

Grapppler Device

354.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with a tactical option to stop a driver where probable cause exists for an arrest, who refuses to stop for officers, or known factors surrounding the probable cause of an arrest would lead a reasonable officer to believe the suspect(s) will likely flee when a traffic stop is initiated. The Grapppler Police Bumper shall not be used in the apprehension of suspects for property crimes (other than those crimes listed below) unless articulated facts and circumstances lead an officer to believe the suspect(s) pose a significant risk to the safety of the public. Officers may utilize the Grapppler Police Bumper when the facts and circumstances, coupled with their training, experience, and available equipment, justify the use of this device or technique.

354.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to establish procedures, use considerations, roles and responsibilities for the safe use of the Grapppler device, a pursuit intervention tool.

354.3 DEFINITIONS

Grapppler Police Bumper - A device designed to entangle and seize the rear most driver or passenger side tire, axle, or suspension components of a moving vehicle with a lowered net attached to a department vehicle. Once the net captures the tire, axle, or suspension component of the target vehicle, the Department vehicle applies braking to bring the target vehicle to a stop.

354.4 USE OF THE GRAPPLER DEVICE

- a. Only trained Department personnel who have successfully completed training in the proper use and deployment techniques of the Grapppler device shall use or deploy it.
- b. Department personnel shall get authorization from a supervisor certified in its use, to deploy the Grapppler device.
 1. The Grapppler should only be used and deployed during the following incidents when the individual driving the vehicle is subject to lawful detention or arrest for the following:
 - a. Assault in the First or Second Degree
 - b. Vehicular Eluding
 - c. Sexual Assault
 - d. Murder or Manslaughter of any degree
 - e. Kidnapping
 - f. Motor Vehicle Theft
 - g. Robbery
 - h. Arson
 - i. Menacing with a Deadly Weapon
 - j. First or Second Degree Burglary

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- k. For any other felony charges where the individual has a history of fleeing from law enforcement
- l. A certified supervisor approves the use and deployment of the Grappler for a preplanned arrest operation on an individual wanted for a felony offense
- m. To terminate an authorized pursuit. See Vehicle Pursuits policy.

354.5 PROCEDURES

a. Deployment Considerations

1. The use of the Grappler device is a way to conclude or avoid pursuits while in the process of apprehending suspects, while minimizing potential danger to the suspect, public, and officers involved.
2. Before deploying the device, numerous factors should be considered including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. It is the expectation of the Grappler operator to communicate effectively with responding officers.
 - b. Whether probable cause exists for an arrest.
 - c. Environmental conditions, including weather conditions, time of day, visibility, terrain, etc.
 - d. Heavily populated pedestrian areas should be considered as a last resort (i.e. parking lots, gas stations, etc.)
 - e. School zones should be avoided for any deployment consideration.
 - f. Target vehicle's driving behavior and speed.
 - g. Traffic conditions.
 - h. Traffic breaks should be conducted when feasible on all roadways.
 - i. Lines of communication with additional officers.
 - j. A minimum of three (3) officers should be involved in the deployment to include the Grappler operator.
 - k. Due to the potential for a front wheel drive vehicle to act unpredictably when grappled, two (2) additional units should be with the grappled vehicle to safely conduct the stop.
 - l. The Grappler device should not be used on a vehicle with fewer than four (4) wheels.

354.5.1 GRAPPLER DEPLOYMENT

- a. Only officers who have completed department approved Grappler training are authorized to deploy the device.
- b. The best performance for the device is on a dry, hard surface such as blacktop or concrete.
- c. Target vehicle speed needs to be at least five (5) miles per hour, but less than seventy-five (75) miles per hour, unless the use of deadly force is justified.
- d. Support officers will be present at the time of deployment or close enough to assist post-deployment.
- e. Department Grappler equipped vehicles will not become involved in outside agency pursuits unless requested by the outside agency and supervisor approval is granted.
- f. Department personnel shall avoid deployment of the Grappler device if:

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1. The size of the target vehicle is too large, such as moving trucks, semi-tractor trailers, recreational vehicles, or vehicles with deep-set rear axles from the rear bumper.
2. The target vehicle has fewer than four-wheels, unless deadly force is authorized.
3. There are environmental concerns.
4. Heavily pedestrian populated areas shall be avoided.
5. Vehicles that are suspected to be transporting hazardous material shall be avoided.

354.6 POST-DEPLOYMENT

- a. When it is practicable, officers will advise if the deployment was successful or not.
- b. High risk vehicle contact tactics should be utilized to direct and secure occupants of a suspect vehicle.
- c. After deployment, officers will not attempt to drive or move the suspect vehicle with the net still attached.
- d. Employees may request a tow company respond to assist with the removal of the affected tire from the vehicle.
- e. A Department employee will then remove the net from the tire, which will be placed back onto the vehicle by the tow company.
- f. After removal of the net, place the manufacturer supplied warning sticker on the inside of the windshield on the driver's side where it would be readily seen by an operator of the vehicle.
- g. Photographs should be taken of the suspect vehicle post-deployment and uploaded as evidence.
- h. If the individual driving the vehicle that is attached to the Grappler device attempts to ram the officer's vehicle, Department personnel shall:
 1. Consider disengaging the tether from the Grappler device; and
 2. Use a vehicle containment technique or "pinch" technique to stop the individual's vehicle movement.

354.7 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Certified sworn personnel shall complete a police report and Use of Force/Response to Resistance report when the Grappler device is used on a vehicle.

