



California State University, Los Angeles
Department of Public Safety

NUMBER:	IV-9	APPROVED:	_____
			Larry Bohannon, Chief of Police
EFFECTIVE:	May 1, 2007		
SUPERSEDES:	4/7/2007	Reviewed/Revised:	December 16, 2022
SUBJECT:	Pursuit Policy		

I. PURPOSE.

This policy is intended to provide guidelines for University police officers in conducting vehicular pursuits.

II. POLICY.

Evaluating the circumstances – Guidelines on the decision to pursue and or continuation of the pursuit.

- A. Police pursuits present significant potential risks and present potential hazards that are a threat to public safety. Officers of this Department must always be aware of the potential danger presented to the general public, and carefully evaluate whether the reason for the pursuit outweighs the risk and hazards presented to the public presented in the continuation of the pursuit. As a result, an officer or supervisor of this Department may discontinue a pursuit an any time, even in circumstances where this policy would permit the commencement or the continuation of a pursuit.
- B. A pursuit should be initiated only when a law violator clearly exhibits an intention to avoid apprehension by using a vehicle to flee or when a suspected law violator refuses to yield. The police officer must have a reasonable suspicion that the suspected violator committed a crime other than a minor traffic violation. In order to diminish the likelihood of a pursuit, officers intending to stop a vehicle shall, when practical, be within close proximity to the vehicle when attempting the stop.
- C. The following factors should be considered when determining whether a pursuit should be initiated, continued or terminated and in determining what speed to travel at during the pursuit:
 - 1. The seriousness of the originating crime and its relationship to community safety;
 - 2. Safety of the public in the area of the pursuit;
 - 3. Safety of the pursuing officer(s);
 - 4. Safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle;
 - 5. Volume of pedestrian traffic;
 - 6. Location of pursuit;

7. Speeds involved;
8. Time of day;
9. Weather conditions;
10. Road conditions;
11. Familiarity of the officer and supervisor with the area of the pursuit;
12. Quality of radio communications between the pursuing unit(s) and the dispatcher and supervisor; in most instances, when communication is lost, and there is no other way to communicate with dispatch (i.e. other police agencies, cellular phones, or other communications equipment) the officer should consider terminating the pursuit.
13. The capability of the police vehicle(s) involved.

D. **A pursuit is not appropriate when:**

1. The pursuit itself endangers life more than the escape of a vehicle and/or person(s) pursued.
2. The person is identifiable and there is a likelihood that an arrest can be made at a later time/date.
3. The person(s) do not pose a significant threat to the community.

III. DEFINITIONS.

- A. **Pursuit.** A peace officer in an authorized emergency vehicle as defined by the vehicle code attempting to apprehend a known or suspected violator of the law, (includes failure to yield) who is avoiding apprehension, and or, ignoring the police officer's attempt to stop him, who is an occupant of a vehicle.
- B. **Initiating Unit.** The operator of a police vehicle who first attempts to stop the pursued vehicle.
- C. **Primary Unit.** The operator of the police vehicle closest to the suspect vehicle.
- D. **Secondary Unit.** The operator of any other police vehicle actively participating in the pursuit.
- E. **Trail or Trailing.** Following a pursuit at any distance with supervisory approval, in compliance with all laws.
- F. **Supervisor.** A Lieutenant, Sergeant, Corporal, or Officer in Charge (OIC) acting in the capacity of Watch Commander.

IV. PROCEDURES.

- A. Number and Type of Vehicles in the Pursuit.
 1. Pursuits will be limited to two (2) vehicles (not including a supervisor), a primary unit, and a secondary unit unless approved by a supervisor.
 2. A pursuit initiated by an unmarked unit will be abandoned by that unit when sufficient marked units have joined in, and taken over the pursuit. The unmarked unit may then proceed to the termination point of the pursuit at legal speed with supervisory approval.
 3. Any decision regarding the number of units in a pursuit shall take into consideration the policy statements found in Section II, A through D, of this directive.

