



SUBJECT: **Pursuit Operations**
DATE: February 15, 2006
SUPERSEDES: GO 4.1.20 dated May 1, 2002

GENERAL
ORDER
NUMBER
4.1.20

I. Policy

- A. The Department's primary concern in pursuit driving is to protect the lives and safety of all citizens and troopers. Driving under pursuit conditions does not relieve troopers of the responsibility to continually assess the risks associated with pursuit driving and the risk or danger to life and property. Troopers are required to use only that level of force which is reasonable and necessary to accomplish their lawful objective.
- B. Troopers shall not pursue vehicles when the suspected transport of undocumented aliens, a non-hazardous traffic violation, or an equipment violation is the primary offense.

II. Pursuit Responsibilities

All troopers, supervisors, and commanders have the responsibility of ensuring compliance with department policy.

III. Pursuit Commander Responsibilities

- A. The initiating trooper is the pursuit commander and shall assume and retain pursuit command until relieved, the pursuit has terminated, or the need to transfer pursuit command is necessary to complete the objectives of the pursuit.
- B. Designate and direct primary and secondary units and position support units.
- C. Assess the need for air support and request if necessary.
- D. When an air unit is in position, determine the need for continued emergency response operation by pursuing units and advise involved troopers.
- E. Direct all communications with any departmental or other agency air units.
- F. Maintain control of the pursuit when departmental or other agency air units are utilized.
- G. Terminate a pursuit when the necessity of apprehension is outweighed by the risks involved or the apprehension can be accomplished by other means.
- H. Notify the **Duty Office** of the conclusion or termination of the pursuit.

- I. Ensure communications are transferred to the receiving district frequency if the pursuit continues into another district.
- J. Complete the department *Pursuit Report* form (DPS 802-04089).

IV. Primary Unit Responsibilities

- A. Verbally declare or acknowledge designation as the primary unit when two or more DPS units are in pursuit. The primary unit is the lead/first vehicle in a pursuit, generally the initiating unit.
- B. Notify the respective operational communications center that a pursuit is underway, and provide updates of the following information:
 - 1. Location and direction of travel
 - 2. Description of the pursued vehicle
 - 3. Speed of the pursued vehicle
 - 4. Reason for the pursuit
 - 5. Number of occupants known to be in the vehicle
 - 6. Hazards to troopers
 - 7. Traffic conditions
 - 8. Criminal/traffic violations

V. Secondary Unit Responsibilities

- A. Verbally declare or acknowledge designation as a secondary unit when two or more DPS units are in pursuit. The secondary unit is the police vehicle(s) directly behind the primary unit.
- B. Assume primary unit responsibilities when requested to do so by the primary unit, pursuit commander, or a sworn supervisor.
- C. Assist with authorized intervention (Section XII) as directed by the pursuit commander.
- D. Provide backup for the primary unit.

VI. Support Unit Responsibilities

- A. Verbally acknowledge assignments given by the pursuit commander.
- B. Be available to assume a primary or secondary role as assigned.
- C. Assist with authorized intervention as directed by the pursuit commander.
- D. Maintain assigned position unless otherwise ordered by the pursuit commander.

VII. DPS Aircrew Responsibilities

- A. Advise the respective operational communications center of the aircraft's estimated time of arrival and when in position to follow the pursuit.
- B. Monitor the pursuit and, when requested by the pursuit commander, advise of the pursuit location, direction of travel, any traffic and/or road hazards, and any other condition that may endanger safe conduct of the pursuit.
- C. Maintain visual contact with suspects and/or pursuit units.
- D. Provide logistical support and emergency medical services at the direction of the pursuit commander.

VIII. Operational Communications Responsibilities

- A. Clear district radio frequency when a trooper declares initiation of a pursuit.
- B. Monitor the pursuit and broadcast information to all participating units.
- C. Inform the appropriate supervisor and the duty trooper of the pursuit.
- D. Confirm the need for an air support unit with the pursuit commander.
- E. Notify affected agencies of pursuit information.
- F. When a pursuit enters one district from another, ensure all pursuit communications are transferred to the receiving district.
- G. As soon as practical, provide the district commander a copy of the communications tape of the pursuit and the CAD history.

IX. Pursuit Procedures

- A. Troopers driving DPS units in pursuit operations shall have activated red or red and blue emergency lights and sirens during the entire pursuit.

