



S.A.F.E. Bulletin

INTEGRITY ♦ SERVICE ♦ PROFESSIONALISM ♦ VIGILANCE

The purpose of the S.A.F.E. Bulletin is to promote and support best practices and exceptional law enforcement services free from prejudice or favor, with leadership, integrity, and respect.

Policy 321: Tire Deflation Device

After a recent audit of the effectiveness and risk associated with tire deflation devices, the Department will no longer authorize their use in Patrol Operations.

Tire deflation devices (spike strips) have been in use since 1996. Since then, 26 officers across the nation have been struck and killed while deploying these devices. Most recent, in 2011 a total of 5 officers were killed with one of the incidents involving a suspect that admitted to intentionally running over the officer. The use of tire deflation devices places officers at risk of being struck by both suspect vehicles AND pursuing officer vehicles.

Effective immediately, Patrol Operations will no longer use tire deflation devices (spike strips), as described in OCSD Policy 321. If you are in possession of any previously authorized tire deflation device, please turn it in to the North Patrol armory.

SWAT will continue to be authorized to use tire deflation devices as part of their operations.

Policy 321 – Tire Deflation Devices will be amended to reflect this change.