B. Areas of Responsibility.

1. The initiating unit will:
 - a. Activate emergency equipment (lights and siren) and run them continuously until termination of the pursuit.
 - b. Become the primary unit and broadcast:
 - 1) The law violation or reason for the pursuit, location, speed, and direction of travel;
 - 2) Number of occupants in the pursued vehicle; and
 - 3) Vehicle description, including license plate number, make, model, and color.
 - c. Maintain a reasonable distance behind the pursued vehicle.
2. The primary unit will:
 - a. Be responsible for the decision to continue or terminate the pursuit and pursuit tactics unless relieved of the responsibility by the supervisor / Watch Commander.
 - b. Keep Dispatch/Communications informed of the location, speed, and direction of travel of the pursuit.
 - c. Constantly evaluate whether the reason for the pursuit outweighs the risk and hazards presented to the public presented in the continuation of the pursuit.
 - d. Coordinate the apprehension efforts of the units when the stop is made.
 - e. Terminate the pursuit if the hazards outweigh the reason for the pursuit.
3. The secondary unit will:
 - a. Immediately inform Dispatch/Communications that there are two units in the pursuit.
 - b. Maintain contact with the primary unit, keeping a safe distance behind.
 - c. Assume the role of the primary unit if warranted by the circumstances.
 - d. Assist the primary unit with the coordination of the apprehension of any suspects and communication of information at the termination point.
 - e. Assist the primary vehicle should a confrontation with the pursued vehicle become imminent.

- f. When in position, take over calling the pursuit from the primary unit.
- 4. The Dispatcher will:
 - a. Immediately clear the air of all but emergency traffic upon notification of the pursuit.
 - b. Become the coordinating point of the pursuit and immediately notify the Watch Commander.
 - c. At the direction of the Watch Commander, notify the neighboring jurisdictions of the pursuit and applicable charges.
 - d. Request assistance from neighboring agencies at the direction of the Watch Commander.
 - e. Document the following information in the CAD radio log:
 - 1) Date and time the pursuit began and ended.
 - 2) Identification of units involved.
 - 3) Reason for pursuit.
 - 4) Pursuit results (apprehension, termination etc...).
 - 5) Name of watch commander or station supervisor at the time of the pursuit.
 - 6) Speed of pursuit (acceleration/decelerations).
 - 7) Times of pursuit (attempt to document time changes, location changes).
 - 8) Document any assistance from outside jurisdictions and their identities if possible.

5. Supervisory Control.

When a pursuit commences, the Watch Commander shall be notified immediately, and will take control and exercise responsibility for the following areas:

- a. **Obtaining and evaluating all known facts and terminating the pursuit, if the pursuit is not justified or the known risks outweigh the need for immediate apprehension of the suspect (s).**
- b. Monitoring the pursuit, continually evaluating whether the reason for the pursuit outweighs the risk and hazards presented to the public presented in the continuation of the pursuit. Also insuring that the pursuit is being conducted with prescribed Departmental guidelines.
- c. Coordinating any other unit involvement, making sure that no more than the required units are involved in the pursuit.
- d. Ensuring that available aircraft have been requested.

- e. The proper radio frequency is being utilized.
 - f. Affected allied agencies are notified.
 - g. **The watch commander will respond to the termination point, as soon as practicable, and determine which agencies have primary jurisdiction of the suspect/scene based on the severity and location of the crimes involved.**
6. Termination of the Pursuit.
- a. The officer will report the final location and direction of travel of the pursued vehicle at the time of termination. The officer will voluntarily terminate pursuit if he or she determines that the safety of the public, conditions of the roadway, weather, traffic, or other factors so necessitate the termination of the pursuit. The officer will notify the dispatcher of his or her decision at the time the decision is made.
 - b. Pursuits will be terminated as follows:
 - 1) Termination order is given – The officer acknowledges the instruction to do so as directed by the Watch Commander.
 - 2) Risk is too high to continue – The risks of pursuit outweigh the need for immediate apprehension. The risk and hazards presented to the officer and public presented in the continuation of the pursuit are too high to allow the pursuit to continue.
 - 3) Violator identity is established – To the point that later apprehension can be accomplished, and there is no longer a need for immediate apprehension.
 - 4) Poor conditions – Poor environmental conditions exist as to render the pursuit unsafe (weather, road conditions, traffic, pedestrians).
 - 5) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer known – The officer no longer has visual contact with the vehicle.
 - 6) The seriousness of the offense (i.e. minor traffic violation) does not justify the need to pursue.
7. Outside Agency Assists.
- Notification by other agencies of a pursuit in progress entering our jurisdiction will not be construed as a request to join in the pursuit. In such an instance, officers will station themselves at strategic points, staying out of the way of the suspect vehicle and pursuing units and monitor the course of the pursuit. When the Department

receives a request by an outside agency for assistance with a pursuit, the following procedures will be followed:

