

Vehicle Pursuits

307.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Vehicle pursuits expose innocent citizens, law enforcement officers and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. The primary purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidance in balancing the safety of the public and themselves against law enforcement's duty to apprehend violators of the law. Another purpose of this policy is to minimize the potential for pursuit-related collisions. Vehicular pursuits require officers to exhibit a high degree of common sense and sound judgment. Officers must not forget that the immediate apprehension of a suspect is generally not more important than the safety of the public and pursuing officers (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 1).

307.1.1 PHILOSOPHY

Deciding whether to pursue a motor vehicle is a critical decision that must be made quickly and under difficult and unpredictable circumstances. In recognizing the risk to public safety created by vehicle pursuits, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a vehicle pursuit due to the risk involved. This includes circumstances where Department policy would permit the initiation or continuation of the pursuit. It is recognized that vehicle pursuits are not always predictable and decisions made pursuant to this policy will be evaluated according to the totality of the circumstances reasonably available at the time of the pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 1).

Officers must remember that the most important factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment. Officers conduct during the course of a pursuit must be objectively reasonable; that is, what a reasonable officer would do under the circumstances. An individual's unreasonable desire to apprehend a fleeing suspect at all costs has no place in professional law enforcement pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (2)).

307.2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Blocking or vehicle intercept - A slow-speed coordinated maneuver where two or more law enforcement vehicles simultaneously intercept and block the movement of a suspect vehicle, the driver of which may be unaware of the impending enforcement stop, with the goal of containment and preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not a moving or stationary road block.

Boxing-in - A tactic designed to stop a violator's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed maneuver intended to terminate the pursuit by causing the violator's vehicle to spin out and come to a stop.

Ramming - The deliberate act of impacting a violator's vehicle with another vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the violator's vehicle to stop.

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Roadblocks - A tactic designed to stop a violator's vehicle by intentionally placing a vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the violator's vehicle.

Spikes or tack strips - A device that extends across the roadway and is designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle.

Vehicle pursuit - An event in which a peace officer attempts to apprehend a driver who ignores the signal to stop by increasing speed, extinguishing headlights or taillights, refusing to stop the vehicle, or using other means with intent to attempt to elude a peace officer (Minn. Stat. § 609.487).

307.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Only licensed members who have received training on vehicular pursuits are authorized to engage in pursuits. It is the policy of this department that a vehicle pursuit shall be conducted with at least one flashing red warning lamp visible from the front and a siren that is continuously sounded to warn pedestrians or other drivers (Minn. Stat. § 169.17; Minn. Stat. § 169.68).

Operating an emergency vehicle in a pursuit with emergency lights and siren does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, and does not protect the driver from the consequences of a reckless disregard for the safety of others (Minn. Stat. § 169.17).

307.3.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when it is reasonable to believe that a suspect is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle that has been given a signal to stop by a peace officer. In this circumstance, it is the suspect who initiates a pursuit condition by fleeing and the member who must then make a series of decisions as to whether the pursuit shall continue or be terminated. When deciding to engage in a pursuit, it's recognized that it takes time to gather information to ensure the pursuit meets the requirements of this policy. This time gathering process will occur when the member is signaling a vehicle to stop and evaluating if the vehicle is fleeing or simply failing to yield.

The following factors individually and collectively shall be considered in deciding whether to initiate or continue a pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2(2)):

- (a) Seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety. Pursuits are limited to incidents in which the member knows or has reasonable grounds to believe a person committed a criminal act toward another person resulting in bodily harm or threats thereof.
- (b) The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to officers, innocent motorists, and others.
- (c) Apparent nature of the fleeing suspect (e.g., whether the suspect represents a serious threat to public safety). Pursuits are authorized to effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the peace officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony, and the member

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reasonably believes that the person will cause death or great bodily harm to another person unless immediately apprehended (Minn. Stat. § 609.066 Subd. 2). The act of fleeing police in a motor vehicle and driving conduct during a pursuit does not constitute a felony offense in this provision.

