

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1350 Norris Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308
661.391.7500 - www.kernsheriff.org

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



Issue: 25-57

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: September 26, 2025

Policy Update – KCSOPPM E-0200: Vehicle Policies – Pursuits

On September 04, 2025, a review of KCSOPPM E-0200 – Vehicle Policies: Pursuits, was completed and additions were made, which are outlined below:

PROCEDURE E: TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE

When properly utilized, tire deflation devices can facilitate the safe resolution of police pursuits under controlled conditions. A tire deflation device causes the controlled release of air from the tires of the target vehicle, thus permitting the driver to remain in control while bringing the vehicle to a stop. Only deputies who have received the department-approved training in the deployment of tire deflation devices are authorized to deploy them under this policy. Training will be provided by a designated instructor and/or group of instructors. Biennial (every two years) refresher training shall also be conducted.

Use of Tire Deflation Device:

Deputies may elect to deploy the tire deflation device to terminate a pursuit. If a tire deflation device is deployed, the following procedures shall be followed:

- Supervisor Notification
 - o Deputies shall get approval before deploying a tire deflation device, unless exigent circumstances exist.
- Deploying deputy must:
 - o Determine a suitable location estimated to be in the path of the target vehicle.
 - Choose a location with some concealing barrier: buildings, natural barrier, or other type of fixed, stationary object. These barriers will be used to conceal the deploying deputy from the target's view and allow deployment of the device from a position of safety.
 - o Notify the sergeant and dispatch of the exact location where the device(s) will be deployed.
 - o Whenever practical, use a patrol vehicle to block the opposite lane of travel to protect the public from injury. All emergency lighting equipment shall be activated.
 - o Once the target vehicle has successfully driven over or by the tire deflation device, retract the device from the roadway immediately

to avoid causing any unnecessary damage to the pursuing vehicle(s).

- Inform the sergeant and dispatch of the outcome of the deployment (successful or not successful).

Pursuing deputies approaching a known deployment location will lower their speed as necessary to avoid driving over the tire deflation device.

Restrictions:

- Deputies shall not deploy a tire deflation device when the suspect has demonstrated a clear intent to injure deputies using the fleeing vehicle or other deadly weapon, unless effective cover is available at the deployment location.
- Tire deflation devices will not be used to stop motorcycles, mopeds, or other similar vehicles, unless deadly force is justified.
- Tire deflation devices should not be deployed to stop the following vehicles unless the continued movement of the pursued vehicle will result in an unusual hazard to others:
 - o Any vehicle transporting hazardous material as defined in California Vehicle Code 2402.7
 - o Any passenger bus transporting passengers
 - o Any school bus transporting passengers
 - o Any vehicle that would pose an unusual hazard to innocent parties

Reporting:

- The deployment of a tire deflation device shall be clearly described in the deploying deputy's report and supervisor's memorandum.
- A designee from the Watch Lieutenant Section shall submit a "Stop Stick Deployment Report" via the Stop Stick website (<https://stopstick.com/deployment-report/>) for warranty and/or replacement procedures.

Review of the use of a tire deflation device shall be included as part of the pursuit review process.

By acknowledging this training bulletin, you are indicating that you have reviewed this training bulletin and referenced policy, which can be accessed via the following link:

[**E 0200 - Vehicle Policies - Pursuits.docx**](#)

All personnel of Deputy Sheriff ranks (including Reserves) are required to review and acknowledge this training bulletin **no later than October 24, 2025.**