- B. Only the primary unit and the pursuit commander shall communicate on the radio. All other units will hold their traffic unless an emergency transmission is necessary or they are acknowledging an assignment from the pursuit commander.
- C. All radio traffic shall be on the involved district's frequency. Communications on car-to-car frequencies are **prohibited** during pursuit operations.
- D. Troopers should not drive the wrong direction on a controlled access highway or other one-way road in the course of a pursuit.
- E. Drivers of department units involved in a pursuit shall not pass other pursuit units without clear acknowledgment from other drivers of the intent to pass.
- F. Units in pursuit normally shall be limited to no more than two, a primary and a secondary. However, with the pursuit commander's approval, the number of secondary units may be adjusted to fit the situation.
- G. When an aircraft is in position to monitor the pursuit, the pursuit commander shall determine the need for continued emergency response operation by pursuing units and advise involved troopers.
- H. When ordered to terminate a pursuit, all involved troopers shall immediately:
 - 1. Deactivate all emergency lights and siren;
 - 2. Obey all traffic control devices;
 - 3. Park the vehicle as soon as possible off the roadway in a safe location; and
 - 4. Notify **Operational Communications** they have terminated their involvement and identify their parked location.
- I. Troopers are **prohibited** from continuing to follow, parallel, or actively intercept a suspect vehicle once the order to terminate has been given.
- J. Troopers in the general area of the pursuit shall remain in their assigned areas unless specifically requested to participate by the pursuit commander.
- K. When a pursuit leaves department jurisdiction, troopers shall allow units of the receiving jurisdiction to assume primary pursuit command.

X. Crossing District Borders

- A. Troopers shall be aware that additional pursuit restrictions may exist in bureau or district orders.

- B. When a pursuit enters one district from another, the district receiving the pursuit will assume pursuit command when sufficient units are in place in the receiving district to effectively safeguard public safety. Only the initiating trooper from the preceding district shall proceed to the termination point to provide information that may be required for the arrest.

XI. Additional Safety Considerations

- A. All vehicles not tested and approved for high speed driving as primary or secondary vehicles shall not be operated at speeds above 85 MPH. This includes specialty and non-police model vehicles (i.e. sport utility vehicles, sedans, pickup trucks, etc.).
- B. Unmarked units and motorcycles are not appropriately equipped to participate in pursuit operations and shall be replaced by appropriately marked units as soon as practical.
- C. Units containing non-police occupants shall avoid participating in pursuits. As soon as practical, any such units shall be replaced by units with police occupants only.

XII. Authorized Intervention

- A. When pursuing a vehicle which is actively avoiding apprehension and deadly physical force is **not** justified, the Class B roadblock, channelization, and/or tire deflation device may be used to stop the vehicle based upon the trooper's training and experience. For the purpose of this GO channelization is the deliberate directing of a vehicle into a given path or area by the use of stationary objects (pylons, barricades, vehicles) placed in its current path of travel, and a tire deflation device is a tool which, when successfully deployed into the immediate path of a pursued vehicle, causes controlled air loss of the striking tire(s).
- B. In any pursuit where deadly physical force would be justified, the trooper shall use that degree of force which is necessary to stop the vehicle.
- C. Use of deadly physical force is authorized to defend the trooper or others from what the trooper reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force.
- D. The use of deadly physical force is justified only when the trooper reasonably believes it is necessary:
 - 1. To defend himself/herself or a third person from what the trooper reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force.
 - 2. To effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom the trooper reasonably believes:

- a. Has committed, attempted, is committing, or attempting to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon.
 - b. Is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon.
 - c. Through past or present conduct of the person known to the trooper that the person is likely to endanger human life or cause serious physical injury unless apprehended without delay.
 - d. Is necessary to lawfully suppress a riot if the person or another person participating in the riot is armed with a deadly weapon.
- E. A Class C roadblock, ramming, and the shooting of a vehicle would be authorized only in situations where deadly physical force is justified. For the purposes of this order, ramming is defined as the intentional contact by a police unit with a fleeing vehicle for the purpose of ending a pursuit.
- F. Refer to GO 4.1.10, *Use of Force*; GO 4.1.110, *Roadblocks and Travel Restrictions*; and ARS §13-410, subsections A, B, C, and D.

