

# WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## III-26 PURSUIT TERMINATION DEVICES

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2005

CALEA Standards: N/A

CFA Standards: N/A

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**I. POLICY:** The West Palm Beach Police Department will deploy and use a pursuit termination device (PTD) whenever and wherever possible to safely end, or in certain tactical situations to prevent, vehicle pursuits while placing paramount importance on the safety of the public, officers, and the suspects. Only those officers who are trained in the operation and deployment of the devices will be permitted to deploy them. Officers are encouraged to develop innovative methods for the use of these devices consistent with our obligation to care for the safety of the public.

### **II. DEPLOYMENT:**

A. Officers responding to deploy PTD's will abide by the Vehicle Pursuit Policy (SOP III-25) and Use of Authorized Emergency Equipment Policy (SOP III-23).

B. The response between all involved units, including those actively engaged in the pursuit and those attempting to deploy PTD's, will be in a coordinated manner, with command and control exercised by the field supervisor or other supervisor as appropriate.

C. Units equipped with PTD's are authorized to respond Code 3 to potential deployment locations, subject to the authorization of the supervisor controlling the operation.

D. PTD's will be deployed only where specific authorization has been given by a supervisor.

### **III. PROCEDURE:**

A. Pursuing units will give frequent location, direction, and speed updates.

B. Deploying personnel will select deployment locations which offer good visibility of the approaching pursuit and other traffic in the area.

C. Recognizing that suspects may drive erratically to avoid driving over a PTD, deploying personnel will take into consideration traffic flow in the immediate area, upcoming intersections, high use driveways, school zones, pedestrian traffic, etc.

D. Where possible, the patrol vehicle(s) of the deploying personnel should be placed in locations not readily visible to the suspect driver.

E. Deploying personnel will notify pursuing units of placement of the PTD.

1. Dispatch Operations will notify outside agencies involved in the pursuit.

F. Deploying personnel will seek protective cover that provides good visibility of the surrounding area and the approach of the suspect vehicle. Use of the patrol vehicle does not provide adequate protection and such use is discouraged.

1. Personnel deploying this device will never wrap any cords or cables around any part of their body at any time while the device deployed.

G. Unless the use of lethal force is justified, **SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

H. Except in exigent circumstances, PTD's should not be used on the following vehicles or under these circumstances:

**SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

**IV. OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUEST FOR DEPLOYMENT:**

- A. Upon request of an outside agency and with approval from the Shift Commander, officers may deploy the PTD in an attempt to terminate the pursuit in this jurisdiction.
- B. The approval to deploy the PTD does not imply an authorization for Department units to become actively involved in the pursuit, unless specifically directed by the supervisor taking charge of the operation.

**V. POST DEPLOYMENT INSPECTION:**

- A. At the conclusion of a pursuit operation where any vehicle has driven over a PTD, deploying personnel will inspect the device to ascertain if it was struck.
  - 1. If the device has been struck the equipment should be inspected for functionality and if it is no longer fully functional it must be replaced.
  - 2. If the device was not struck it shall be returned to service.

**VI. REPORTING:**

- A. The use of a PTD will be indicated in the Vehicle Pursuit Review. The following information will be included as appropriate:
  - 1. The names of all officers who placed the device, whether or not their devices were traversed by the suspect vehicle.
  - 2. Location of deployment (include direction of travel, lanes covered, nearest intersection etc.).
  - 3. Injuries or fatalities (suspects, civilians, and/or officers).
  - 4. Civilian or police vehicles that were "spiked".
- B. Involved personnel will be contacted as appropriate for PTD deployment debriefing.
- C. The original Vehicle Pursuit Review will be forwarded to the Training Unit Sergeant, Staff Services Division.
- D. A copy of the Vehicle Pursuit Review along with any completed pursuit reporting form as required by the PTD manufacture to meet warranty or replacement requirements (Appendix B), will be forwarded to the Quartermaster.
  - 1. The Quartermaster will mail or fax any completed manufacturers pursuit form along with the Vehicle Pursuit Review to meet manufacturer warranty requirements.
    - a. It is the responsibility of the Quartermaster to insure that the damaged device is covered under warranty prior to completing the above task.

**VII. TIRE REPLACEMENT:**

- A. When vehicle tires belonging to uninvolved civilians are deflated by a PTD, either accidentally or intentionally, the Department will assist in obtaining replacement of the damaged tires.
  - 1. The supervisor on-scene or a designee will notify Risk Management at any time of day (Appendix A).
  - 2. The supervisor or a designee in conjunction with Risk Management personnel will make arrangements to have the vehicle towed by the City's contract towing service to the local tire replacement business of the owner's choice. This should be done as expeditiously as possible, preferably within one hour of the incident.
    - a. City employees will not endorse any tow company or tire replacement business.

