TDD in the path of a vehicle.

NOTE: The above definition applies only to this Special Order.

PROCEDURES:

- A TDD may be used in a number of applications including, but not limited to:
 1. Stopping the vehicle of a fleeing felon.
 2. Stopping a pursuit vehicle.
 3. Special Operations (e.g., tactical, fugitive, warrant, etc.).
 4. Checkpoint locations (e.g., DUI, seatbelts, etc.).
- At no time will any Department member deviate from the Department's pursuit policy.
- Prior to deploying a TDD, officers must consider the proximity and vulnerability of the public and officers, along with the position of vehicles and property.

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PROHIBITED USES OF TDDs:

- On motorcycles or vehicles with two or three wheels.
- Within approximately 300 feet of a major intersection.
- On wet surfaces, gravel, or loose pavement.
- On a curve or slope in the roadway.
- In areas of heavy vehicular traffic or pedestrian activity.
- On any vehicle transporting hazardous materials.
- On vehicles that would pose an unusual hazard to the public (e.g., bus, tractor-trailer, etc.).

CERTIFIED TDD OFFICERS:

- Are the only members authorized to deploy TDDs.
- Inspect the TDD daily to ensure the integrity of the device.
- Complete the TDD log book prior to placing the unit in and out of service.
- Must deploy a TDD according to established training procedures and in a location that allows him/her to maintain protective cover from moving vehicles.
- Will not deploy TDDs without supervisor approval.
- Advise dispatch of the location of deployment and any other pertinent information to ensure the safety of pursuing officers.
- Secure the device and scan the area for debris, loose spikes, etc. after a deployment.
- Notify their supervisor to respond to the location, and document the incident as described below in Reporting Procedures if a non-target vehicle has been inadvertently damaged.
- Complete all required reports and forward a copy to the Training Section, if applicable.
- Forward Forms 12L, Intra-Department Correspondence, to the Training Section, if applicable.

SQUAD SUPERVISORS:

- Ensure that only certified officers deploy the TDD.
- Monitor and assist units in coordinating the deployment of the TDD.
- Approve all pre-planned deployments (e.g., warrant service, checkpoints, etc.).
- Respond to damaged non-target vehicle or property incidents and ensure that:
 1. Transportation is provided for the occupant(s).
 2. A central complaint (CC) number is provided.
 3. Baltimore County Insurance Division information, including the contact number, is provided to the owner or designee for prompt resolution of the incident.
NOTE: The owner will not be advised that the Department will pay for the damages.
 4. The vehicle is treated as a disabled vehicle and assistance is rendered at the owner's expense. If the owner cannot make arrangements or the vehicle presents a traffic hazard, it will be removed by a licensed tow company per policy.
- Review reports and any additional correspondence of all deployments of TDDs for accuracy and completeness.
- Ensure that a copy of any completed reports or original Forms 12L are forwarded to the Training Section.
- Inspect TDDs weekly to ensure the integrity of the devices.

SHIFT/UNIT COMMANDERS:

- Monitor/review the deployment of the TDDs to ensure policy compliance.
- Review/approve reports and any additional correspondence of all deployments of TDDs for accuracy and completeness.
- Fax a copy of all completed reports (i.e., Incident Report and/or Form 213) without delay to the Baltimore County Insurance Division.
- Inspect the TDD log book weekly for proper entry, signature, and maintenance record.
- Upon notification or discovery of a defective or damaged TDD, will ensure that it is taken out of service (log entry), and forwarded to the MFMU for repair or replacement.

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PRECINCT/SECTION COMMANDER:

- Maintain a list of certified members assigned to his/her command.
- Ensure that a TDD log book is maintained which contains date, time (in & out), officer's name and identification number, and designated number.
- Will designate a secure area to store the TDDs and log book (e.g., vault, office, closet, etc.).

REPORTING PROCEDURES:

- TDD deployments will be documented as follows:
 1. Form 213 - If the TDD was deployed during a vehicle pursuit, block #31 will be checked "other" and the required report information will be explained in the narrative section.
 2. Incident Report - If the TDD deployment was not in conjunction with a vehicle pursuit, and damage occurs to a vehicle or other property, the report will be completed using the offense code "Accidental Damage," or "Other Non Criminal Incident."
 3. Form 12L - If a TDD deployment occurs and there is no contact with a vehicle (e.g., vehicle drives around the TDD, etc.), a Form 12L will be completed and forwarded to the Training Section.
- The completed documentation (i.e., Incident Report, Form 213, or Form 12L) will contain, at a minimum, the following information, if applicable:
 1. Make and model of the target vehicle.
 2. Approximate speed of the vehicle when the TDD was struck.
 3. Road surface type (e.g., asphalt, concrete, etc.).
 4. Approximate distance the vehicle traveled after being "spiked."
 5. Number and position of flattened tires (i.e., R/F, L/F, R/R, or L/R).
 6. Name and identification number of the officer deploying the TDD.
- A copy of all reports or original Forms 12L will be forwarded to the Training Section.

TRAINING SECTION:

- Trains members in the use, care, and application of the TDD.
- Maintains records of all certified TDD members.
- Retains reports of TDD usage and periodically organizes meetings with appropriate personnel to critique deployment incidents and make recommendations.
- Maintains all original Forms 12L in reference to TDD deployments.

MATERIALS & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT UNIT (MFMU):

- Receives and assigns a tracking number to all TDDs and their corresponding carrying cases.
- Disseminates TDDs to precincts/units per the Operations Bureau Commander's request.
- Receives damaged or defective TDDs and manages requests for repair or replacement.

This Special Order supersedes Special Order #03-11, Tire Deflation Devices (TDDs), dated February 23, 2011.

IMPLEMENTATION: This Special Order will be distributed electronically to all Department members. Shift/Unit supervisors will be responsible for the posting and referencing of this Special Order.

By order of,

James W. Johnson
Chief of Police