



# GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>MARCH 1, 2002</b>	REVISED DATE:	NO. PAGES: 1 of 2	NUMBER: 3.2.03
SUBJECT: <b>ROAD SPIKES</b>			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS: <b>3.2.02</b>	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <i>Edward F. Lohn, Chief</i>			

**PURPOSE:** To state guidelines for the use of road spikes in pursuit interventions.

**POLICY:** The Cleveland Division of Police shall safely use road spikes whenever possible to end or slow a pursuit. Officers shall not operate road spikes without first completing training from the Police Academy. District Commanders shall be responsible for the issuance of Road spikes to units within their district.

**DEFINITION:** **Road spikes** are a rapidly deployable device. They consist of a roll of black connected pads that unroll to form, what appears to be, a small speed bump. The spikes are contained within the pads and are remotely deployed or retracted by the operator. When the spikes are retracted the speed bump may be safely crossed by traffic. Operators of the road spikes shall deploy the spikes just prior to the suspect vehicle crossing them. Operators shall retract them immediately afterward, allowing pursuing vehicles to continue without interruption.

**PROCEDURES:**

- I. Use of road spikes: The sector supervisor controlling a pursuit shall make the decision to use road spikes. Due to the quickly escalating circumstances of a pursuit, and the benefit of quickly ending a pursuit, officers may use road spikes before a supervisor’s approval if they can do so safely. When officers deploy road spikes before a supervisor’s approval, the deploying officer shall immediately notify a supervisor of the deployment and location. The Aviation Unit shall assist in effective road spikes placement.
  - A. Road spikes operators must broadcast the exact location of deployed road spikes so pursuing units can slow down and allow the operators to retract the spikes after the suspect’s vehicle has crossed them.
  - B. Road spikes may be used only on vehicles with four or more wheels and shall never be used on motorcycles.

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- II.** Missing spikes: Officers shall immediately transport road spikes that have missing spikes to the district or unit. Officers that use road spikes shall conduct spike replacement on the road spike device. Extra spikes and related equipment are contained in the equipment pouch on the side of the road spikes carrying case.
  
- III.** Unintentional road spikes damage: If the road spikes cause unintentional damage to tires on a civilian vehicle, officers shall complete a Damage to Property Record Management System (RMS) report.
  - A.** Officers shall provide the victim with the RMS report number and advise them to the Moral Claims Commission at City Hall for reimbursement. A sector supervisor shall assign a Special Response (SR) car to stay with the victim until the vehicle is operable or towed from the scene.
  
  - B.** Emergency road service or towing shall not be a “police tow” function. If the victim desires assistance, officers shall notify CCS to arrange for private road service or towing. When the vehicle is towed from the scene and the victim does not go with the tow truck, the SR car officer shall transport the victim to the victim’s original destination, if within the district boundaries. Officers shall transport the victim to district headquarters if their destination is outside the district boundaries.
  
  - C.** If road spikes use causes damage to tires on any police vehicle, officers shall complete a Damage to City Property, RMS report for each vehicle damaged.