3. In the event all tire replacement facilities are closed, the supervisor or a designee in conjunction with Risk Management Personnel will take the following action(s) deemed as most appropriate:

- a. transport the motorists to their local residence or destination;
- b. offer to have them stay at headquarters while waiting for family or friends to pick them up; and/or
- c. provide a hotel room.

**VIII. TRAINING:**

- A. Officers will view any training videos supplied by the manufacturer of the PTD device.
- B. Officers will receive practical demonstrations in the deployment and use of the device.
  - 1. Members will be trained in the dynamic deployment and static placement of the device.

**IX. EQUIPMENT ISSUES:**

- A. Officers will inspect each device monthly to ensure the following:
  - 1. Each device is in serviceable condition and all accessories are with the device.
  - 2. This inspection will be documented once each month (See Appendix C)

**X. TRACKING:**

A. All police vehicles equipped with a PTD will be designated on the schedule with the symbol "PTD" to aid Dispatch Operations personnel with recognition of PTD equipped vehicles to ensure prompt dispatch.

**XI. USE BY SPECIALIZED DIVISIONS:**

- A. Members assigned to specialized units or plain clothes assignments are not precluded from using these devices with current S.O.P.
  - 1. A Supervisor will be made aware when members are carrying out any proactive field operation where there is a belief PTD's may be deployed. A Supervisor will be informed of any PTD deployment, before or immediately following deployment, as practical

**XII. REFERENCES:**

- SOP # III-13 Use of Force.
- SOP # III-23 Use of Authorized Emergency Equipment.
- SOP # III-25 Vehicle Pursuits.
- SOP # III-27 Police Escorts, Roadblocks, and Traffic Related Checkpoints.

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**Delsa R. Bush, Chief of Police**

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Revised: 01/01/2005  
I.D. # 1160

History: SOP # changed to III-26 on 01/01/2005  
Old SOP #: 22.08  
Revision Dates: 3/01/99, 01/01/2005

Job Title Task Files: Supervisor

**APPENDIX A**

**Contact numbers for Risk Management personnel are as follows:**

**During business hours:**

Risk Manager - 561-835-8028

Safety Officer - 561-835-8027

**During non-business hours to include nights, weekends, holidays:**

Risk Manager - Pager - 561-874-6789

Home- 561-333-9006

Safety Officer - Pager- 561-854-7729

561-798-1377

APPENDIX B

Stop Stick, Ltd.

365 Industrial Drive, Harrison, OH 45030
Phone 1-800-537-0102 Fax 513-202-0240

www.stopstick.com
stopstick@stopstick.com

Pursuit Reporting Form

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Offense: \_\_\_\_\_

1.) Originating Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

2.) Assisting Agencies: \_\_\_\_\_

3.) Time Chase Time Chase Which device was used?
Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Ended: \_\_\_\_\_ STOP STICK: [ ] Terminator [ ] Piranha [ ] Barracuda

4.) Initial Reason for Pursuit: [ ] Traffic [ ] Drunk Driving [ ] Warrant [ ] Felony Vehicle

5.) Additional Charges: \_\_\_\_\_

6.) Miles Covered during chase: \_\_\_\_\_ MPH When STOP STICKS were hit: \_\_\_\_\_

7.) Weather Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

8.) Road Surface: [ ] Asphalt [ ] Concrete [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9.) Number of tires flattened: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Rt. Front [ ] Lt. Front [ ] Rt. Rear [ ] Lt. Rear

10.) What make & model was target vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_

11.) Were STOP STICKS deployed: [ ] Singularly [ ] Locked Together [ ] Sleeved

12.) Is the pursuit on Video? Y / N if yes, may we obtain a copy? Y / N Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

13.) Property damage: \_\_\_\_\_

14.) Personal injury: \_\_\_\_\_

15.) IMPORTANT - AFFIX SERIAL NUMBER STICKER(S) OF DAMAGED STOP STICK(S):

16.) Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Deploying Officer & Agency (please print)

Date

Reporting Officer & Agency

Date

APPENDIX C

STOP STICK Unit Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, the named Officer indicates that the Pursuit Termination Device(s) have been checked and are in serviceable condition.

MONTH	NAME / ID / DATE
JANUARY	
FEBRUARY	
MARCH	
APRIL	
MAY	
JUNE	
JULY	
AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	