

Guidelines for Use of PIRANHA

Student Lesson Plan

To be completed after viewing the Piranha User Training Video

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Student Lesson:

Before reading these guidelines, WATCH the Piranha 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

Piranha is one of a series of law enforcement tools, that have been developed by StopTech, Ltd., to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing vehicle pursuits. In the course of this lesson, you will be instructed on methods of deployment for Piranha.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the basic construction of Piranha.
2. State, orally or in writing, the recommended surface for successful deployment of Piranha.
3. State, orally or in writing the safety and tactical considerations for use of Piranha.
4. State, orally or in writing, the type of vehicle Piranha should **NOT** be deployed against.
5. State, orally or in writing, the various methods of deployment.
6. Demonstrate the proper method for reloading Piranha.



Piranha

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III. OVERVIEW and NOMENCLATURE

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.

Piranha is 3 ½ inches (8.9cm) in length and weighs 5.2 ounces (147g). Piranha is comprised of the following components and sub-assemblies:

1. One (1) black polypropylene SHROUD which covers the quills and allows safe handling.
2. Two (2) Teflon® coated hardened steel QUILLS; 3/8 inch (.95cm) in diameter and 2 inch (5.08cm) in length oriented in the cartridge and secured perpendicular to the base.
3. One (1) glass polypropylene CARTRIDGE to which the shroud is secured and which holds the quills in place.
4. One (1) 3 5/16 inch (7.94cm) ABS plastic BASE into which the cartridge is inserted.
5. Two (2) polymer END CAPS which hold the cartridge in the base.
6. Four (4) fastening SCREWS to secure end caps.



Exploded View

IV. DEPLOYMENT OF PIRANHA

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

Piranha 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 Piranha – supersede any written or verbal instructions from StopTech, Ltd.

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A. Before Deploying Piranha

Before deciding to deploy Piranha, 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.

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

▲ WARNING

- **DO NOT** use this device without proper **TRAINING**
- **NEVER** use tire deflation devices on **MOTORCYCLES**
- Contains **SHARP SPIKES**, never bend or push spikes through housing
- **READ** and **FOLLOW** the "Reload Instructions" when replacing cartridges
- **DO NOT** attempt to repair or disassemble spike cartridges

Visit www.stopstick.com or call 1-800-537-0102 for more information.

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

▲ 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 Piranha with pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.

▲ NEVER use Piranha 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.

▲ 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.

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⚠ 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.

Tactical Considerations:

Before deploying Piranha, you should consider the following:

1. What is the likelihood that the person approaching the target vehicle will see Piranha and how might the person react?
2. If detection of Piranha is a concern, then placement should be on the passenger side of the vehicle.
3. Multiple Piranha may be used in situations where the vehicle could be moved either backward or forward.
4. After deploying Piranha, position yourself in a safe location away from the point of contact between the target vehicle and the deployed Piranha.

B. Deploying Piranha

To deploy Piranha, the following guidelines apply:

1. Piranha may be deployed on paved surfaces, soft ground, gravel or sand surfaces.
2. Place Piranha approximately 6 inches (15cm) from the target vehicle tire.
3. The grooved ABS plastic base must be placed face down against the road surface.
4. 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).



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C. After Deploying Piranha

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

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

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

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

V. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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:

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

VI. CONCLUSION

Piranha can allow you to prevent a pursuit before it starts; thus avoiding the potential of a pursuit that could endanger you, the public, and the fleeing suspect.



Piranha Reload