

7-500.00 Police Pursuit Policy

Policy Statement

It is the primary mission of the Goodview Police Department to protect lives while enforcing the law. In addition, it is the responsibility of the Goodview Police Department to guide its officers in the safe and reasonable performance of their duties. To accomplish these goals, the following policy is provided to control and regulate the manner in which emergency vehicle operations are undertaken and performed. When engaged in emergency vehicle operations in the performance of official duties, drivers of authorized emergency vehicles are granted exemptions, by statute, from certain traffic laws. These exemptions are provided to help protect lives, not to place them at undue risk.

Definitions

- A. Pursuit: A multi-stage process by which a police officer initiates a vehicular stop and a driver resists the signal or order to stop, increases speed, takes evasive action and/or refuses to stop the vehicle. Once the driver refuses to obey the police officer's signal or order, this pursuit policy and procedure will determine the officer's and department's actions.
- B. Termination of a Pursuit: A pursuit shall terminate when the primary officer turns off the emergency equipment, resumes routine vehicle operation and informs dispatch, or when the suspect vehicle stops.
- C. Divided Highway: Any highway which has been separated into two or more roadways by;
 - 1. a physical barrier, or
 - 2. a clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic.
- D. Channeling: To direct vehicular traffic into a progressively narrowing passageway or lane location on the roadway.
- E. Compelling Path: The use of channeling technique with a modified roadblock located at its narrowed end. The compelling path differs from a termination roadblock in that the driver or any vehicle traveling the path has an exit option at the narrowed end.

Pursuit Consideration

- A. Pursuit is justified:
 - 1. when a vehicle operator fails to stop after being given a visual or audible signal to stop by a peace officer; and
 - 2. when there is reasonable expectation of a successful apprehension of the suspect.

B. Other factors to be considered:

1. The initial decision to engage in a pursuit shall lie primarily with the officer who has initiated the vehicular stop, after considering the elements of this policy.
2. These elements shall include, but are not limited to, the crime for which the suspect is wanted (the need to apprehend immediately) and the risk to the community created by the pursuit (traffic, area of pursuit, environmental factors, and weather conditions).
3. The officer must continually consider the risks created by the pursuit, as those risks may change during a pursuit.
4. Terminating a pursuit shall be considered a decision made in the interest of public safety. Many times, the termination of a pursuit is the safest and most appropriate action.
5. The officer's decision to continue a pursuit may be overridden by a supervisor at any time.

C. Standards applied to the evaluation of a pursuit, as well as the decision to continue a pursuit shall include the following:

1. Is the need to immediately apprehend the suspect more important than the risk created by the pursuit?
2. Do the dangers created by the pursuit exceed the danger posed by allowing the perpetrator to escape?

Procedures and Tactics for an Engaging in Pursuit

- A. Emergency vehicles shall be driven in a safe manner and with due regard for public safety.
- B. Emergency vehicles operating in emergency mode are permitted to violate certain traffic regulations, when necessary, as long as the operator continues to exercise due care in vehicle operation.
- C. The vehicles shall be known as the primary unit, which will be the unit closest to the fleeing vehicle and the secondary unit, which shall remain at a safe distance behind the primary unit but close enough to provide support and communicate with dispatch. Backup units as needed shall operate at a safe distance to provide support.

Responsibilities of the Primary Unit

- A. The driver of the primary unit shall notify dispatch of the pursuit and shall provide at least the following critical information to dispatch:
 1. Unit identification.

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2. Offense for which the suspect is being pursued.
 3. Suspect vehicle description, including license number if reasonably possible.
 4. Location, direction, and speed of both vehicles
 5. Description of occupant(s) and if suspect is known to officer.
 6. Any other important information about the suspect vehicle or environment (for example: suspect is traveling without lights, officer loses sight of vehicle, etc.).
- B. Primary unit should request an LTAC channel, if possible, from Dispatch unless already provided by Dispatch. LTAC channel information will be provided to any responding units by Dispatch. The primary unit should use LTAC channel, if possible, but can remain on primary talk group if necessary.
- C. Based on the known information, the supervisor shall make the decision to either take further appropriate action or terminate the pursuit.
- D. No officer will intentionally make vehicle - to - vehicle contact unless in conformance with Departmental policy on use of force (see Departmental Policy on Force).