- (d) The identity of the suspect has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.
- (e) Safety of the public in the area of the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (e.g., school zones), and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.
- (f) The pursuing officer's familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing units and the dispatcher/supervisor, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (g) Weather, traffic, time of day, at risk areas such as school zones, residential neighborhoods, pedestrian traffic, and road conditions that unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.
- (h) Performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speeds and other conditions of the pursuit.
- (i) Vehicle speeds.
- (j) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders, hostages).
- (k) Age of the suspect and occupants.
- (l) Availability of other resources, such as aircraft assistance.
- (m) The police unit is carrying passengers other than on-duty police officers. Pursuits should not be undertaken with a prisoner in the pursuit vehicle unless exigent circumstances exist, and then only after the need to apprehend the suspect is weighed against the safety of the prisoner in transport. A unit containing more than a single prisoner should not participate in a pursuit. When a passenger is riding in a pursuit vehicle, members should not engage in a pursuit unless circumstances clearly suggest that failure to engage in pursuit would create a risk of death or great bodily harm to another if apprehension is delayed. Should a member engage in a pursuit with a civilian in the vehicle, the member shall request another unit takeover the pursuit at the earliest opportunity and the member shall then terminate involvement with the pursuit.

307.3.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be discontinued whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the officer or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

The above factors on when to initiate a pursuit are expressly included herein and will apply equally to the decision to discontinue as well as the decision to initiate a pursuit. Officers and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential

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danger to innocent motorists, themselves, and the public when electing to continue a pursuit. In the context of this policy, the term "terminate" shall be construed to mean discontinue or to stop chasing the fleeing vehicle while turning off all emergency equipment and returning to operating the vehicle in a non-emergency manner in compliance with all traffic laws.

In addition to the factors listed above, the following factors should be considered when deciding whether to terminate a pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (2)):

- (a) The distance between the pursuing officers and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time or distance.
- (b) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- (c) The officer's pursuit vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) The pursuit vehicle suffers an emergency equipment failure that causes the vehicle to no longer qualify for emergency operation use.
- (e) Extended pursuits of violators for misdemeanors not involving abuse or risk of serious harm (independent of the pursuit) are discouraged.
- (f) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (g) If the identity of the offender is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit, officers should strongly consider discontinuing the pursuit and apprehending the offender at a later time.
- (h) When directed to terminate the pursuit by a supervisor.
- (i) When radio communications are broken or inadequate.
- (j) When the danger that the continued pursuit poses to the public, the officers, or the suspect is too great, balanced against the risk of allowing the suspect to remain at large.
- (k) There may be times when a crime against a person is reported but further information reveals no such crime took place. Members must evaluate the updated information and determine if a pursuit is authorized per policy. In the event the member is engaged in a pursuit and updated information reveals no crime against a person occurred, the member shall terminate.

307.3.3 SPEED LIMITS

The speed of a pursuit is a factor that should be evaluated on a continuing basis by the officer and supervisor. Evaluation of vehicle speeds shall take into consideration public safety, officer safety and the safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle.

Should high vehicle speeds be reached during a pursuit, officers and supervisors shall also consider these factors when determining the reasonableness of the speed of the pursuit:

- (a) Pursuit speeds have become unreasonably unsafe for the surrounding conditions.

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- (b) Pursuit speeds have exceeded the driving ability of the officer.
- (c) Pursuit speeds are beyond the capabilities of the pursuit vehicle thus making its operation unsafe.

307.4 PURSUIT UNITS

Pursuit units should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a supervisor). However, the number of units involved will vary with the circumstances.

An officer or supervisor may request additional units to join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of officers involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the suspects. All other officers shall stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any officer who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

Distinctively marked patrol vehicles should replace unmarked vehicles involved in a pursuit whenever practicable. Only authorized emergency vehicles can engage in pursuits. Members shall not engage in pursuits in non-departmental vehicles.

307.4.1 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Vehicles not equipped with red light and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. Officers in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing units as long as their vehicle is operated in compliance with all traffic laws.

307.4.2 PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing officer will be designated as the primary pursuit unit and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless it is unable to remain reasonably close enough to the violator's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the officer initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspects without unreasonable danger to the officer or other persons (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (4)).

