

News Media Release

JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA

July 10, 2010

Officers from the Jennings County Sheriff's Office arrested a North Vernon man on numerous charges after a 40 minute pursuit with speeds in excess of 80mph.

Deputy Aaron Green met an oncoming vehicle with a headlight that was out. Deputy Green turned around to stop the vehicle near the Muscatatuck County Park when it accelerated and attempted to elude him. Deputy Green was able to get the license number on the vehicle and a check showed that the plate was reported as stolen. Deputy Green activated his emergency lights to stop the vehicle and the vehicle refused to stop. The pursuit went southbound on SR-7 into Jefferson County and then westbound on Jefferson County Road 1100N. Officers continued to pursue the vehicle as it proceeded westbound. As the vehicle approached the intersection of CR900W and CR1000N Sgt. Jeff Jones had set out the Magnum Spike tire deflation system to end the pursuit. The fleeing vehicle hit the spikes which caused all 4 tires to deflate and the vehicle came to a stop in approx. 100 yards. The driver was taken into custody at that point.

This is the first incident where the new Magnum Spike system was deployed in a pursuit situation. The Jennings County Sheriff's Office had researched changing the tire deflation devices issued to our officers. In the spring of this year we spoke with members of the military about what they were using to stop vehicles quickly and safely. We found that the Magnum Spike System was the most effective and cost efficient system. This system is currently in use by the military with a high success rate for stopping all types of vehicles.

We equipped our cars with the system to end dangerous pursuits. This morning Sgt. Jones reported that the new system was extremely effective in terminating this pursuit. The system deflated all 4 tires and the driver was unable to continue his criminal activity.

The driver, Dustin J. Gifford 19, 3565N-CR550E, Butlerville was transported to the jail where he is currently being held on a \$50,000 Felony cash bond set by Jennings Circuit Court Judge Jon Webster earlier today.

CHARGES:

1. Theft, Possession of stolen property
2. License violation (operator never licensed)
3. Reckless Driving
4. Resisting Law Enforcement

Officers involved:

Deputy Sgt. J. Jones Deputy T. Webster
Deputy D. Pittman Deputy A. Ritchie
Deputy M. Ponsler ISP Troopers Simpson, Black
Deputies from the Jefferson County Sheriff's office also assisted at scene.

Thank You

Steve Hoppock

Sheriff, Jennings County, Indiana