

# **Guidelines for Use of** **STOP STICK**

## **Student Lesson Plan**

**To be completed after reviewing the STOP STICK User Training Video**

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# Guidelines For Use of STOP STICK

## Student Lesson Plan

### *Student Lesson:*

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Before reading these guidelines, WATCH the STOP STICK User Training Video and READ your agency's Pursuit Policy.

### **⚠️ WARNING**

**Deployment of STOP STICKS in the Deployment Sleeve with the retractable Cord Reel attached is the sole recommended method for deployment of STOP STICKS. Any officer authorized to deploy STOP STICKS must be properly trained in this deployment method.**

**You or others can be killed or seriously injured if you don't follow safety messages.**

Your safety and the safety of others is very important. We have provided many safety messages in this lesson plan. A safety message alerts you to potential hazards and instructs you on how to avoid or reduce the hazard. Each safety message is preceded by a safety alert symbol **⚠️**. Please carefully read and follow these important messages.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

STOP STICK is one of a series of law enforcement tools offered by Stop Stick, Ltd., to assist law enforcement agencies in stopping and preventing vehicle pursuits. In the course of this lesson, you will be instructed on methods of deployment for STOP STICK.

## **II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this training, each participant should be able to:

1. Describe the basic construction of STOP STICK.
2. State, orally or in writing, the recommended surface for successful deployment of STOP STICK.
3. State, orally or in writing, the primary recommended method of deployment.

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4. State, orally or in writing, the safety and tactical considerations when deciding to deploy STOP STICK.
5. State, orally or in writing, the type of vehicles STOP STICKS should NOT be deployed against.
6. State, orally or in writing, the post use replacement/warranty process

### III. OVERVIEW and NOMENCLATURE

Each STOP STICK is 3 feet (91cm) in length and weighs 1.1 pounds (.516kg). STOP STICK is comprised of the following components and sub-assemblies:

1. 36 Teflon® coated hardened steel QUILLS; 1 7/8 inches (4.76cm) in length, assembled in three rows of 12.
2. 72 Teflon® coated steel SPIKE TIPS, 3/8 inches (.95cm) in length, inserted into each end of all QUILLS.
  - a. The TIP and QUILL assemblies are 2 5/8 inches (6.67cm) from tip to tip.
3. A collapsible polymer CORE, to orient the QUILL/SPIKE TIP assemblies.
4. The polymer CORE, is encased in a TARTAN tape glass filament FRAME, to contain the QUILL/SPIKE TIP assemblies during impact.
5. A polypropylene HOUSING, to contain the inner subassemblies and to protect the officer from injury while handling the STOP STICK.
6. Molded polymer END CAPS,
7. Accessories:
  - a. Reusable nylon SLEEVE (9ft or 12ft).
  - b. CORD REEL with 80 feet (24m) of 150 pound (68kg) test braided polyester cord.
  - c. MOUNTING TRAY, designed for trunk mounting with reflective STOP STICK sticker.
  - d. Optional: Storage Bag
8. Two WARNING LABELS appear on each STOP STICK. Be sure to READ AND FOLLOW all safety messages on-product and in this lesson! If you haven't seen these warnings before, turn to the last page of this lesson plan to read these important messages.



Complete STOP STICK Rack Kit



Complete STOP STICK Kit w Storage Bag

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### IV. DEPLOYMENT OF STOP STICK

**▲ ALWAYS follow the policies and procedures of your Agency when deploying STOP STICK.**

STOP STICK training materials are intended to supplement the formal Pursuit Policy of your agency. Stop Stick, Ltd. recommends that these “Guidelines For Use” be incorporated into your agency’s written Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). However, the training, policies, and procedures of your agency – including when and how to deploy STOP STICK – supersede any written or verbal instructions from Stop Stick, Ltd.

#### A. Before Deploying STOP STICK

Before deciding to deploy STOP STICK, many factors must be considered. The following are some important safety and tactical issues to think about.

#### **Safety Considerations:**

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 STOP STICK.

