

	SUBJECT: Pursuit Operations DATE: November 9, 2017 SUPERSEDES: GO 4.1.20 dated February 15, 2006	GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 4.1.20
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I. Policy

Sworn personnel may engage in a pursuit when their experience and training coupled with the facts and circumstances justify the pursuit. Sworn personnel shall terminate pursuits when the risk outweighs the justification for immediate apprehension of the suspect.

II. Pursuit Responsibilities

All personnel involved in a pursuit shall continually evaluate the nature and seriousness of the offense(s) against the risk of initiating and continuing emergency vehicle operations and shall recognize the safety of the public is the primary concern. Concerns regarding an ongoing pursuit shall be immediately communicated to the chain of command and the pursuit commander. Once a pursuit has been declared, a sworn supervisor shall determine if the pursuit should continue and shall broadcast that determination over the radio. If a sworn supervisor does not broadcast the determination to cease or continue the pursuit, **Operational Communications** shall call for any on-duty supervisor to respond. If an on-duty sworn supervisor is not available, **Operational Communications** shall notify an off-duty supervisor. Any pursuit commander or sworn supervisor shall have the authority to terminate the pursuit.

III. Pursuit Commander Responsibilities

- A. The pursuit commander is responsible for directly ordering or controlling personnel and resources during pursuit operations. The pursuit commander may be the initiating trooper, a secondary unit, or a sworn supervisor/commander. The pursuit commander shall assume and retain pursuit command until relieved, the pursuit is terminated, or the need to transfer pursuit command is necessary to complete the objectives of the pursuit.
- B. The pursuit commander shall:
 1. Verbally declare or acknowledge designation as the pursuit commander.
 2. Designate and direct primary and secondary units and position support units.
 3. Assess the need for air support and request air support if necessary.
 4. When an air unit is in position, determine the need for continued emergency operation by pursuing units and advise involved personnel.
 5. Direct all communications with any departmental or other agency air units.

6. Maintain control of the pursuit whether departmental or other agency air units are used.
7. Notify the **Watch Center/Duty Office** of the conclusion or termination of the pursuit.
8. Complete the department *Pursuit Report* form (DPS 802-04089).

IV. Primary Unit Responsibilities

The primary unit shall:

- A. Verbally declare or acknowledge designation as the primary unit when two or more department units are in pursuit. The primary unit is the lead or first police vehicle in a pursuit, generally the initiating unit.
- B. Notify the respective **Operational Communications Center** 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 sworn personnel.
 7. Traffic conditions.
 8. Criminal/traffic violations.

V. Secondary Unit Responsibilities

The secondary unit shall:

- A. Verbally declare or acknowledge designation as a secondary unit when two or more department 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. A support unit is a law enforcement unit not directly behind the pursuit which is available to assist or engage as directed by the primary unit, pursuit commander or sworn supervisor.
- B. A support unit shall:
 - 1. Verbally acknowledge assignments given by the pursuit commander.
 - 2. Be available to assume a primary or secondary role as assigned.
 - 3. Assist with authorized intervention (Section XII) as directed by the pursuit commander.
 - 4. Maintain assigned position unless otherwise ordered by the pursuit commander.

VII. Air Unit Assistance

- A. When a DPS Air Unit provides assistance, the aircrew shall:
 - 1. Advise the respective **Operational Communications Center** of the aircraft's estimated time of arrival and when in position to monitor the pursuit.
 - 2. 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 hinder the ability to safely conduct the pursuit.
 - 3. Provide logistical support and emergency medical services at the direction of the pursuit commander.
- B. When assistance is provided by another agency's air unit, **Operational Communications** shall relay communications between the air unit and the pursuit commander while the pursuit commander continues control of the pursuit, unless the involved air unit can communicate directly with the pursuit commander, and **Operational Communications** is able to monitor the communications.

VIII. Operational Communications Responsibilities

- A. If a unit broadcasts an attempt to stop a vehicle which fails to yield and the trooper has not declared pursuit, the dispatcher shall ask if the trooper is in pursuit.

- B. Once a pursuit is initiated, **Operational Communications** personnel shall:
1. Clear the district radio frequency.
 2. Monitor the pursuit and broadcast information to all participating units and notify affected agencies.
 3. Inform the appropriate **Operational Communications Center**, sworn supervisors and the **Watch Center/Duty Office** of the pursuit.
 4. Confirm the need for an air support unit with the pursuit commander.
 5. Follow directives and requests of the pursuit commander.
 6. When a pursuit enters one district from another, ensure all pursuit communications are transferred to the receiving district and information regarding the reason for the pursuit and any driving or criminal behavior is relayed to the receiving district.
 7. Issue a department report (DR) number and assign it to the pursuit.

IX. Pursuit Procedures

- A. Sworn personnel shall terminate pursuits when the risk outweighs the need for immediate apprehension of the suspect. The following factors shall be considered when assessing conditions during a pursuit:
1. Danger to life and property.
 2. The necessity to immediately apprehend the suspect.
 3. Whether the identity of the suspect is known or unknown.
 4. The nature of the crime or infraction prior to the initiation of the pursuit.
 5. The trooper's training, abilities and experience.
 6. The suspect and trooper's vehicle capabilities.
 7. The location, terrain, population, traffic congestion, weather and the presence of intersections.
 8. The trooper's familiarity with the area.
 9. The presence of law enforcement aircraft to assist with the pursuit.

