

Traffic

500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for improving public safety through education and enforcement of traffic-related laws.

500.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office to educate the public on traffic-related issues and to enforce traffic laws. The efforts of the Office will be driven by such factors as the location and/or number of traffic accidents based on citizen complaints, traffic volume, traffic conditions and other traffic-related needs. The ultimate goal of traffic law enforcement and education is to increase public safety.

500.3 DEPLOYMENT

Enforcement efforts may include such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of office members and equipment, the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving, and a variety of educational activities. These activities should incorporate methods that are suitable to the situation, timed to events, seasons, past traffic problems or locations and, whenever practicable, preceded by enforcement activities.

Several factors will be considered in the development of deployment schedules for office members. State and local data on traffic accidents are a valuable resource. Factors for analysis include, but are not limited to the following:

- Location
- Time
- Day
- Violation factors
- Requests from the public
- Construction zones
- School zones
- Special events

Office members assigned to uniformed patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize the enforcement of violations that contribute to traffic accidents, and consider the hours and locations where traffic accidents tend to occur. Members will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate, against violators. Members shall maintain high visibility while working general enforcement, especially in areas where traffic accidents frequently occur.

[Talbot County Sheriff's Office Procedures Manual: 500.4 Procedures](#)

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Talbot County Sheriff's Office Procedures Manual: 500.3 Definitions

500.4 ENFORCEMENT

Traffic enforcement will be consistent with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This office does not establish ticket quotas. The number of arrests or citations issued by any member shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating member overall performance.

Several methods are effective in the reduction of traffic accidents, including but not limited to:

500.4.1 WARNINGS

Warnings are a non-punitive option that may be considered by the member when circumstances warrant, for example when a minor violation was inadvertent.

500.4.2 CITATIONS

Citations should be issued when a member believes it is appropriate. When issuing a citation for a traffic violation, it is essential that the rights and requirements imposed on motorists be fully explained. At a minimum, motorists should be provided with (Md. Code TR § 26-201):

- (a) A copy of the traffic citation.
- (b) An explanation of the violation or charge.
- (c) The court appearance procedure, including the optional or mandatory appearance by the motorist.
- (d) Notice that:
 1. The motorist can enter a plea and pay the fine by mail or at the court.
 2. Acknowledgement of receipt of the citation is not an admission of guilt.
 3. Failure to acknowledge receipt of the citation may subject the motorist to arrest.

500.4.3 PHYSICAL ARREST

Physical arrest can be made for a number of criminal traffic offenses. These cases usually deal with, but are not limited to (Md. Code TR § 26-202):

- (a) A violation relating to vehicles transporting hazardous materials (Md. Code TR § 21-1411; Md. Code TR § 22-409).
- (b) A violation relating to the failure or refusal to submit a vehicle to a weighing or to remove excess weight from the vehicle (Md. Code TR § 24-111; Md. Code TR § 24-111.1).
- (c) The person does not furnish satisfactory evidence of identity.
- (d) The person refuses to acknowledge receipt of a traffic citation by signature (Md. Code TR § 26-203).

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- (e) The deputy has reasonable grounds to believe that the person will disregard the traffic citation.
- (f) A violation for any of the following offenses:
 1. Driving or attempting to drive while under the influence of alcohol, while impaired by alcohol or in violation of an alcohol restriction.
 2. Driving or attempting to drive while impaired by any drug, any combination of drugs, or any combination of one or more drugs and alcohol, or while impaired by any controlled dangerous substance.
 3. Failure to stop, give information or render reasonable assistance as required by state law in the event of an accident resulting in bodily injury to or death of any person (Md. Code TR § 20-102; Md. Code TR § 20-104).
 4. Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle without a driver's license unless exempt or otherwise authorized (Md. Code TR § 16-101).
 5. Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while the driver's license or privilege to drive is suspended or revoked.
 6. Failure to stop or give information, as required by state law, in the event of an accident resulting in damage to a vehicle or other property (Md. Code TR § 20-103; Md. Code TR § 20-104; Md. Code TR § 20-105).
 7. Any offense that caused or contributed to an accident resulting in bodily injury to or death of any person.
 8. Fleeing or attempting to elude a deputy.
 9. Falsifying, manufacturing, possessing or sale of any official document issued by the Maryland Department of Transportation (Md. Code TR § 14-110(b); Md. Code TR § 14-110(c); Md. Code TR § 14-110(d); Md. Code TR § 14-110(e)).
 10. Racing a vehicle that results in serious bodily injury to another person (Md. Code TR § 21-1116(a)).
- (g) A person is a nonresident and the deputy has probable cause to believe that the person committed a violation that contributed to an accident.

500.5 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS

The Office has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to increase the visibility of office members, who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery and equipment (23 CFR 655.601).

