


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 6.15</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: USE OF SPIKE STRIPS</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as: Uniform Patrol Division Use of Spike Strips</p>	<p>State Certification Standards:</p>		

Special Instructions:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to prescribe the policies and procedures of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office regarding the use of Spike Strips by personnel of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office to properly utilize Spike Strips in order to safely bring fleeing vehicles to a stop.

DISCUSSION

Whenever possible, the proper use of Spike Strips can provide a safe alternate to the continued pursuit of a vehicle, and maximize safety for the deputies involved in the pursuit, the general public, and the offenders involved in these incidents.

DEFINITIONS

ROADWAY — That portion of a highway, improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, exclusive of the shoulder.

I. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. Spike Strip sets will be placed in Rabun County Sheriff's Office vehicles according to availability. The operator of that vehicle shall check the device at the beginning of each tour for any obvious defects or damage.
- B. The case for each Spike Strip shall contain one Spike Strip with cord attached, eye protection, leather work gloves, replacement spikes and spike replacement tools. If any of these items are missing, the Patrol Division Commander shall be notified for replacements or repairs.
- C. Before a Spike Strip is utilized to disable a vehicle or terminate a pursuit, it must be approved by the Patrol Division Commander or Shift Supervisor.

II. METHODS OF DEPLOYED

- A. The Spike Strip may be deployed by using one of the following methods:

1. Method 1: Deployment By Throwing

Release the rope and spool from your fingers and let them fall to the ground, while still holding the unit by the rocker arms. Bend over holding the unit about a foot off of the pavement and with a shoveling motion throw the unit out, letting go of the unit with your weak hand and pushing it with your dominant hand, continuing to hold on to the middle rocker arm. As the unit settles to the pavement and slides outward, pull the middle rocker arm back toward you and release.

2. Method 2: Deployment By Pushing

Place the unit on the pavement, grasp the rocker arm that the rope is attached to. Then with a strong quick push, slide the unit out across the roadway. While the unit is sliding across the pavement, pull back slightly on the rocker arm.

WARNING!! WEAR LEATHER GLOVES AND DO NOT LIFT THE UNIT FROM THE PAVEMENT WHILE PUSHING IT OUT. THE UNIT WILL ROLL BACK OVER ITSELF AND MAY CAUSE INJURY.

3. Method 3: Deployment By The Use Of The Rope

- a. This method requires very little practice if any, however, it does require the officer to cross the lanes of traffic. Place the unit on the ground or pavement beside the roadway with the rope side of the unit facing the roadway. Caution should be used to keep from stepping on the unit either by the deploying officer, other assisting deputies, or bystanders. Unwrap several turns of rope from the spool. Grasp the rope in your hand between the spool and the unit; and
- b. Drop the spool and start walking across the roadway letting the rope slide through your hand as you walk. When across the roadway the rope should be pulled taut enough to lie flat on the roadway. The unit slides very easily and could have been pulled out somewhat just by letting

the rope slide through your hand. When pulling the rope taut, do not pull hard enough to start sliding the unit toward you. Let the rope lay on the pavement. Do not hold the rope in your hands if other traffic is to cross over the rope while waiting for the suspect vehicle. When traffic is clear and before the suspect vehicle arrives, pull the unit across the roadway with a rapid overhand-pulling motion. Do not wrap it around your hand or wrist. Also, be careful not to entangle the rope around your feet or legs. You should be safety conscious at all times with a wary eye on traffic and an escape route planned.

III. RESTRICTIONS AND CAUTIONS

- A. Spike Strips will not be used on the following types of vehicles:
 - 1. Motorcycles;
 - 2. Commercial buses; and
 - 3. Any vehicle hauling hazardous materials.
- B. Deputies deploying a spike strip should wear the leather gloves provided in the unit unless exigent circumstances make this impractical.
- C. The cord attached to the Spike Strip should not be wrapped around the hand or wrist.
- D. The officer deploying the Spike Strip will be responsible for removing it from the roadway when a suspect vehicle has passed over it.

IV. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- A. The officer deploying the Spike Strip will be responsible for replacing missing spikes as soon as possible after the device is used.
- B. Any damage to the device should be reported to the Patrol Division Commander. If the Patrol Division Commander is notified of a damaged Spike Strip will be responsible for repairs.
- C. Replacement spikes are contained within the Spike Strip case. If the replacement spike supply is depleted, extra replacements are available from the Patrol Division Commander.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County