1. Pursuit Intervention Technique

Caution: Only officers that are trained in the Pursuit Intervention Technique may use it!

Because our primary concern in all pursuits is safety of the public, it is essential that all pursuits be terminated quickly. Once an officer is certain that a subject is starting to flee, the officer should immediately seek and use opportunities to end the pursuit with a pursuit intervention technique. Early, proper, use of this technique will accomplish the twin goals of safety to the public and arrest of the subject. It is appropriate to use at any time in the pursuit when it can successfully shorten the pursuit and reduce risk to the public.

- E. Roadblocks established must conform to the policy on use of force.
1. When practicable, a tire disabling device should be deployed
- F. Only police vehicles with emergency lights and siren will be used as pursuit vehicles.

Supervisor's Responsibilities

- A. The supervisor shall have control over the activities of the pursuit.
- B. Once notified that a unit has become involved in a pursuit, the supervisor shall acknowledge his/her presence immediately, monitor the pursuit activities and provide the driver of the primary unit with appropriate direction.
- C. The supervisor shall request critical information necessary to evaluate the continuation of the pursuit.

- D. The supervisor has the authority to terminate any pursuit.
- E. Options for the supervisor to keep in mind include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. In cases involving wrong-way drivers, parallel pursuits may be used.
 - 2. Notification of the next jurisdiction is encouraged.
 - 3. Channeling techniques may be used.
 - 4. Creating a compelling path.
- F. Post-pursuit chain of command notifications are required accurately as possible.

Dispatcher's Responsibilities

- A. Dispatchers shall coordinate critical information, both as timely and accurately as possible. Dispatchers will provide access to LTAC channel to all agencies involved directly or assisting in the pursuit.

Factors Influencing the Termination of a Pursuit

- A. The driver of the primary unit and the supervisor shall continually evaluate the risks and likelihood of a successful apprehension of the suspect.
- B. The conditions of the pursuit become too risky for the safe continuation of the pursuit, i.e., it is futile to continue.
- C. A supervisor orders it terminated.
- D. If information is communicated that indicates the pursuit is out of compliance with policy.
- E. When normal communication is broken.
- F. When visual contact is lost for a reasonable period of time or the direction of travel cannot be determined.
- G. When the suspect is known and could be apprehended later, and to delay apprehension does not create a substantial known risk of injury or death to another.

Inter-jurisdictional Pursuit

- A. The primary unit, before leaving its jurisdiction, shall update critical information to the dispatcher.

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- B. The primary police vehicle shall remain the primary vehicle in other jurisdictions.
- C. Upon receiving notification that the pursuit is entering another agency's jurisdiction, the dispatcher shall forward all critical information possessed by the dispatcher to that agency.
- D. When a pursuit enters this department's jurisdiction:
 - 1. The dispatcher shall update the critical information to the shift supervisor.
 - 2. The supervisor shall determine if the pursuit is in conformance with policy.
 - 3. The supervisor shall provide the appropriate direction to units.

Air Support

- A. Should air support ever become available and air support has suspect vehicle in sight, the primary pursuit unit shall reduce the level of pursuit to that of support or another backup unit.

Care and Consideration of Victims

- A. If during a pursuit an officer observes or is made aware of an injury to an individual, the officer shall immediately notify the peace officer's dispatcher to have the appropriate emergency units respond.
- B. The primary pursuit unit will be responsible for ensuring that assistance is provided to people who may have been injured during the course of a pursuit. The primary pursuit unit may delegate the responsibility to render the assistance to a specific support or backup unit when they are immediately available to render assistance.

Pursuit Summary Report

- A. The primary officer and the supervisor shall file a pursuit summary report.
- B. To ensure compliance with MN Statute 626.5532, the chief law enforcement officer shall insure the completion of the state pursuit report form and forward it to the Commissioner of Public Safety within 30 days following the incident.
- C. The report must contain the following elements:
 - 1. The reason(s) for, and the circumstances surrounding the incident;
 - 2. the alleged offense;
 - 3. the length of the pursuit including time and distance;
 - 4. the outcome of the pursuit;
 - 5. any injuries or property damage resulting from the incident; and
 - 6. any pending criminal charges against the driver.

Evaluation and Critique:

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After each pursuit, the supervisor and department units involved with the pursuit will evaluate the pursuit and make recommendations to the chief law enforcement officer on ways to improve the department's pursuit policy and tactics.