



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 665 – TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2025-03  
**ISSUED:** January 22, 2025

**EFFECTIVE:** January 22, 2025

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**  
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow  
**DATE:** December 18, 2024

**ACTION:** Amends General Order 2022-43 (October 7, 2022)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** 6.2.11

#### ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current policy.  
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

### 665.10 ASSIGNMENT OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES & MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES (WILEAG 6.2.11)

#### A. COMMANDING OFFICERS

2. The Training Division commanding officer is responsible for ensuring that suitable instructors are trained in the use of the city-issued tire deflation device. The Training Division commanding officer is responsible for approving the applicable lesson plan and any changes to the lesson plan.
  - a. The Special Investigations Division commanding officer shall ensure they submit the applicable lesson plan and any changes to the lesson plan for the Piranha Stop Stick tire deflation devices to the commanding officer of the Training Division for approval.
  - b. The Special Investigations Division and Specialized Patrol Division commanding officer shall ensure they submit the applicable lesson plan and any changes to the lesson plan for Magnum Spike tire deflation devices to the commanding officer of the Training Division for approval.  
(WILEAG 6.2.11.4)
  
3. The Training Division commanding officer is responsible for the storage, issuance, inventory, documentation, and replacement of city-issued StopTech, Ltd, Stop Stick® brand tire deflation devices.
  - a. The Special Investigations Division commanding officer is responsible for the storage, issuance, inventory, documentation, and replacement of city-issued Piranha Stop Stick tire deflation devices.
  - b. The Special Investigations Division and Specialized Patrol Division commanding officers are responsible for the storage, issuance, inventory, documentation, and replacement of city-issued Magnum Spike tire deflation device tire deflation devices.

**665.15 DEPLOYMENT OF THE TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE (WILEAG 6.2.11)**

- A. Tire deflation devices may be utilized only after supervisory approval and only by members who have successfully completed training by the Training Division or a certified LESB trainer in department policy (if applicable) in the use of the tire deflation device.
  
- 2. Members who have been trained in the use of the Piranha Stop Stick may only deploy the Piranha Stop Stick as trained. Only members that are assigned to the Special Investigations Division and HIDTA may utilize the Piranha Stop Stick in plain clothes or unmarked vehicles with supervisory approval.  
(WILEAG 6.2.11.2 and 6.2.11.4)

**N. ADDITIONAL PIRANHA STOP STICK REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Tactical Considerations**

- a. The member shall consider the likelihood that the person approaching the target vehicle will see the Piranha Stop Stick and how the person might react.
- b. If detection of the Piranha Stop Stick is a concern, then placement should be on the [REDACTED] of the vehicle.
- c. Multiple Piranha Stop Sticks may be used in situations where the vehicle could be moved either backward or forward.
- d. After deploying the Piranha Stop Stick, the member shall position themselves in a safe location away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and deployed Piranha Stop Stick.

**2. Deployment Guidelines**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- e. Members shall only deploy Piranha Stop Sticks when they have a safe location to observe the target vehicle and consider that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Piranha Stop Sticks.

**665.20 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS (WILEAG 6.2.11)**

It is imperative that all members involved are aware of the exact location of deployed devices, so they can slow down in time to allow the removal of the device after the suspect vehicle crosses it. Members deploying the tire deflation device must communicate the deployment to the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) dispatcher to ensure all units know the location of the deployed tire deflation device.

(WILEAG 6.2.11.2)

**665.25 REPORTING OF TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE USE**

- B. If requested by the work location's bureau commanding officer, the shift commander will forward a copy of the incident report and the *Stop Stick Deployment Report* (if a Stop Stick deployment) through the chain of command to the commanding officer of the requesting bureau ~~Patrol Bureau with a copy to the commanding officer of the Administration Bureau and the Criminal Investigation Bureau~~. An additional copy of each report should be retained for the Training Division as it will be required for device replacement (see SOP 665.40).

**665.35 ANOTHER AGENCY'S REQUEST FOR TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE USE (WILEAG 6.2.11)**

Generally, tire deflation devices may be used to assist another agency, either inside or outside the city of Milwaukee jurisdiction; however, the following conditions must be met:

2. The ~~Technical Communications Division~~ must DEC will notify any other agency involved with a pursuit that tire deflation devices are in use.  
(WILEAG 6.2.11.1)

**665.40 REPLACEMENT OF A TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE**

- A. The Training Division will be the central repository for the StopTech, Ltd, Stop Stick® tire deflation device and will maintain a supply of replacement devices.

1. The Special Investigations Division will be the central repository for the Piranha Stop Stick tire deflation device and will maintain a supply of replacement devices.
2. The Special Investigations Division and Specialized Patrol Division will be the repositories for the Magnum Spike tire deflation device and will maintain a supply of replacement devices.

B. REPLACEMENT AFTER USE

3. Prior to receiving a replacement device for a Magnum Spike tire deflation device, the member requesting a new device must provide the ~~Training Division~~ Special Investigation Division or Specialized Patrol Division with the used tire deflation device and a copy of the incident report.

4. Prior to receiving a replacement device for a Piranha Stop Stick, the member requesting a new device must provide the Special Investigations Division with the used tire deflation device, a copy of the incident report and a copy of the *Stop Stick Deployment Report*.

### C. REPLACEMENT AFTER LOSS OR DAMAGE

1. In the event of a lost or damaged StopTech, Ltd, Stop Stick® tire deflation device, the member should bring the device to the Training Division for evaluation and replacement, if required. The member reporting the damage or loss must either file the incident report or have a copy of the incident report detailing the circumstances of the loss or damage.

**Note: Each stick has its own unique serial number for tracking purposes. The serial number sticker is attached to each stick enclosed in the sleeve and the number must be reported on the *Stop Stick Deployment Report* for StopTech, Ltd, Stop Stick® replacements.**

2. In the event of a lost or damaged Piranha Stop Stick tire deflation device, the member should bring the device to the Special Investigations Division for evaluation and replacement, if required. The member reporting the damage or loss must either file the incident report or have a copy of the incident report detailing the circumstances of the loss or damage.

**Note: Each stick has its own unique serial number for tracking purposes. The serial number sticker is attached to each stick enclosed in the sleeve and the number must be reported on the *Stop Stick Deployment Report* for Piranha Stop Stick replacements.**

3. In the event of a lost or damaged Magnum Spike tire deflation device, the member should bring the device to the Special Investigations Division or Specialized Patrol Division for evaluation and replacement, if required. The member reporting the damage or loss must either file the incident report or have a copy of the incident report detailing the circumstances of the loss or damage.



JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE