

Guidelines for Use of **BARRACUDA**

Instructor Lesson Plan

To be completed after viewing the Barracuda User Training Video

Issue No. 3
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Student Lesson:

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

⚠ WARNING

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

Barracuda is one of a series of law enforcement tools that have been developed by StopTech, 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 Barracuda.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the basic construction of Barracuda.
2. State, orally or in writing, the recommended surface for successful deployment of Barracuda.
3. State, orally or in writing, the safety and tactical considerations when deciding to deploy Barracuda.
4. State, orally or in writing, the type of vehicles Barracuda should **NOT** be deployed against.
5. State, orally or in writing, the **MAXIMUM** speed at which Barracuda may be deployed against a four (4) wheel passenger style vehicle.

Instructor's Notes:



Barracuda

INSTRUCTIONS

Depending upon student participation, this lesson should take from **30 to 45 minutes** to complete.

Barracuda User Training Video should be utilized in coordination with the Lesson Plan.

Be sure to properly address the information contained in each point of the **STUDENT LESSON PLAN**. The information that is printed on this portion of the **INSTRUCTOR'S LESSON PLAN** is meant to assist you in instructing your students.

On the **STUDENT LESSON PLAN** this portion is blank, and is intended for students to list their personal notes.

TRAINING AIDS

For every 3 students participating in your class, you should have at least one (1) Barracuda.

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6. State, orally or in writing, the various methods of deployment.
7. Demonstrate the proper method for reloading Barracuda.

III. OVERVIEW AND NOMENCLATURE

Barracuda is 3 feet (91cm) in length and weighs 3 pounds (1.36kg) Barracuda is comprised of the following components and sub-assemblies:

1. Eleven (11) black polypropylene SHROUDS, to allow easy handling and camouflage to the surface.
2. Eleven (11) Teflon® coated hardened steel QUILLS; 3/8 inch (.95cm) in diameter and 2 inches (5.08cm) in length.
3. Eleven (11) glass polypropylene CARTRIDGES, keyed for fail proof installation.
4. Thirty-six (36) inch (91.4cm) ABS plastic BASE.
5. Two (2) rollover END CAPS, facilitate proper deployment.
6. One (1) LOOP connector for attaching to cord reel or lanyard.
7. Two (2) Fastening SCREWS.
8. Accessories:
 - a. Reusable nylon SLEEVE.
 - b. CORD REEL with 80 feet (24m) of 150 pound (68kg) test, woven polyester line.
 - c. LANYARD with 5 foot (1.5m) cord.
9. Two WARNING LABELS appear on each Barracuda. 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.

Instructor's Notes:

TRAINING AIDS (cont'd)

You will also need:

1. A STUDENT LESSON PLAN for each participant of the class.
2. Barracuda User Training Video.
3. Copies of your department's or agency's pursuit policy – provide one copy for each student.

Optional items:

1. Dry erase or chalk board to draw examples of potential deployment circumstances.
2. An automobile for deployment demonstration purposes.
3. TV and VCR or DVD player.

As you address points 1 through 9, hold up a Barracuda for all to see. Depending on the class size, pass around one or more Barracudas for the students to handle for themselves.



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Student Lesson:

Instructor's Notes:

IV. DEPLOYMENT OF BARRACUDA

⚠ ALWAYS follow the policies and procedures of your Agency when deploying Barracuda.

Barracuda training materials are intended to supplement the formal Pursuit Policy of your agency. StopTech, 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 Barracuda – supersede any written or verbal instructions from StopTech, Ltd.

A. Before Deploying Barracuda

Before deciding to deploy Barracuda, 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 Barracuda.

ALWAYS avoid deploying Barracuda 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.

The following warnings appear on every Barracuda and should ALWAYS be kept in mind when using Barracuda:



As you review the safety and tactical considerations for deploying Barracuda, refer to your agency’s pursuit policy. Note any differences and instruct students to ALWAYS follow the policies and procedure of your agency.

StopTech Ltd., strongly encourages you to provide each student with a printed copy of your existing pursuit policy, while attending this training session.

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Student Lesson:

Instructor's Notes:



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.**

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

In addition to the product label warnings, ALWAYS keep the following important safety considerations in mind when using Barracuda:

- ▲ **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 Barracuda 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 Barracuda with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.
- ▲ NEVER use Barracuda 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.

Safety Considerations

This is good time during the training to talk about the important safety considerations in using Barracuda.

Handle Barracuda with caution.

DO NOT use on standard passenger vehicles traveling at a speed in excess of 25 mph (40 Km/h).

Avoid deploying Barracuda:

- in areas with heavy traffic.
- in populated areas or locations with pedestrians nearby.
- on vehicles with less than four wheels.

Following these precautions (i.e., limiting TRAFFIC and PEDESTRIANS) can reduce the likelihood of injuries – if a driver were to lose control of the vehicle and crash.

Discuss the types of vehicles that Barracuda **CANNOT** be used against; specifically, any vehicle with less than four (4) wheels.

Only deploy Barracuda when you have a safe location to observe the target vehicle

To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injuries resulting from a vehicle crash, use **EXTREME CAUTION** when: pursuits reach Excessive Speeds and fleeing suspects appear to be under the influence of Drugs and Alcohol.

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Student Lesson:

-  CONSIDER that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Barracuda. 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.
-  ALWAYS move to a SAFE LOCATION after deploying Barracuda. 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.
-  NEVER wrap the cord around your hand or any portion of your body.
-  NEVER rush a deployment. Allow enough time to correctly deploy sleeved Barracuda and retreat to a safe location. Rushed deployments can be dangerous and may fail to deflate the suspect's tires.
-  ALWAYS use caution when removing Barracuda from the road. DO NOT enter the roadway if target and pursuing vehicles have not passed. Handle carefully, Barracuda may break open exposing sharp spikes after being struck by a vehicle.
-  ONLY deploy Barracuda 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.

Tactical Considerations:

Before deploying Barracuda, you should consider the following:

1. Barracuda may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.
2. Regardless of the method of deployment, consider deploying Barracuda so that a suspect has limited ability to avoid striking the device.
 - 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 Barracuda?

Instructor's Notes:

Safety Considerations (cont'd)

Consider that the driver may attempt to continue operating the target vehicle after deployment of Barracuda and the dangers this poses.

As a class, talk about different scenarios and the circumstances of pursuits that make it dangerous or inappropriate to deploy Barracuda.

ASK: Who could be hurt? Why? What are the potential consequences of a suspect losing control of his vehicle?

Be sure to stress choosing a location that allows for **OFFICER SAFETY** and **MANEUVERABILITY** after deploying Barracuda, as well as the safety of bystanders, pedestrians and other motorists.

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

NEVER rush a deployment.

ALWAYS use caution when removing Barracuda from the road.

ONLY deploy Barracuda when you have a safe location to observe the target vehicle.

Tactical Considerations:

Stress the importance of officer safety.

Considerations before deploying Barracuda:

- type of deployment surface
- suspect has limited ability to avoid striking the device

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Student Lesson:

3. If deploying near an intersection, deploy Barracuda 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 Barracuda.

4. **ONLY** deploy Barracuda 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 Barracuda on your current patrol?

⚠ ALWAYS move to a **SAFE LOCATION** after deploying Barracuda. 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 Barracuda

⚠ ALWAYS advise pursuing units when and where Barracuda is being deployed.

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

There are five (5) suggested methods to deploy one or more **Barracudas: Pre-Loading, Tossing, Placing, Stationary Placement, and Tactical Tossing.**

Pre-Loading is the primary recommended method of deployment. Pre-load three (3) Barracudas in the nylon sleeve. With the cord reel attached to the end of the sleeve, place the loaded sleeve in the selected storage area until needed.

1. At the time of need, remove the sleeved Barracuda from the selected storage area, by utilizing the red sleeve handles.
2. Placed the sleeved Barracuda on the ground and unlock the cord reel that is attached to the sleeve
3. Then, while holding the unlocked cord reel, safely move to the opposite side of the road while allowing the cord reel to dispense as you change location.

Instructor's Notes:

Tactical Considerations (cont'd)

- deployment position at intersection
- identify safe location to observe pursuit
- what is the likelihood that the person approaching the target vehicle will see Barracuda and how might the person react.
- after deploying Barracuda, position yourself in a safe location away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.
- always advise pursuing units when and where Barracuda is being deployed

The question may arise about using **STOP STICK** in a stationary situation. Explain to the class that due to the different dynamics of a tire in motion versus a tire starting into motion **STOP STICK** and **Barracuda** are constructed differently. **STOP STICK** is a slow deflation device – 20 to 30 seconds; **Barracuda** will deflate a passenger vehicle tire in approximately 5 seconds.



Sleeved Barracuda

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Student Lesson:

4. Once the sleeved Barracudas are on the opposite side of the road, position yourself in a safe location for the impending deployment.
 - 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 Barracudas.
5. Lock the cord reel and hold the cord reel by the handle while awaiting the target vehicle.

 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 Barracudas into the path of the target vehicle.
 - a. Before pulling the sleeved Barracudas into position, be sure there are no other vehicles between the target vehicle and the point of deployment.
 - b. Do not wait until the last possible moment to deploy the sleeved Barracudas.

 NEVER rush a deployment. Allow enough time to correctly deploy sleeved Barracuda and retreat to a safe location. Rushed deployments can be dangerous and may fail to deflate the suspect's tires.

7. After the sleeved Barracudas have been struck, step backward with the cord reel in hand to remove the sleeved Barracudas from the roadway.

The remaining four (4) methods of deployment, presume Barracuda is stored **WITHOUT** being preloaded in the sleeve.

Tossing - Toss one or more Barracuda(s) into the path of the target vehicle.

1. Use this method when time of deployment versus time of impact is imminent.
2. Barracuda should land perpendicular to the target vehicle.
 - a. The rollover end caps will ensure the proper side of Barracuda is facing the road surface.

Instructor's Notes:

Tactical Consideration (cont'd)

The quills and tips of STOP STICK are oriented at approximately a 45 degree angle, whereas on a properly deployed Barracuda the quills point straight up from the base of Barracuda.