- a. The Watch Commander or Dispatcher will obtain the reason for the pursuit, direction of travel (location), and speed of the pursuit from the requesting agency.
- b. The request must be evaluated in accordance with the procedures in this order by the Watch Commander, and shall fall under this directive's guideline for supervisory management and control during our Department's participation in the pursuit.
- c. The Watch Commander shall determine the level of response to the request, and shall determine the roles and responsibilities of units and coordination at the termination of an interjurisdictional pursuit.
- d. Pursuits in violation of this policy will not be entered/joined.

8. Pursuit Vehicle Operations and Tactics

- a. Offensive tactics are prohibited unless use of deadly force is justified. (Department Order IV-1, Use of Force).
- b. Prohibited actions include:
 - 1) Passing or pulling beside or in front of the violator's vehicle or other police vehicles;
 - 2) Paralleling without being directed to do so by a supervisor.
 - 3) Ramming or nudging the violator's vehicle or following too closely;
 - 4) Roadblocks; and
 - 5) Duplicating reckless or hazardous driving maneuvers performed by the pursued vehicle.
- c. The use of firearms to stop fleeing vehicles should only be used as a last resort, and is governed by the same guidelines as the use of any other deadly force: *An officer may use deadly force only when the officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in the defense of any person in immediate danger of serious physical injury.*

- V. Post Pursuit Apprehension: Once the pursuit has terminated, sworn personnel shall evaluate the safety of the public and peace officers during the law enforcement effort to capture an offender in determining whether the officer will conduct a felony vehicle stop and arrest following the guidelines of Written Directive IV-1, Use of Force, and IV-14, Arrest Procedures.

VI. Post Pursuit Reporting Procedures

- A. The Watch Commander shall comply with Vehicle Code Section 14602.1 by completing a CHP 187 Pursuit Report [attached to this directive], and shall ensure that the primary officer completes all applicable Department paperwork.
- B. **The Watch Commander will review the circumstances of the pursuit using the Department's *Use of Force Report*, completing all applicable sections [Use of Force Report can be found as an attachment to Written Directive IV-1].**
- C. Administrative Review
 - 1. The Lieutenant or Deputy Chief will conduct an administrative review of the pursuit to ensure that the pursuit was conducted in compliance with Department policies [review of the Department's *Use of Force Report*].
 - 2. The administrative review will include a critique of the incident and utilization of the analysis in relation to training.
 - 3. The Chief of Police, or designee, will conduct an annual analysis of all Pursuit reports for patterns or trends that indicate training needs and/or policy changes. A memorandum report will be produced and maintained by the Chief's Office.
- D. Training Requirements
 - 1. Each officer trainee shall review and be required to explain the agency's policy concerning pursuits. Completion of such training shall be documented as part of the Field Training Officer Program.
 - 2. Officers shall be required to review, discuss, and complete, at a minimum annual training of the pursuit policy. Such training shall be documented via a log entry and/or through the completion of the Supervisors Guide Form.

V. APPENDICES: CHP Pursuit Report Form 187.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**Refer To Page 2 For Detailed Instructions****ALLIED AGENCY VEHICLE PURSUIT REPORT**

SUPERVISOR'S INITIALS

VEHICLE PURSUIT NUMBER (For your agency use only, if applicable)

CHP 187A (Rev. 4-03) OPI 051

ALL CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES: Carefully read the following information prior to completing form:

Vehicle Pursuit Data: Vehicle Code Section 14602.1 requires that "every state and local law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, city police departments and county sheriffs' offices, shall report to the Department of California Highway Patrol, on an approved form, all vehicle pursuit data." This form has been developed to record this information.

Vehicle Pursuit Defined: An event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect operating a motor vehicle while the suspect is attempting to avoid arrest by using high speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but **willfully failing to yield** to the officer's signal to stop.

