

10.12 TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

The Everett Police Department has two types of tire deflation devices available during the course of normal operations. These devices are known by their commercial names: "Stop Stick" and "Piranha". They are deployed in different situations and officers using them should follow established procedures and only after they are properly trained.

Use of Stop Sticks:

The "Stop Stick" is deployed in a sleeve attached to a cord reel. It is primarily used as a tool to end police pursuits, by officers that toss it across the roadway and pull it in front of fleeing vehicles.

A supervisor not actively involved in the pursuit must authorize the use of the "Stop Stick". They will not be used when it has been determined by a supervisor that such use would create a greater safety concern than that of the pursuit.

Use of Piranha:

The "Piranha" is a small, lightweight, tire deflation device that measures less than four inches in length. It is used solely on stationary target vehicles before pursuits can begin. It is not to be thrown under moving vehicles. Officers should obtain supervisory approval before deploying the "Piranha", when possible. If the risk of placing the device underneath the tires of a target vehicle is too high, officers should not use it. The Piranha should only be used for legitimate law enforcement functions where the flattening of the suspect's tires would be reasonable under the circumstances.

*Added to Policy Manual
9/11/09*