500.5.1 REQUIRED USE

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn when increased visibility would improve the safety of the

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office member or when the member will be exposed to the hazards of passing traffic, maneuvering or operating vehicles, machinery and equipment.

Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, traffic accident investigations, lane closures and disaster scenes.

When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, members should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit.

Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

500.5.2 CARE AND STORAGE

High-visibility vests shall be maintained in the trunk of each patrol and investigation vehicle.

A supply of high-visibility vests will be maintained and made available for replacement of damaged or unserviceable vests. The Quartermaster should be promptly notified whenever the supply of vests needs replenishing.

500.6 PURSUIT PREVENTION

Members of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office have been issued Stop Stick, Ltd. Patrol Terminators or Piranha in an effort to prevent pursuits before they occur. Below is an overview, deployment tactics and safety considerations when using the Terminator or Piranha:

- I. Patrol Terminator - Terminator is one of a series of law enforcement tools that have been developed by Stop Stick, Ltd., to assist law enforcement agencies in stopping and preventing vehicle pursuits.
 1. Before Deploying Terminator
 - (a) Before deciding to deploy Terminator®, many factors must be considered. The following are some important safety and tactical issues to think about.
 1. Safety Considerations
 - (a) The circumstances of each pursuit are very different, but safety is always the most important factor. Suspects can abruptly swerve, stop, or otherwise maneuver their vehicle in an unexpected manner while attempting to avoid Terminator®. Always avoid deploying Terminator® in locations or situations that limit the ability of the fleeing suspect to safely maneuver their vehicle. These situations can endanger you, other officers, the public, and the suspect.
 - (b) Do not use on standard passenger vehicles traveling at a speed in excess of 25 mph (40 Km/h). Rapid deflation will occur. Under some circumstances tire deflation can increase the possibility that a driver may lose control of the vehicle and crash, resulting in serious or fatal injuries.
 - (c) Never deploy Terminator® if you believe the location or circumstances of your pursuit make it unsafe to do so.

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- (d) Heavy or congested traffic increases the chance of an accident, resulting in injury or property damage. Whenever possible, limit or isolate traffic from the pursuit or location where Terminator® is being deployed.
 - (e) Bystanders, observers and other pedestrians in the surrounding area are especially vulnerable to injury if they are struck by a vehicle. Never deploy Terminator® with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.
 - (f) Never use Terminator® on vehicles with fewer than four wheels. Vehicles such as motorcycles and 3-wheeled ATVs are less stable and persons driving these vehicles are more likely to lose control when their tires deflate.
 - (g) Pursuits reach excessive speeds and suspects have an increased risk of losing control of the vehicle if tires are deflated while driving at above normal highway speeds.
 - (h) Fleeing suspects appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or similar impairments which may increase the risk of losing control of the vehicle.
 - (i) Consider that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Terminator®. Vehicles with one or more deflated tires may still be operated. In this event, the driver may lose control of the vehicle while attempting to operate it with one or more deflated tires, potentially endangering you, pedestrians and other motorists.
 - (j) Always move to a safe location after deploying Terminator®.
 - (k) If connected, never wrap the cord around your hand or any portion of your body.
 - (l) Never rush a deployment. Allow enough time to correctly deploy sleeved Terminator® and retreat to a safe location. Rushed deployments can be dangerous and may fail to deflate the suspect's tires.
 - (m) Always use caution when removing Terminator® from the road. Do not enter the roadway if target and pursuing vehicles have not passed. Handle carefully, Terminator® may break open exposing sharp spikes after being struck by a vehicle.
 - (n) Only deploy Terminator® when you have a safe location to observe the target vehicle.
2. Tactical Considerations
- (a) Terminator® may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.

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- (b) Regardless of the method of deployment, consider deploying Terminator® so that a suspect has limited ability to avoid striking the device.
 - (c) If deploying near an intersection, deploy Terminator® just before entering the intersection on the road the target vehicle is traveling. Deploy before reaching any driveways or parking lots near the intersection. Deploying just after an intersection, driveway or parking lot allows the target vehicle to turn and avoid Terminator®.
 - (d) Only deploy Terminator® after you have identified a safe location to observe the pursuit.
 - (e) Always move to a safe location after deploying Terminator®.
2. Deploying Terminator
- (a) After Deploying Terminator
 - (a) If Terminator® was struck by any vehicle:
 - (a) Refer to reload instructions included with each Terminator®.
 - (b) Contact Stop Stick, Ltd. at 513-202-5500 to order a Terminator® Hit Kit if no replacement cartridges are available.
 - (c) Repairs and replacement will only be handled by a certified Stop Stick, Ltd. instructor or the Quartermaster.
 - (b) If Terminator® was not struck by any vehicle:
 - (a) Inspect Terminator® for damage.
 - (b) Return Terminator® to your selected storage area for the next deployment situation.
 - (b) There are two (2) suggested methods to deploy Terminator®:
 - 1. Stationary Placement - When a target vehicle is stationary, place Terminator® at any of the following locations:
 - (a) Place between the front and rear tires of the stationary target vehicle.
 - (b) Place ahead of front tire or behind rear tire.
 - 2. Tactical Tossing – The Tactical Tossing method is used when the target vehicle cannot be safely approached.
 - (a) Attach cord reel to loop connector on Terminator®.
 - (b) Unlock cord reel.
 - (c) Toss Terminator® into position between front and rear tires.
 - (d) Lock cord reel.

