



**NORTH HANOVER TOWNSHIP  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**Chief of Police  
Budd Wells**

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The North Hanover Police Department has received several complaints from local residents regarding the recent use of a noise startle device, commonly known as a “deer popper” in the area.

This device is used for the purpose of humanly scaring or repelling wildlife, particularly deer, to prevent the damage and destruction of crops and other property.

To lawfully operate such a device, a landowner must first complete an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Natural and Historic Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Division of Fish and Game Bureau of Law Enforcement then investigates the application to include conducting an inspection.

Once approved, the land owner may only use a device which has been approved by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, within the parameters of the permit and only during the duration stipulated to by the permit.

The permit directs the landowner to the following;

No device shall be set in any manner or in any location that will endanger the public.

No device shall be set within twenty five (25) feet of any public road, and the exhaust from any device will be directed away from the road.

No device shall be set, erected or maintained within 300 feet of any dwelling occupied by another person, except with permission of that occupant.

No device shall be used except LP exploders, acetylene exploders, carbide exploders, or such other device which has been approved by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

No device shall be used which has a sound level in excess of one hundred twenty eight (128) decibels at one hundred (100) feet from the device.

Authorized noise devices to repel or scare deer may be operated twenty four (24) hours daily, if necessary.

Any mechanical repelling device used shall be provided by the landowner.

The permit does not authorize the use of firecracker.

The North Hanover Township Police has also conducted its own investigation into the use of this device. This investigation concluded that the landowner is operating well within the confines of the permit issued to him by the State of New Jersey and that the use of the device is lawful in its present application.