

BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 9.08.00
SUBJECT: SPIKE STRIP DEVICE, USE OF
EFFECTIVE: DECEMBER 20, 2004
REVIEW: DECEMBER 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

1. PURPOSE. Spike strips are a tire deflation device used to terminate or reduce the speed of a vehicle pursuit. The spike strip device is a triangular stick, usually three feet in length containing hollow spikes that get embedded in the tires of the pursued vehicle after it passes over the device. The embedded spikes cause a controlled deflation of the tires, which allows the spike strip driver to maintain control of the vehicle at a reduced speed. The “Stop Stick” is the only spike strip authorized for use by members of the Beaverton Police Department.

2. DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES. The deployment of a spike strip device on a moving vehicle during the course of a pursuit is considered a use of force and shall be used in accordance with the department’s use of force policy. A spike strip device will be deployed only with the approval of a sergeant or higher-ranking officer. The sergeant or higher-ranking officer must give consideration to all available information and authorize the use of the spike strip device only when in his/her opinion the use of the spike strip device is necessary to bring a pursuit to an end.

A. No officer, reserve or other department employee shall deploy a spike strip device unless the following criteria are met.

- 1) The officer has received the designated training for deployment of the spike strip device established by the training unit of the department.
- 2) A sergeant or higher-ranking officer has authorized the deployment of the spike strip device. Exceptions from a sergeant or higher-ranking officer’s approval are justified when in the totality of the situation or the circumstances surrounding the pursuit presents additional risks that clearly outweigh prior approval of the deployment of a spike strip device.

- 3) The officer deploying the spike strip device must advise pursuing vehicles, by radio, that a spike strip device will be used, where the spike strip device will be used, and any officer-controlled lane restrictions established.
- B. With prior authorization, a spike strip device may be deployed in stationary vehicle situations for the following purposes:
- 1) To prevent a vehicle(s) from being moved by a suspect attempting to flee a scene.
 - 2) To prevent movement of a vehicle that is, or possibly will be evidence.
- C. When and where spike stripes should not be deployed.
- 1) To terminate pursuits involving motorcycles, other two wheel vehicles, or any vehicle transporting flammable or hazardous materials
 - 2) Roadways bounded by steep descending embankments.
 - 3) Areas of special events or activities.
 - 4) Curves or locations where the safety of oncoming traffic cannot be ensured (blind hills and curves).
 - 5) Construction zones as defined in ORS 811.230 (highway work zones).
- D. Requests by outside agencies for the use or deployment will be at the discretion of the supervisor.
3. **DEPLOYMENT PROCESS.** The spike strip device will be maintained inside the nylon sleeve and secured within the trunk as designed.
- A. After removal from the trunk:
- 1) Stretch the spike strip device into a straight nine-foot length.
 - 2) Make sure the spike strip device is secured inside the nylon sleeve.
 - 3) Make sure reel cord is attached to the nylon sleeve.
 - 4) Position the spike strip device next to the roadway and pull the cord across the road.

- 5) The cord reel may be held in the hand and the cord must be pulled taut across the road to allow other vehicles to pass over it.
 - 6) Pull the spike strip device across the road and into the path of the suspect vehicle.
 - 7) Remove the spike strip device immediately after it has been run over to allow police vehicles to proceed.
 - a. "Stop Stick" spike strip devices are not waterproof and must be wiped dry before they are returned to their storage device rack.
 - b. The damaged portion of a spike strip device used to successfully stop a vehicle involved in a pursuit should be placed in evidence. The undamaged portion(s) of a spike strip device may be returned to service.
4. REPORTING. The deployment of the spike strip device must be documented on the spike strip usage report by the deploying officers, and the report sent to the training division.
5. REPLACEMENT. All damaged spike strip devices not placed in evidence should be turned into a supervisor for replacement.
6. OFFICER SAFETY CONSIDERATION. Officers must use discretion in the proper positioning of the police vehicle to ensure their safety.
- A. Whenever possible, officers should place their police vehicles out of sight of the approaching suspect vehicle in order to reduce the chance of spike strip device avoidance by the suspect vehicle.
 - B. The positioning of the police vehicle(s) must allow for a lane of traffic to remain open, across which the spike strip device may be deployed.
 - C. An officer shall remain outside his/her police vehicle when deploying a spike strip device.
 - D. After preparing the spike strip device for deployment, the officer must take a safe cover position away from the point of contact between the suspect vehicle and the spike strip device. Remember, officer safety is a priority.
 - E. The officer should use the cord reel to get a safe distance away from the spike strip device, and when possible the cover position should be behind a fixed object and something other than just the police vehicle.

Chief of Police

Date