ALWAYS plan ahead for pursuits in your area, Determine the most suitable, and safest, locations for deployment. Then, when a pursuit is necessary, you can proceed to one of these pre-planned locations or direct other officers to where they can best deploy STOP STICK.

Officers should also be prepared to find substantial cover in the location, such as a large tree, guard rail, or other object or sufficient structure capable of stopping an approaching vehicle.

**Patrol vehicles are not adequate cover.**

ALWAYS avoid deploying STOP STICK 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.

STOP STICK is designed for a controlled release of air from the target vehicle’s tires, usually within 20-30 seconds. **However, 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.**

NEVER deploy STOP STICK if you believe the location or circumstances of your pursuit make it unsafe to do so!

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-  **LIMIT TRAFFIC on the roadway.** 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 STOP STICK is being deployed.
-  **RESTRICT PEDESTRIANS.** Bystanders, observers and other pedestrians in the surrounding area are especially vulnerable to injury if they are struck by a vehicle. NEVER deploy STOP STICK with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.
-  **NEVER use STOP STICK 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.
-  **To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injuries resulting from a vehicle crash**  
**Use EXTREME CAUTION when:**
  - Pursuits reach **EXCESSIVE SPEEDS**; suspects have an increased risk of losing control of the vehicle if tires are deflated while driving at above normal highway speeds.
  - 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.
-  **ONLY deploy STOP STICK 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.

Once you are in a safe location, always advise pursuing units when and where STOP STICK is being deployed. Then look for an escape route in case you need to move away from your present position to a safer location.

### **Tactical Considerations:**

1. Remember that planning ahead for the use of STOP STICK includes determining the best locations for deployment and knowing where protection for the deploying officer exists.
2. For best performance, deploy on dry, hard surfaces such as concrete or blacktop. STOP STICK may fail to puncture the tires of a target vehicle on soft, loose materials such as dirt or gravel roads.

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**⚠ AVOID deploying STOP STICK on wet surfaces, gravel or loose pavement.** These surfaces may increase the risk a person will lose control of the target vehicle when tires deflate.

3. Regardless of the method of deployment, consider deploying STOP STICK so that a suspect has limited ability to avoid striking the device.
  - Try to pull STOP STICK into the roadway at the last possible moment, so that a suspect has limited ability to avoid striking the device by driving the vehicle to either side of the sleeved STOP STICKS.
  - Is it possible to deploy in the middle of a bridge?
  - What types of natural barriers or man-made obstacles would prevent suspects from avoiding STOP STICK?
4. If deploying near an intersection, deploy STOP STICK 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 STOP STICK.
5. ONLY deploy STOP STICK after you have identified a SAFE LOCATION to observe the pursuit.
  - What makes a good escape route or safe location?
  - What are some safe locations to deploy STOP STICK on your current patrol?

**⚠ ALWAYS move to a SAFE LOCATION after deploying STOP STICK.** The cord reel has 80 ft. (24m) of cord to allow you to move as far as possible from the road so that you can avoid fleeing or pursuing vehicles.

## **B. Deploying STOP STICK**

**⚠ ALWAYS advise pursuing units when and where STOP STICK is being deployed.**

Provide fellow officers with ample warning to avoid striking the device. STOP STICK is an equal opportunity tire deflator, it cannot distinguish police tires from suspect tires.

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**Pre-Load** is the sole recommended method of deployment. Pre-load three/four unconnected STOP STICKS in the supplied nylon sleeve; with the cord reel attached to the end of the sleeve. Then place the loaded sleeve in the mounting tray, or storage bag, until needed.