The primary unit should notify Communications Center, commencing with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including but not limited to:

- (a) Unit identification.
- (b) Reason for the pursuit.
- (c) Location and direction of travel.
- (d) Speed of the fleeing vehicle.
- (e) Description of the fleeing vehicle and license number, if known.
- (f) Number of occupants.
- (g) The identity or description of the known occupants.
- (h) Driving conduct of suspect vehicle, such as traveling without lights and other hazardous driving conduct.

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- (i) Weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- (j) Identity of other agencies involved in the pursuit.
- (k) Information concerning the use of firearms, threat of force, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.
- (l) Request for medical assistance for any person injured in the course of the pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (6)).

In the event any person is injured during the course of a pursuit, the involved member shall immediately provide or make arrangements for the provision of medical care. The care for human life will exceed the need to capture a fleeing offender in the vast majority of situations.

Unless relieved by a supervisor or secondary unit, the officer in the primary unit shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary unit should relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or aircraft joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary unit to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

307.4.3 SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The second officer in the pursuit is responsible for the following:

- (a) Immediately notifying the dispatcher of entry into the pursuit.
- (b) Remaining at a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary officer, or if the primary unit is unable to continue the pursuit. The secondary unit should not pass the primary unit, unless requested to do so.
- (c) Broadcasting the progress of the pursuit unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (d) Serve as backup to the primary unit once the subject has been stopped.
- (e) If any crash occurs during the pursuit, the secondary unit is responsible for checking for injuries and arranging for medical care.

307.4.4 PURSUIT DRIVING TACTICS

The decision to use or not use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of considerations outlined in the factors to be considered concerning pursuit initiation and termination. The following are tactics for units involved in the pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (3)):

- (a) Officers, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- (b) Officers may proceed past a red, or stop signal, or stop sign but only after slowing down and utilizing a flashing red lamp or siren as may be necessary for safe operation (Minn. Stat. § 169.03, Subd. 2).
- (c) As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong way on a roadway, highway, or freeway (Minn. Stat. § 169.03). Members shall not drive their vehicle the wrong way (against traffic) on a freeway. Members may drive the wrong

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way down a divided highway ramp to make a traffic stop on a vehicle going the wrong way down the ramp to prevent the vehicle from actually entering the main portion of the freeway. Members may drive on the wrong side of any other divided roadway only when absolutely necessary. In those instances, members must use extreme caution and carefully weigh all safety factors. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:

1. Request assistance from an available air unit.
 2. Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling on the correct side of the roadway.
 3. Request other units to observe exits available to the suspects.
- (d) Notify the Minnesota State Patrol or other law enforcement agency if it appears the pursuit may enter their jurisdiction.
- (e) Officers involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other units unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the primary unit, and a clear understanding of the maneuver process exists between the involved officers.
- (f) Members shall not duplicate the offender's dangerous driving maneuvers unless the failure to immediately apprehend the offender will likely result in another person suffering death or great bodily harm, and the officers maneuvers do not endanger non-involved persons or unreasonably endanger the members involved in the incident.

307.4.5 TACTICS/PROCEDURES FOR UNITS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

There should be no paralleling of the pursuit route. Officers are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Officers should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

Non-pursuing personnel needed at the termination of the pursuit should respond in a non-emergency manner, observing the rules of the road.

The primary unit, secondary unit and supervisor should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (emergency lights and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.

307.4.6 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event the initiating unit from this agency relinquishes control of the pursuit to another unit or jurisdiction, that initiating unit may, with permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide necessary information and assistance for the arrest of the suspects.

The term "trail" means to follow the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow rate of speed, the trailing unit will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit units so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

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307.4.7 AIRCRAFT ASSISTANCE

When available, aircraft assistance should be requested. Once the air unit has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, it should assume control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground units should consider whether the participation of an aircraft warrants their continued involvement in the pursuit (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (4)).

The air unit should coordinate the activities of resources on the ground, report progress of the pursuit and provide officers and supervisors with details of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards or other pertinent information to evaluate whether to continue the pursuit. If ground units are not within visual contact and the air unit determines that it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air unit should recommend terminating the pursuit.

307.5 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the policy of this department that available supervisory and management control will be exercised over all vehicle pursuits involving officers from this department (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (4)).