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- (e) If Terminator® has been thrown past the vehicle tire, pull the Terminator® into the correct position.
 - (f) If Terminator® lands short of target vehicle, retrieve and redeploy it.
 - (g) DO NOT use the cord reel to "reel-in" Terminator®. This action could cause the line to bind inside the cord reel, which could prevent the line from being properly dispensed.
 - (h) Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Terminator®.
- (c) Provide fellow officers with ample warning to avoid striking the device.
3. Care and Maintenance
- (a) With reasonable care, your Terminator® will be ready to aid you in prevention or terminating a pursuit that creates a hazard to you and the public.
 - (b) Keep Terminator® separate from other equipment to prevent inadvertent contact that could damage Terminator® or other equipment.
 - (c) Store Terminator® in a location that is easily accessible for rapid deployment.

II. Piranha

1. Overview

- (a) Piranha® is a "pursuit prevention" device for use on a stationary target vehicle. If the target vehicle is moved and the tire rides over Piranha®, it will result in tire deflation quickly, generally, in approximately five seconds. Potential uses could include any situation when the target vehicle is stationary, such as warrant service, SWAT situations, stake-out of stolen vehicle, or vehicle check point areas.

2. Deployment of Piranha

- (a) Before deciding to deploy Piranha®, many factors must be considered. The following are some important safety and tactical issues to think about.
 - 1. Safety Considerations
 - (a) The circumstances of each pursuit are very different, but safety is always the most important factor.
 - (b) Bystanders, observers and other pedestrians in the surrounding area are especially vulnerable to injury if they are struck by a vehicle. Never deploy Piranha with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.
 - (c) Never use Piranha on vehicles with fewer than four wheels. Vehicles such as motorcycles and 3-wheeled ATVs are less

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stable and persons driving these vehicles are more likely to lose control when their tires deflate.

- (d) Only deploy Piranha when you have a safe location to observe the target vehicle. You could be struck if suspects unexpectedly swerve, stop, or lose control of their vehicle. You must be able to safely observe the target vehicle and other traffic.
- (e) Consider that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Piranha®. Vehicles with one or more deflated tires may still be operated. In this event, the driver may lose control of the vehicle while attempting to operate it with one or more deflated tires, potentially endangering you, pedestrians and other motorists.

2. Tactical Considerations

- (a) Before deploying Piranha®, you should consider the following:
 - (a) If detection of Piranha® is a concern, then placement should be on the passenger side of the vehicle.
 - (b) Multiple Piranha® may be used in situations where the vehicle could be moved either backward or forward.
 - (c) After deploying Piranha®, position yourself in a safe location away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Piranha®.

3. Deploying Piranha

- (a) Piranha® may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.
- (b) Place Piranha® approximately 6 inches (15cm) from the target vehicle tire.
- (c) The grooved ABS plastic base must be placed face down against the road surface.
- (d) If it appears possible that the target vehicle could depart by going forward or backward, be sure to place Piranha® on each side of the target vehicles' tire(s).

4. After Deploying Piranha

- (a) If Piranha® was struck by any vehicle:
 - (a) Refer to reload instructions included with each Piranha®.
 - (b) Contact Stop Stick, Ltd. at 513 202 5500 to order a Piranha® Hit Kit if no replacement cartridges are available.

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- (c) Repairs and replacement will only be handled by a certified Stop Stick, Ltd. instructor or the Quartermaster.
 - (b) If Piranha® was not struck by any vehicle:
 - (a) Inspect Piranha® for damage.
 - (b) Return Piranha® to your selected storage area for the next deployment situation.
- 3. Care and Maintenance
 - (a) With reasonable care, your Piranha® will be ready to aid you in preventing or terminating a pursuit that creates a hazard to you and the public. Follow these simple guidelines to ensure your Piranha® is ready for use:
 - 1. Keep Piranha® separate from other equipment to prevent inadvertent contact that could damage Piranha® or other equipment.
 - 2. Store Piranha® in a location that is easily accessible for rapid deployment.