

EAST RANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Use of Stop Sticks

POLICY
301

REV 03/10/2025

I. POLICY

It is the policy of East Range Police Department to protect lives while enforcing the law and to guide its officers in the safe and reasonable performance of their duties. To accomplish these goals, the following policy is provided to control and regulate the use of Stop Sticks to safely and effectively end a vehicle pursuit.

II. DEFINITION

Stop Sticks: A hollow spike tire deflation device which is deployed as a non-contact intervention tactic. Stop Sticks are designed to provide a means to penetrate and deflate the tires of a moving vehicle in a manner that will avoid catastrophic failure of the penetrated tire thus ensuring the safest possible means of reducing the mobility of a vehicle.

III. PROCEDURE

Stop Sticks may be used to assist in de-escalating the pursuit as well as terminating the pursuit. Officers may use the device to assist in ending a pursuit that is creating unnecessary risks to the motoring public or to stop a dangerous felon. Care should be given in determining when and where to place these devices.

Officers may not use the device unless they have been trained in its use. Training shall address the following issues:

1. Department policy regarding pursuits; and
2. Policy and use of the device.

The Stop Sticks must be carried in the Officer's squad. Issues to be considered when deploying the device are:

1. Road conditions (before/after the deployment site).
2. Traffic conditions.
3. The ability to communicate with other agencies.
4. Whether continued pursuit could present harm to the public.
5. The Officer's ability to obtain protective shelter from the violator.

1. The officer with the Stop Sticks should not attempt to overtake and pass a suspect in order to deploy the Stop Sticks.
2. The Stop Sticks shall not be used in locations where geographic configurations increase the risk of injury to the suspect, e.g. on roadways with curves or at locations where the safety of proceeding opposing traffic cannot be assured. Deployment locations should have adequate sight vision in all directions to enable the officers deploying the device to observe and react to the pursuit and other traffic.
3. The officer deploying the Stop Sticks should place the police vehicle at a location favorable to the proper operation of the device so the patrol car can be utilized as protection from the fleeing vehicle. Whenever possible, an immovable physical object should be sought as protective cover for the deploying officer.
4. Officers must make every effort to avoid collateral damage to citizen's property that result from the target vehicles impact with the Stop Sticks.
5. When possible, the device should be placed on the opposite side of the appropriate roadway, with the pull rope across the roadway.
6. All agencies involved in the pursuit shall be advised via radio that the device is in place. Officers should increase their following distance behind the suspect vehicle to a point where they can safely avoid striking the device.
7. As the vehicle approaches, the Stop Sticks should be pulled onto the roadway directly into the vehicles path. The Stop Sticks may be tossed into the vehicles path if time does not permit placement and use of the pull rope. Officers are not to hold onto or step on the pull rope at any time. Officers should be holding the pull rope reel in a low position to the ground so that they can pull the device out of the path of approaching squad cars.
8. the device shall be removed from the roadway immediately after the suspect vehicle passes the site.
9. After utilizing Stop Sticks, the officer must submit a report.

After use, the device should be examined for damage (if no contact was made) or turned into the Chief of Police (if contact was made).

Stop Sticks shall not be used to stop the following types of vehicles unless continued movement of the fleeing vehicle would result in an unusual hazard to others.

1. Any vehicle transporting hazardous material.
2. Any passenger bus or van transporting passengers
3. Any vehicle that would pose an unusual hazard to innocent persons.

Under no circumstances will the device be used to disable motorcycles.

IV. ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES:

Stop Sticks may be used to assist another agency, either inside or outside our jurisdiction if requested or approved by the pursuing agency.

V. REFERENCES AND REVISIONS

a. REFERENCES

- i. X

b. REVISIONS

- i. Initial policy
- ii. 03/10/2025 – ERPSB Approval Date