1. At the time of need, use the red handles to remove the sleeved STOP STICKS from the mounting tray, or storage bag.
2. Unlock the cord reel. When all lanes of traffic are clear, use the red handles to throw the sleeved STOP STICKS to the opposite side of the road (grass, shoulder, median, etc.).
3. **Communicate to the pursuing officers that the STOP STICKS are in position.**
4. Once the sleeved STOP STICKS are on the opposite side of the road, position yourself in a safe location for the impending deployment, while using your peripheral vision to monitor approaching traffic.
  - a. While waiting for the target vehicle to arrive, reel in any slack with the cord reel.
  - b. Keep the cord line flat on the road surface; allowing non-target vehicles to drive over the dispensed cord, without interfering with the impending deployment of the sleeved STOP STICKS.
5. Lock the cord reel and hold it by the handle with both hands while awaiting the target vehicle. Never wrap the cord around your hand or any portion of your body.

**⚠ NEVER wrap the cord around your hand or any portion of your body.**

6. As the target vehicle approaches, carefully step backward with the cord reel in hand, to pull the sleeved STOP STICKS into the path of the target vehicle.
  - a. Before pulling the sleeved STOP STICKS into position, ensure there are no other vehicles between the target vehicle and the point of deployment.

**⚠ NEVER rush a deployment.** Allow enough time to correctly deploy sleeved STOP STICKS. As you pull them into the road, turn to watch where you are going and retreat to a safe location.

7. After the sleeved STOP STICKS have been struck, remove them from the roadway by pulling the cord reel, with both hands, down and away from your body.

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- ⚠ ALWAYS use caution when removing STOP STICK from the road.** DO NOT enter the roadway if pursuing vehicles have not passed. Handle carefully, STOP STICK may break open exposing sharp spikes after being struck by a vehicle.

8. Always follow the policies and procedures of your agency when deploying STOP STICK. Those policies supersede any written or verbal instructions from Stop Stick, Ltd.

### **C. After Deploying STOP STICK**

If STOP STICK **was struck** by any vehicle:

- the device is no longer fully functional and should be replaced as soon as possible.
- fill out the “Pursuit Reporting Form” at [www.stopstick.com](http://www.stopstick.com) , or fax it to 513 202 0240.
- refer to local warranty instructions for replacements information. If you have any questions about replacement(s), contact Stop Stick, Ltd. at 513 202 5500.

If STOP STICK **was not struck** by any vehicle:

- inspect the sleeved STOP STICKS for damage.
- if undamaged, return sleeved STOP STICKS to the tray for the next deployment situation.

### **V. CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

With reasonable care, your STOP STICK 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 STOP STICK is ready for use:

- Periodically inspect STOP STICK to ensure it is undamaged and ready for deployment. This should be part of your pre-shift routine.
- When STOP STICK is stored in the tray, or storage bag, be sure other items in the trunk are not interfering with STOP STICK. Either STOP STICK could be damaged or the STOP STICK could potentially damage an item it impacts.

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### VI. CONCLUSION

Installation of STOP STICK in each agency patrol vehicle provides a viable alternative to extended vehicle pursuits that endanger you, the public, and the fleeing suspect.

### ▲ IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

The following warnings appear on every STOP STICK:

**▲ WARNING**

Deflating tires increase the risk a driver may lose control of the vehicle resulting in **SERIOUS** or **FATAL INJURIES**

- **DO NOT** use STOP STICK without proper **TRAINING**
- **NEVER** use STOP STICK on **MOTORCYCLES**

Visit [www.stopstick.com](http://www.stopstick.com) or call 513-202-5500 for more information

**▲ CAUTION**

STOP STICKS contain **SHARP SPIKES**

**NEVER** bend STOP STICK or push spikes through housing

**DO NOT** attempt to repair, dismantle or open STOP STICK

Visit [www.stopstick.com](http://www.stopstick.com) or call 513-202-5500 for more information  
Stop Stick, Ltd. Made in USA  
Patent # 5,330,285 5,452,962

Risk Management experts say that the greater risk to our safety and those around us occurs while we are doing the most dangerous tasks we are required to do, and when these tasks are things we do the least often. But with the use of on-going training, pre-planning and frequent practice, you may be able to decrease the heightened dangers of high risk/low frequency activities.

Practice using STOP STICK so you are ready to deploy it properly when you need to end a pursuit.