I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to officers utilizing tire deflation devices.

II. Policy:

It is the policy of the Attleboro Police Department to authorize the use of tire deflation devices as an intervention tactic that, when placed in the path of a target vehicle, causes one or more tires of the target vehicle to deflate in a slow and safe manner. [41.2.3a]

The authority to deploy tire deflation devices is vested with the Shift Commander, unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police. [41.2.3a]

III. Definitions:

A. **Channelization**: A technique similar to a roadblock where objects are placed in the anticipated path of a pursued vehicle, which tends to alter vehicle direction.

B. **Patrol Supervisor**: Responsible for mobile supervision of patrol officers during patrol shifts.

C. **Pursuit**: An active attempt by one or more police officers to apprehend a suspect driving a vehicle in such a manner so as to intentionally avoid capture.

D. **Shift Commander**: The OIC, officer-in-charge, or other person-in-charge of the shift, as designated by the Chief of Police.

E. **Tire Deflation Device**: A device that, when driven over, causes one or more tires of a vehicle to safely deflate.
IV. Procedure, 41.2.3b:

A. **General Regulations:**

1. The use of Tire Deflation Devices is not considered an application of deadly force in that they produce a slow deflation of a target vehicle’s tires, which will not cause the vehicle to lose control.
2. Officers must receive training prior to using tire deflation devices. [41.2.3c]
3. Tire deflation devices are assigned to each patrol cruiser and shall be stored in the rear storage compartment, readily available to the officer in an emergency.
4. Tire deflation devices may not be deployed to stop a motorcycle or ATV.

B. **Deployment:**

1. The Shift Commander must approve deployment of tire deflation devices as an intervention tactic to forcibly stop a motor vehicle engaged in a pursuit or due to another qualifying circumstance. [41.2.3a; 41.2.3d]
2. Tire Deflation Devices may only be deployed after the pursuing officer is informed of and has acknowledged the location of deployment.
3. The pursuing officer shall adjust speed and proceed cautiously when approaching the deployment area.
4. The deploying officer shall choose a safe location from which to deploy the tire deflation device, and deploy the device as trained.
5. Police vehicles may be used to establish a temporary, stationary roadblock or barrier for the purpose of channelizing a target vehicle toward the deployed tire deflation device. [41.2.3c]
6. The Patrol Supervisor shall respond to the area where tire deflation devices were deployed and coordinate post deployment procedures to include recovery, reporting and arrest, if applicable. [41.2.3d]
7. Other Qualifying Circumstance: Tire deflation devices may be used in special circumstances where it is prudent to disable a motor vehicle prior to making a suspect aware of the police presence, and to prevent a pursuit from beginning: [41.2.3a]
   - Incidents of known stolen motor vehicles
   - Suspects wanted for the commission of serious felonious crimes, such as murder, car-jacking, kidnapping and armed robbery
   - Hostage situations where it is best to disable a suspect vehicle to prevent escape.
C. **Recovery:**

1. Tire deflation devices are to be removed from the roadway by the deploying officer, immediately after the target vehicle has passed over it.
2. Tire deflation devices will not be left unattended in the roadway.
3. The Patrol Supervisor shall respond to any successful deployment of tire deflation devices to coordinate post deployment recovery and reporting. [41.2.3d]
4. Tire deflation devices that have been damaged during the course of deployment shall be rendered out-of-service until repaired or replaced.

D. **Reporting:**

1. The Shift Commander shall document the deployment of tire deflation devices in the form of a To / Through / From letter, with accompanying photographs and police reports, to the Chief of Police prior to the end of their tour of duty, unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police. [41.2.3e]
2. The deploying officer shall document the use of tire deflation devices in a written report that details the circumstances of the deployment. Said report shall be delivered to the Chief of Police prior to the end of the officers’ tour of duty, unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police. [41.2.3e]
3. The use of tire deflation devices shall be evaluated by the Chief of Police or his designee. [41.2.3e]