The supervisor of the officer initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the senior officer will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Upon becoming aware of a pursuit, immediately notify involved officers and Communications Center of supervisory presence and ascertain all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit in order to ensure that the pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.
- (b) Engage in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- (c) Exercise management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (d) Ensure that no more than the number of required law enforcement units needed are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- (e) Direct that the pursuit be terminated if, in the supervisor's judgment, it is not justified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (f) Ensure that aircraft assistance is requested if available.
- (g) Ensure that the proper radio channel is being used.
- (h) Ensure the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this agency.
- (i) Control and manage OPD units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (j) Prepare a post-pursuit critique and analysis of the pursuit for training purposes (Sergeant).

307.5.1 SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the Sergeant should monitor and continually assess the situation and ensure the pursuit is conducted within the guidelines and requirements of this policy. The Shift Sergeant has the final responsibility for the coordination,

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control, and termination of a vehicle pursuit and shall be in overall command (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (4)).

The Sergeant shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward them to the Captain.

307.6 COMMUNICATIONS

If the pursuit is confined within the City limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or communications dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved units should, whenever required, switch radio communications to an emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies and units.

307.6.1 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification that a pursuit has been initiated, the Washington County Communications Center will be responsible for the following (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (4)):

- (a) Coordinate pursuit communications of the involved units and personnel.
- (b) Notify and coordinate with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (c) Ensure that a supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- (d) Assign an incident number and log all pursuit activities.
- (e) Broadcast pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.

307.6.2 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

When the pursued vehicle is lost, the primary unit should broadcast pertinent information to assist other units in locating the vehicle. The primary unit will be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

307.7 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary officer or supervisor, taking into consideration distance traveled, unfamiliarity with the area, and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the pursuit. Unless entry into another jurisdiction is expected to be brief, it is generally recommended that the primary officer or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to the dispatcher and to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether such jurisdiction is expected to assist (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2 (5)).

If a pursuit from another agency enters the department's jurisdiction, Communications Center should update the on-duty supervisor.

307.7.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Oakdale Police Department officers will discontinue the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit unless continued assistance of the Oakdale Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon discontinuing the pursuit, the primary unit may proceed

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upon request, with or at the direction of a supervisor, to the termination point to assist in the investigation.

The role and responsibilities of officers at the termination of a pursuit initiated by this department shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the units from the agency assuming the pursuit.

Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific. Because of communication limitations between local agencies, a request for another agency's assistance will mean that its personnel will assume responsibilities for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves another jurisdiction and a request for assistance is made to this department, the other agency should relinquish control.

307.7.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from this department should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the agency whose peace officers are in pursuit. The exception to this is when a single unit from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, a unit from this department may join the pursuit until sufficient units from the initiating agency join the pursuit. Members shall not take over or assume control of a pursuit unless the elements of the pursuit meet this policy standard and the initiating agency specifically requests the Oakdale Police Department to assume the primary role of the pursuit.

When a request is made for this department to assist or take over a pursuit from another agency that has entered this jurisdiction, the supervisor should consider these additional following factors:

- (a) Ability to maintain the pursuit.
- (b) Circumstances serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (c) Adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (d) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (e) Safety of the pursuing officers.

As soon as practicable, a supervisor should review a request for assistance from another agency. The supervisor, after consideration of the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing outside agency by officers of this department will terminate at the City limits provided that the pursuing peace officers have sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that a pursuit from another agency terminates within this jurisdiction, officers shall provide appropriate assistance to peace officers from the outside agency including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

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307.8 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

Pursuit intervention is an attempt to terminate the ability of a suspect to continue to flee in a motor vehicle through tactical application of technology, road spikes, blocking, boxing, PIT (Pursuit Intervention Technique), ramming or roadblock procedures.

307.8.1 WHEN USE AUTHORIZED

Use of pursuit intervention tactics should be employed with approval of a supervisor, when practical. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors should balance the risks of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the officers, and persons in or on the pursued vehicle. With these risks in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances apparent to the officer at the time of the decision (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 2).

It is imperative that officers act within legal bounds using good judgment and accepted practices.