XIII. Pursuit Termination

- A. Pursuits shall be terminated immediately when:
- 1. A pursuit commander, any sworn supervisor, or any commander orders the pursuit terminated.
 - 2. A clear and unreasonable hazard exists to the trooper, fleeing suspect, or other citizens.
 - 3. The pursuit leaves a controlled access highway into a densely populated or congested environment and the only known offense is a traffic infraction, misdemeanor, or non-violent felony, including felony flight.
 - 4. The level of the criminal act does not justify the risk to life and property by the immediate apprehension of the suspect.
- B. Consideration should be given to terminating the pursuit when one or more of the following factors are present:
- 1. The pursuit leaves a controlled access highway into an area which is **not** densely populated and/or contains little or no vehicular traffic and the only known offense is a traffic infraction, misdemeanor, or non-violent felony, including felony flight.

2. The suspect is identified to the point where later apprehension can be accomplished and continuing the pursuit would serve only to increase the risk to all involved.
3. Closing the distance between the trooper and suspect would require speeds that would place the trooper and public in danger.
4. The primary unit driver loses visual contact with the suspect.
5. Pursuits initiated by another agency and involving department units leave department jurisdiction.
6. Weather conditions that substantially increase the risks involved in continuing the pursuit.
7. The pursuing trooper is unfamiliar with the area and is unable to determine the location and/or direction of the pursuit accurately.

XIV. Interaction with Other Jurisdictions

- A. Each patrol district shall coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to establish response plans for pursuit situations.
- B. Other agency air support units who assist in department-initiated pursuits shall be responsible for providing appropriate information to all involved units. The Department pursuit commander will retain overall command of the pursuit.
- C. If responsibility for continuing a pursuit is assumed by another law enforcement agency, only the initiating trooper will proceed to the termination point to provide information that may be required for the arrest.
- D. Department units shall not participate in other agency pursuits unless requested to do so by that agency or unless such assistance is included in an established interagency agreement.
- E. Department units shall not participate in other agency pursuits when the basis for the pursuit or related circumstances are prohibited by or are inconsistent with this order. Involved personnel shall continually evaluate the changing circumstances to determine if the risks encountered during the other agency pursuit warrant continued involvement by department personnel.
- F. Troopers must evaluate, considering department policy and procedures, any request by another jurisdiction to use tire deflation devices. Deployment may only be conducted in a safe and approved manner.

- G. When a pursuit from another agency enters department jurisdiction, department units will assume a support unit position and assume command only if specifically requested by the pursuing agency and approved by a department sworn supervisor.
- H. Pursuits will be conducted in accordance with this order and established interagency agreements when a pursuit from another agency enters department jurisdiction and the Department is requested to assume pursuit command. Such agreements shall not contain provisions for stopping a suspected vehicle which exceed the provisions outlined in this order.

XV. Critical Incident Pursuit Process

- A. Pursuits identified as meeting the criteria of a critical incident shall be investigated, reported, and reviewed in accordance with the *Critical Incident Manual* (DPS 932-00235).
- B. Only statistical data and general information shall be completed on the *Pursuit Report* form. The narrative, supervisory, and command reviews shall not be completed.
- C. The pursuit commander shall, within three working days, collect and forward *Pursuit Report* forms from all involved troopers directly to the **Special Investigations** commander.

XVII. Reporting and Review

- A. **Operational Communications** shall issue DR numbers for pursuits. The letter P shall be assigned as a prefix to DR numbers to indicate that a pursuit was involved.
- B. Each trooper and aircrew in a pursuit shall, within two working days, provide a report of their participation to the pursuit commander by completing the face sheet (Page 1) of a *Pursuit Report* form.
- C. The pursuit commander shall, within three working days, compile and prepare a single comprehensive *Pursuit Report* form, incorporating the information provided by troopers involved in the pursuit. The pursuit commander's *Pursuit Report* form shall be submitted for chain of command review and comment.
- D. Supervisors and captains in the pursuit commander's chain of command shall review the **Operational Communications** tape, CAD history, any available video of the pursuit, and the *Pursuit Report* form for accuracy and completeness and determine if the pursuit was conducted within department guidelines. Should the communications tape need to be retained longer than six months, the individual retaining the tape shall document the fact in a supplemental report to the original DR. Tactical, procedural, training, equipment, or policy concerns shall be noted and recommendations made on the *Pursuit Report* form.

- E. If no concerns are apparent and no further actions are required, the bureau commander is the final reviewer.
- F. Pursuit reports expressing concerns or comments as outlined above shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the appropriate division.
- G. Following chain of command review, pursuit reports will be forwarded to **Research and Planning** for data collection.
- H. **Research and Planning** shall maintain a database of pursuit information and provide trend analysis to executive staff on a quarterly basis.