10. The presence of unmarked, canine or tactical units to assist in the apprehension.
 11. The availability of law enforcement personnel to provide assistance.
- B. Sworn personnel driving department units in pursuit operations shall have activated red or red and blue emergency lights and sirens during the entire pursuit.
 - C. Either the primary unit or pursuit commander may assign a secondary unit to broadcast updated pursuit information.
 - D. All radio traffic shall be on the involved district's frequency. All units involved in the pursuit shall provide necessary and urgent information to **Operational Communications** and other involved units. Unnecessary communications and communications on car-to-car frequencies are prohibited during pursuit operations.
 - E. Sworn personnel should not drive the wrong direction on a controlled access highway or one-way road during a pursuit.
 - F. Drivers of department units involved in a pursuit shall not pass other pursuit units without clear acknowledgment from other units of the intent to pass.
 - G. The number of secondary and support units involved in a pursuit shall be determined on a case by case basis by the pursuit commander or a sworn supervisor.
 - H. When ordered to terminate a pursuit, all involved personnel shall immediately:
 1. Deactivate all emergency lights and sirens and obey all traffic control devices.
 2. Discontinue actively following the suspect vehicle.
 - a. Sworn personnel are prohibited from continuing to follow or parallel, or actively intercept a suspect vehicle once the order to terminate has been given.
 - b. This does not prohibit follow-up investigation to apprehend the suspect without a vehicular pursuit.
 3. Notify **Operational Communications** they have terminated their involvement and identify their location.

X. Crossing District Borders

When a pursuit enters one district from another, the district receiving the pursuit shall assume pursuit command when sufficient units are in place in the receiving district for efforts to safeguard public safety. A supervisor shall determine how many units from the initiating district will continue to follow to conclusion.

XI. Additional Safety Considerations

- A. Unmarked units and motorcycles shall be replaced by appropriately marked units as soon as practical.
- B. Units containing non-sworn occupants shall avoid participating in pursuits. As soon as practical, any such units shall be replaced by units with sworn occupants only.

XII. Authorized Intervention

- A. When pursuing a vehicle, troopers may use intervention techniques designed to direct a pursued vehicle's direction, end the pursued vehicle's ability to continue, or to remotely track the suspect vehicle, based upon the trooper's available equipment, training, ability and experience.
- B. In any pursuit where deadly physical force would be justified, the trooper may use the degree of force which is necessary to stop the vehicle.
- C. Refer to GO 4.1.10, *Use of Force*; GO 4.1.110, *Roadblocks and Travel Restrictions*; HPD Order 2.56, *Use of Tire Deflation Devices*; and ARS §§ 13-409 and 13-410.

XIII. Interaction with Other Jurisdictions

- A. If responsibility for continuing a pursuit is assumed by another law enforcement agency, only the initiating trooper or their designee may proceed to the termination point to provide information which may be required for the arrest. A sworn supervisor may allow for additional units to continue with the pursuit when deemed appropriate and feasible.
- B. Sworn personnel shall not participate in other agency pursuits unless specifically requested to do so by that agency, and their participation is approved by a supervisor.
- C. Sworn personnel 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.
- D. Sworn personnel shall use only intervention techniques and devices consistent with department policy, procedure and training, even when other intervention techniques or devices are requested by another law enforcement jurisdiction.

XIV. Reporting and Review

- A. Pursuits shall be documented under a DR number issued by **Operational Communications**.

- B. All sworn personnel and aircrew in a pursuit shall, within two working days, provide a report of their participation to the pursuit commander by completing a supplemental report.
- C. The pursuit commander shall, within 14 days from the date of the pursuit, compile and prepare a single comprehensive *Pursuit Report* form and an offense report, incorporating the information provided by sworn personnel involved in the pursuit. The pursuit commander's *Pursuit Report* form shall be submitted for chain of command review and comment.
- D. **Operational Communications** shall, within 48 hours, forward a copy of the CAD history and any related **Operational Communications** recordings to the involved employee's sworn supervisor following the pursuit.
- E. Supervisors and captains in the pursuit commander's chain of command shall review the **Operational Communications** recording, 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 recording need to be retained longer than six months, the individual retaining the recording shall document the extended retention in a supplemental report to the original DR and notify **Operational Communications**. Tactical, procedural, training, equipment, or policy concerns shall be noted and recommendations made on the *Pursuit Report* form.
- F. Any level in the pursuit commander's chain of command may, at their discretion, conduct an after-action debriefing of the pursuit with the involved personnel. This debriefing shall be noted in the *Pursuit Report* form review section.
- G. If no concerns are apparent and no further actions are required, the bureau commander is the final reviewer.
- H. Pursuit reports expressing concerns or comments as outlined above shall be forwarded through the pursuit commander's chain of command to the appropriate division.
- I. Following chain of command review, and no longer than 30 days from the date of the pursuit, pursuit reports shall be forwarded to **Research and Planning** for data collection.
- J. **Research and Planning** shall maintain a database of pursuit information and provide trend analysis to executive staff on a quarterly basis. After executive review of the trend analysis, the information should be disseminated down the chain-of-command.

XV. Critical Incidents Involving Pursuits

- 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 **Major Crimes** district commander shall, within 14 days from the date of the pursuit, collect *Pursuit Report* forms from all involved sworn personnel. Copies of these reports shall be forwarded within 30 days from the date of the pursuit to **Research and Planning** for data collection.