

**TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL**

<i>Effective Date</i> February 1, 2008		<i>Amended Date</i>		<i>Directive</i> 7.19.1	
<i>Subject</i> Stop Sticks and Road Spikes					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> 7.19.1 Stop Sticks and Road Spikes		<i>Review Date</i> October 25, 2023	
				<i>Pages</i> 2	

This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of Stop Sticks.

SECTION 2 POLICY

When properly used, stop sticks have the potential to save lives, protect the motoring public, and prevent unnecessary damage to city vehicles. It is the policy of the Department to utilize stop sticks in accordance with this directive whenever they can be safely employed to apprehend a fleeing suspect.

SECTION 3 PROCEDURES

A. USE OF STOP STICKS

1. Stop Sticks are only to be used on motor vehicles such as cars and trucks. They are not to be used on motorcycles or all terrain vehicles (ATV's) such as four-wheelers.
2. Stop sticks work best when properly deployed on a paved surface.
3. The deploying vehicle should be placed as follows:
 - a. The deploying vehicles should be placed on the side of the roadway facing the direction of the pursuit with all emergency lights activated. The deploying vehicle may be angled slightly to narrow the roadway and force the suspect to drive over the Stop Sticks.
 - b. The deploying vehicle shall not be occupied.
 - c. When possible a second police vehicle should be placed on the opposite side of the roadway, with all emergency lights activated to funnel the suspect vehicle over to the Stop Sticks.
 - d. The deploying officer should position himself 10 to 20 feet in front of the patrol vehicle when deploying the Stop Sticks. If the patrol unit is facing towards the pursuit, the officer should position himself 10 - 20 feet to the rear of the unit.

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B. DEPLOYING OF THE STOP STICKS

1. The Stop Sticks must be pre-loaded in the nylon sleeve with the cord reel attached in the storage position inside the trunk of assigned patrol vehicles.
2. Officers should communicate via radio that Stop Sticks are being deployed.
3. Remove the Stop Sticks along with the attached cord reel from the trunk. The trunk should be closed so as to not block the visibility of the emergency lights.
4. Place the stop sticks perpendicular to the roadway on the shoulder and unreel the cord across the roadway to position of safety. DO NOT attach the reel to yourself or wrap line around your hand. If time does not permit the above, toss the Stop Sticks in front of the suspect vehicle.
5. If time permits, the deploying officer should pull the Stop Sticks into position after the last vehicle prior to the suspect has driven over the cord.
6. Immediately after the suspect has run over the Stop Sticks, the deploying officer should pull the sticks out of the way so they do not pose a hazard for pursuing police units.
7. The deploying officer is responsible for reporting the use of the Stop Sticks to his supervisor and shall cause a written report in the form of a memorandum to be attached to the vehicular pursuit report. Additionally, the on-duty supervisor shall fill out the on-line "Pursuit Reporting Form" at www.stopstick.com. The online reporting form is located in the "Contact Us" section on the home page. This on-line report is for Stop Stick and shall be printed and attached to the vehicular report form as well.
8. Only officers who have received training in the deployment of Stop Sticks are authorized to deploy them. It is the responsibility of the supervisor/officer who provided the training to ensure it is properly recorded with the Department's Training Coordinator.

C. RESPONSIBILITY

1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.