307.8.2 USE OF FIREARMS

The use of firearms to disable a pursued vehicle is not generally an effective tactic and involves all the dangers associated with discharging firearms. Officers should not utilize firearms during an ongoing pursuit unless the conditions and circumstances meet the requirements authorizing the use of deadly force. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any officer from using a firearm to stop a suspect from using a vehicle as a deadly weapon. When all other reasonable means of defense have been exhausted (or are not present or practical), which includes moving out of the path of the vehicle.

307.8.3 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any pursuit intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the officers, the public or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to Department policies guiding such use. Tactics that involve ramming, blocking, or boxing-in moving vehicles are prohibited unless the existing circumstances would allow for the justifiable use of deadly force. Only officers who have been properly trained in the application of the specific pursuit intervention techniques or equipment may consider the use during a pursuit.

1. Blocking or vehicle intercept should only be considered in cases involving felony suspects or those who pose a threat to public safety when officers reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in the vehicle. Because of the potential risks involved, this technique should only be employed by officers who have received training in such tactics and after giving consideration to the following:
 1. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers or other members of the public.

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2. All other reasonable intervention techniques have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.
 3. Employing the blocking maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk to officer safety.
 4. The target vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.
 5. At no time should civilian vehicles be used to deploy this technique.
2. Only those officers trained in the use of the PIT will be authorized to use this procedure and only then with approval of a supervisor, when a supervisor is working, upon consideration of the circumstances and conditions presented at the time, including the potential for risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Officers should rely on their training and consider the location in relation to obstructions on or along the roadway, other traffic, pedestrians, speeds, and the types of vehicles involved. Generally, the roadway should be wide enough and or have shoulders or boulevards present where vehicles can come to a rest after the tactic is employed.
3. Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the officer's disposal have been exhausted. This tactic should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method. This policy is an administrative guide to direct officers in their decision-making process before ramming another vehicle. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, the following factors should be present:
 1. The suspect is an actual or suspected perpetrator of a crime of violence, who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.
 2. The suspect is driving with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of other persons or is driving in a reckless and life-endangering manner.
 3. If there does not reasonably appear to be a present or immediately foreseeable serious threat to the public, the use of ramming is not authorized.
4. As with all intervention techniques, pursuing officers should obtain supervisor approval before attempting to box a suspect vehicle during a pursuit. The use of such a technique must be carefully coordinated with all involved units, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
5. Spike strips should be deployed only when it is reasonably apparent that only the pursued vehicle will be affected by their use. Prior to the deployment of spike strips, the officer shall notify pursuing units and the supervisor of the intent and location. Officers should carefully consider the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risks to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Officers must take into account the distance from the pursued vehicle, adequate location for deployment, and abilities of the officer. Rushed deployments should be avoided as they are often ineffective and dangerous. If the pursued vehicle is, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials, a large vehicle, or a school bus transporting children officers and

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supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle. Deployment on stationary vehicle (pursuit prevention) may be used when the possibility exists that a wanted or dangerous person may enter a vehicle and attempt to leave the area. To prevent a vehicle from fleeing, spike strips may also be utilized on a stationary vehicle in situations where the driver has been given lawful orders to exit the vehicle but refuses. In the case of a deployment on a stationary vehicle, when practical, the occupant should be given a warning that the device was placed and will cause damage to the vehicle if they put the vehicle in drive. Deployment on moving vehicles that had recently fled from law enforcement but is not currently being pursued may be considered only with supervisor approval. Spike strips may be deployed at the request of another agency pursuing a vehicle in Oakdale. Spike strips may be utilized to slow or stop the pursuit to protect citizens of the community.

6. Because roadblocks involve a potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop, the intentional placement of roadblocks in the direct path of a pursued vehicle is generally discouraged and should not be deployed without prior approval of a supervisor, and only then under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention techniques have failed or reasonably appear ineffective and the need to immediately stop the pursued vehicle substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, officers or other members of the public. If a roadblock is established, members must meet the following requirements:
 1. The offender vehicle must be allowed adequate stopping distance.
 2. Members must not physically place themselves in a position that is in line with the oncoming offender's vehicle.
 3. Members must take the necessary steps required to reasonably ensure the safety of non-involved pedestrians and motorists.