Pre-Loading is the primary recommended method of deployment because it affords the maximum in OFFICER SAFETY, while also containing Barracudas after they have been struck.

Allow **all members** of the class an opportunity to practice placing Barracudas in the sleeve with the cord reel attached to the sleeve.

DO NOT wrap the cord around any portion of your body.

Never rush a deployment.

PRIOR TO STEPPING BACKWARD, ENSURE IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

When pulling Barracudas into the path of the target vehicle, keep in mind that the violator may take evasive action to avoid striking Barracudas. With that in mind, remember that Barracudas **CANNOT** be "pushed" back over ground that they have already been "pulled" over.

Tossing Barracuda use **EXTREME CAUTION** with this method of deployment. Use only when time of deployment versus time of impact is imminent.

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3. Use extreme caution with this method of deployment. Keeping in mind that the driver of the target vehicle may take evasive action to avoid striking Barracuda.
4. Use extreme caution when removing Barracuda from the roadway after the target vehicle and pursuing vehicle have passed.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

Placing - Place one or more Barracudas end to end in the path of the target vehicle.

1. Use this method when adequate time is available.
2. When using this method it should be determined there are no other vehicles traveling between the target vehicle and the point of impact with Barracuda.
3. Use extreme caution when removing Barracuda from the roadway after the target vehicle and pursuing vehicle have passed.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

Stationary Placement - When a target vehicle is stationary, place Barracuda at any of the following locations:

1. Place between the front and rear tires of the stationary target vehicle.
2. Place ahead of front tire or behind rear tire.

Tactical considerations for deploying multiple Barracudas should be considered when the target vehicle may attempt to flee by forward or in reverse.

- In most circumstances the best tactical placement of the Barracuda will be between the front and rear tires.
- Utilization of the lanyard allows the officer to retrieve the device without taking his/her eyes off the occupants of the vehicle.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

Instructor's Notes:

Tactical Consideration (cont'd)

Always position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

Placing Barracuda use **EXTREME CAUTION** with this method of deployment. Use only when adequate time is available.

Stationary Placement of Barracuda use **EXTREME CAUTION** with this method of deployment. Use only when vehicle is stationary.

This would be an appropriate time to demonstrate how the lanyard connects to Barracuda as well as the proper positing of the lanyard ball in hand.

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Tactical Tossing – The Tactical Tossing method is used when the target vehicle cannot be safely approached.

1. Attach cord reel to loop connector on Barracuda.
2. Unlock cord reel.
3. Toss Barracuda into position between front and rear tires.
4. Lock cord reel.
 - a. If Barracuda has been thrown past the vehicle tire, pull the Barracuda into the correct position.
 - b. If Barracuda lands short of target vehicle, retrieve and redeploy it.
5. **DO NOT** use the cord reel to “reel- in” Barracuda. This action could cause the line to bind inside the cord reel, which could prevent the line from being properly dispensed.

Position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

⚠ ALWAYS move to a **SAFE LOCATION** after deploying Barracuda. 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.

C. After Deploying Barracuda

If Barracuda **was struck** by any vehicle:

- refer to reload instructions included with each Barracuda.
- contact StopTech, Ltd. at 513 202 5500 to order a Barracuda Hit Kit if no replacement cartridges are available.

If Barracuda **was not struck** by any vehicle:

- inspect Barracuda for damage.
- return Barracuda to your selected storage area for the next deployment situation.

Instructor's Notes:

Tactical Consideration (cont'd)

Always position yourself in a safe location, away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Barracuda.

Tactical Tossing of Barracuda use **EXTREME CAUTION** with this method of deployment. Use only when target vehicle **CANNOT** be safely approached.

Ensure the cord line is not tangled or wrapped around any portion of your body at any time.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In reference to item “5,” as listed adjacent to this comment, be sure to emphasize the importance of not using the cord reel line like a fishing reel to retrieve a misdirected Barracuda.

Whenever a cord reel is rewound for reuse, it should be done so with minimal tension on the line. This process reduces the opportunity for the line to become bound inside the cord reel as it is rewound.



Barracuda Reload

This would be an appropriate time for the instructor to demonstrate how to disassemble, reload and reassemble Barracuda; reference reload instructions.

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Student Lesson:

Instructor's Notes:

V. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

With reasonable care, your Barracuda will be ready to aid you in prevention or terminating a pursuit that creates a hazard to you and the public.

Follow these simple guidelines to ensure your Barracuda is ready for use:

- Keep Barracuda separate from other equipment to prevent inadvertent contact that could damage Barracuda or other equipment.
- Store Barracuda in a location that is easily accessible for rapid deployment.

VI. CONCLUSION

Barracuda provides a viable alternative to extended vehicle pursuits that endanger you, the public, and the fleeing suspect.

ASK: Are there any questions?

Take a moment to answer any questions from the class.

After completing the lesson plan, have all participants go to a controlled area (i.e., parking lot, large room, etc.) to demonstrate their proficiency in safely deploying Barracuda.

StopTech, Ltd., strongly encourages you to take this lesson plan along and ask students about the safety and tactical considerations as they practice!