SECTION I - Mandatory For ALL California Law Enforcement Agencies Involved In Vehicle Pursuit

1. AGENCY NCIC	2. AGENCY NAME (Specify district, i.e., LAPD Rampart)	3. DATE VEHICLE PURSUIT WAS INITIATED	4. TIME VEHICLE PURSUIT WAS INITIATED (24 hr., e.g., 1430)
5. TIME YOUR AGENCY BECAME INVOLVED IN VEHICLE PURSUIT (24 hr., e.g., 1430)	6. PURSUED VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER	7. STATE	8. VIN NUMBER (Complete only if "cold plated" or no license plate available)
9. TOTAL TIME YOUR AGENCY WAS INVOLVED IN VEHICLE PURSUIT (Minutes)	10. TOTAL DISTANCE YOUR AGENCY WAS INVOLVED IN VEHICLE PURSUIT (Miles)	11. COUNTY WHERE VEHICLE PURSUIT BEGAN	
12. AGENCY INITIATING VEHICLE PURSUIT	13. DID YOUR AGENCY TURN PURSUIT OVER? (If yes, indicate the agency below) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	14. DID YOUR AGENCY CONCLUDE VEHICLE PURSUIT? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, complete Section II below)	
15. LIST I.D. NUMBERS OF YOUR AGENCY'S OFFICERS INVOLVED IN VEHICLE PURSUIT (Do not list names)			
16. ORIGINAL VIOLATION OBSERVED BY AGENCY INITIATING THE VEHICLE PURSUIT (Leave this section blank if your agency did not initiate pursuit) Section & Code: _____ a. <input type="checkbox"/> Felony b. <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor c. <input type="checkbox"/> Infraction d. <input type="checkbox"/> BOL/Warrant/Wanted e. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
17. INDICATE THE ATTEMPTED FORCIBLE STOP(S) AND NUMBER OF TIMES ATTEMPTED Spike Strip _____ PIT _____ Other Ramming _____ Boxed In _____ Remote Engine Disabler _____ Other (Explain) _____			

If there were any injuries that were incurred as a result of a collision during your agency's involvement in the vehicle pursuit, and your agency did not conclude the vehicle pursuit, answer only #18 in Section II below.

SECTION II - Complete Only If Your Agency Brought Vehicle Pursuit To Conclusion (Includes Aborting Vehicle Pursuit)

18. WERE THERE ANY INJURIES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF A COLLISION? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, indicate the number of each type of injury:			19. WERE ANY INJURIES INCURRED AFTER THE VEHICLE PURSUIT? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, indicate the number of each type of injury:		
Police Officer(s)	Suspect(s)	Other(s)	Police Officer(s)	Suspect(s)	Self-Inflicted
Fatal Injury	_____	_____	Fatal Injury	_____	_____
Severe Injury	_____	_____	Severe Injury	_____	_____
Other Visible Injury	_____	_____	Other Visible Injury	_____	_____
Complaint of Pain	_____	_____	Complaint of Pain	_____	_____
20. SUSPECT <input type="checkbox"/> WAS <input type="checkbox"/> WAS NOT APPREHENDED. WHICH <u>ONE</u> OF THE FOLLOWING MOST NEARLY DESCRIBES THE EVENT CONCLUDING THE VEHICLE PURSUIT?					
<input type="checkbox"/> Pursued suspect voluntarily stopped		<input type="checkbox"/> Pursuit aborted by law enforcement agency		<input type="checkbox"/> Pursued vehicle escaped pursuing vehicle	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forcible stop		<input type="checkbox"/> Pursued vehicle and pursuing vehicle collided		<input type="checkbox"/> Suspect abandoned vehicle and fled on foot	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pursued vehicle became disabled		<input type="checkbox"/> Pursued vehicle became involved in collision		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pursuing vehicle became disabled		<input type="checkbox"/> Pursuing vehicle became involved in collision			
21. MOST SERIOUS VIOLATION SUSPECT(S) CHARGED WITH UPON CONCLUSION OF THE VEHICLE PURSUIT (Do NOT use 2800.1, 2800.2, or 2800.3 CVC)					
Section & Code: _____ a. <input type="checkbox"/> Felony b. <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor c. <input type="checkbox"/> Infraction d. <input type="checkbox"/> BOL/Warrant/Wanted e. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____					
22. D.O.B. OF PERSON PURSUED	23. GENDER OF PERSON PURSUED	24. DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE?			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, indicate substance(s) used) <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Combo			
25. ETHNICITY					
<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Laotian	<input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian	<input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic	<input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Not Listed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian		

Destroy Previous Editions Of CHP 187 and CHP 187A

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