307.8.4 CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary under the circumstances to properly perform their lawful duties.

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary officer should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect(s) following the pursuit. Officers should consider safety of the public and the involved officers when formulating plans to contain and capture the suspect.

307.8.5 GPS TRACKING

Officers in StarChase equipped squads (or handheld launcher), trained on the system, and are able to use the system under Minn. Stat. § 626A.35 are authorized to preemptively deploy the StarChase system on a vehicle the officer has reasonable suspicion will evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a motor vehicle or when it is reasonable to believe that a suspect is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle that has been given a signal to stop by a peace officer. The application or attempted application of the StarChase system on a vehicle does not authorize officers to engage in pursuits not otherwise permitted by policy. Once the StarChase

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system has been successfully deployed, officers should evaluate the severity of the crime in which the offender was being pursued and determine if continued pursuit is necessary and in accordance with policy versus backing off and tracking via GPS. The supervisor and dispatch or their designee will continually update involved personnel and agencies of the vehicle's location. The supervisor will ensure outside agencies' notification and/or coordination to successfully apprehend the suspect. In recognizing the risk to public safety created by vehicle pursuits during the application or attempted application of the StarChase system, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to deploy or attempt deployment of the StarChase system due to the risk involved in vehicle pursuits.

307.9 REPORTING AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

All appropriate reports shall be completed to comply with appropriate local and state regulations. The Captain shall ensure the appropriate forms are filed with the Department of Public Safety within 30 days (Minn. Stat. § 626.5532):

- (a) The primary officer shall complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.
- (b) The primary officer or supervisor shall complete the appropriate pursuit report.
- (c) After first obtaining available information, the supervisor shall complete a or, critique summary of the pursuit designee and forward to the Patrol Captain. The supervisor shall also begin compiling the necessary reports, audio, digital evidence, images of damaged vehicles or property, and other information required for a thorough review of each pursuit incident. In the absence of an on-duty supervisor, the next supervisor scheduled for duty shall be contacted by the officer involved in the pursuit. The critique summary memo should minimally contain the following information (Minn. Stat. § 626.5532):
 - 1. Date and time of pursuit.
 - 2. Length of pursuit in distance and time.
 - 3. Involved units and officers.
 - 4. Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
 - 5. Starting and termination points.
 - 6. Alleged offense, charges filed or disposition: arrest, citation or other release.
 - 7. Arrestee information should be provided if applicable.
 - 8. Injuries and/or property damage.
 - 9. Medical treatment.
 - 10. The outcome of the pursuit.
 - 11. Name of supervisor handling or at the scene.
 - 12. A preliminary determination that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy or additional review and/or follow-up is warranted.

Vehicle Pursuits

13. When a tire deflation device is used, whether successful or not, the officers shall complete a report detailing the deployment. The officer will also complete the necessary report at <https://stopstick.com/home/pursuit-reporting>. If involvement in the pursuit is for tire deflation deployment only, a state pursuit report is not required.
- (d) After receiving copies of reports, logs and other pertinent information, the Chief of Police or designee shall conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review as appropriate to the circumstances. This review shall not occur prior to the taking of any necessary formal statements, nor shall it occur prior to the completion of any disciplinary hearings that may be scheduled.
- (e) Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of Department vehicle pursuits to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance and training needs.

307.9.1 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all licensed non-exempt employees will participate, no less than annually, in regular and periodic training on this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public at all times. Training will include a recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to officers and others.

The designated training sergeant shall ensure the frequency and content of emergency vehicle operations and vehicle pursuit training meets or exceeds that required by law (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 5).

307.9.2 POLICY REVIEW

Each licensed member of this department shall electronically certify that they have received, read and understand this policy initially and upon any amendments. All members will review this policy annually and the topic of vehicle pursuits will be discussed at department trainings throughout the year. This policy will also be thoroughly reviewed with newly hired officers in field training.

307.9.3 YEARLY CERTIFICATION

This policy shall be reviewed and certified to the state annually that it complies with requirements of any new or revised model policy adopted by the state (Minn. Stat. § 626.8458 Subd. 3).

307.9.4 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Copies of the current pursuit policy shall be made available to the public on request.