



**CHANDLER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDERS**  
*Serving with Courage, Pride, and Dedication*

Order

**E-03 VEHICLE OPERATIONS**

Subject

**200 Pursuits**

Effective

**05/17/17**

**Low Frequency/High Severity**

**A. POLICY**

[41.2.2]

**A pursuit is justified only when the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the pursuit.** The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for making decisions with regard to vehicular pursuit.

**B. DEFINITIONS**

1. **HAZARDOUS CONDUCT OR DRIVING:** Hazardous conduct or driving exists when an officer makes a good faith determination that a driver poses an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to others, and the suspect must be stopped to prevent such injury or death
2. **POLICE INTERVENTION:** For the purposes of this General Order only, police intervention occurs when an officer attempts to stop a vehicle to investigate a possible traffic or criminal violation by activating emergency lights to signal the suspect driver to yield to the officer. Police intervention is short term in nature and ends when the driver yields, fails to yield, flees, or actively attempts to elude to avoid apprehension.
3. **FAILURE TO YIELD:** A failure to yield occurs when a driver fails to stop as required by law and the officer is in process of determining if the driver is fleeing or actively attempting to elude to avoid apprehension or if other circumstances are present such as the driver fails to realize the stop attempt based on impairment, medical issues, distraction, or other circumstances. A failure to yield ends when the driver comes to a stop or when the officer reasonably determines the driver is fleeing or actively attempting to elude to avoid apprehension.
4. **VEHICULAR PURSUIT:** An active attempt by a law enforcement officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend a fleeing suspect in a vehicle who, based on the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable officer would believe is fleeing or actively attempting to elude police to avoid apprehension
5. **AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE:** An agency vehicle equipped with operable emergency equipment as designated by state law

**C. DECISION TO PURSUE**

[41.2.2]

In order to minimize the possibility of an officer's actions being the source or cause of the suspect's reckless or hazardous driving behavior, officers may consider initiating or engaging in a pursuit when the person being pursued is suspected of **committing a violent felony**. Pursuits for **traffic violations, stolen vehicles, and non-violent felonies are prohibited**.

## D. CONSIDERATIONS

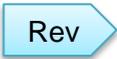
[41.2.1]

### CONTINUALLY EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING DURING A PURSUIT:

1. Compliance with the provisions of ARS Title 28-624
2. Seriousness of offense
3. Volume of vehicular traffic
4. Location of pursuit, e.g., residential, school zones
5. Weather, road, and environmental conditions
6. Volume of pedestrian traffic
7. Control of vehicle: must be in complete control of vehicle at all times
8. Whether the identity of the driver is known (lessens the need for immediate apprehension)
9. Provisions of the State Criminal Code, Title 13 (**pursuit driving does not offer immunity**)
10. The safety of all persons involved (does the pursuit create a greater hazard than previously existed)
11. Whether immediate apprehension of the suspect outweighs the level of danger created by the pursuit
12. The effect of your presence on the suspect

## E. SUPERVISORS

1. **CONTROL PURSUIT** by monitoring it and taking the necessary action to comply with this policy
2. Notify dispatch via radio you are controlling the pursuit
3. If the primary unit has not declared a pursuit, but their actions are indicative of being in a pursuit, ask the officer his intention and clarify if a pursuit is happening
4. Determine appropriateness of response based on the circumstances
5. Prompt involved officers for additional information as necessary
6. If primary unit initiating a pursuit is a supervisor, another supervisor will announce as controlling supervisor. The supervisor initiating a pursuit will turn the pursuit over to a non-supervisor patrol unit as soon as possible.
7. Submit pursuit review paperwork to Professional Standards Section (PSS)



Rev

## F. UNINVOLVED SUPERVISORS

Uninvolved supervisors monitoring the pursuit, by the authority of rank, take on the burden of intervening should they determine based on the information they have at the time the pursuit is unreasonable or out of policy and are required to intervene and terminate the pursuit if the controlling supervisor fails to do so

## G. COMMUNICATIONS

[41.2.1] [41.2.2]

### DISPATCHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Clear the radio frequency for a pursuing unit
2. Re-dispatch initial information, broadcasting emergency traffic
3. Dispatch a backup unit and provide further information upon request
4. Immediately inform the appropriate field supervisor of the pursuit
5. Notify other agencies and specify whether assistance is or is not requested by the pursuing unit
6. Initiate an offense report for documentation on initiation of pursuit

**H. TERMINATION**

[41.2.1] [41.2.2]

**CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF YOUR PRESENCE ON THE SUSPECT:**

1. **AN OFFICER OR SUPERVISOR WILL NOT BE CRITICIZED** or disciplined for terminating a pursuit under the provisions of this section
2. **UPON THE DECISION OR ORDER** to terminate a pursuit, all involved units will:
  - a. Immediately slow down to normal driving speeds
  - b. Deactivate all emergency equipment, and
  - c. Cease following the suspect vehicle, either through stopping their vehicle or changing direction
3. **TERMINATE** a pursuit under the following conditions:
  - a. A sworn supervisor orders it
  - b. Air support becomes available. Follow the suspect vehicle according to air support instructions out of sight of the suspect vehicle.
  - c. Distance from the suspect vehicle is such that continued pursuit would require exceptional speeds causing the officer and the public serious danger
  - d. Loss of visual contact for a period of time (approximately 15 seconds). Continue search at a safe operating speed.
  - e. When there is a clear and unreasonable hazard to the officer, fleeing suspect, and/or other persons, e.g., speeds dangerously exceed the normal flow of traffic, or vehicular or pedestrian traffic necessitates erratic maneuvering which exceeds the performance capabilities of the vehicles or the drivers
  - f. Adverse traffic and weather conditions: a supervisor may order the pursuit to continue if the suspect(s) poses a more serious threat than the adverse conditions, e.g., homicide suspect, habitual sexual assault suspect
  - g. Vehicle has equipment failure involving the vehicle's emergency lights, siren, radio, brakes, steering, or other essential mechanical equipment
  - h. Suspect's identity is determined and immediate apprehension is not necessary to protect the public or officers and apprehension at a later date is feasible
4. **PURSUIT RE-INITIATION:** Do not re-initiate a pursuit unless there is a significant improvement or change in the factor(s) that caused the original decision to terminate

**I. ALTERNATIVES TO PURSUIT**

When circumstances of an incident do not justify a pursuit, officers may choose an alternative course of action that may include, but is not limited to:

1. **UTILIZE INVESTIGATIVE ATTEMPTS** to apprehend the suspect, such as stakeouts, investigation, air surveillance, unmarked units, contacting known associates, etc.
2. **USE THE RADIO TO NOTIFY OTHER OFFICERS** or agencies of the suspect vehicle description and direction of travel
3. **REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM** unmarked, law enforcement vehicles to conduct a moving surveillance of the suspect vehicle

**J. UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES**

[41.2.2]

Figure 1. Pursuit Vehicles Responsibilities

UNIT	ACTION
1. <b>Primary Marked (First) Unit</b>	a. Will activate unit's emergency lights and siren and will notify Communications of the pursuit including the following details: 1) Declaration of and reason for pursuit 2) Suspect vehicle description

UNIT	ACTION
	3) Direction of travel 4) Speed and suspect driving behavior 5) Traffic conditions 6) Number of occupants and descriptions if possible b. Should broadcast special information, such as hazards to officers, e.g., traffic conditions, hazards, etc.
2. <b>Backup Marked (Second) Unit</b>	a. Activate vehicle's emergency lights and siren b. Advise Communications of backup unit status c. Follow the primary vehicle at a safe distance, but remain close enough to assume communications responsibilities from the primary unit if possible
3. <b>Unmarked Units</b>	Vehicles not equipped with identifying markings, emergency lights, and a siren are <b>prohibited</b> from becoming involved in a pursuit in any capacity <b>Exception:</b> Unmarked vehicles equipped with emergency lights and sirens may pursue when directly related to a serious felony. The pursuit will be turned over to a fully marked police vehicle as soon as possible.
4. <b>Unit With Non-police Passengers</b>	Police Units containing non-police passengers such as Cadets, witnesses, citizen observers or prisoners are prohibited from initiating or becoming involved in pursuits unless an immediate and articulable threat to human life exists
5. <b>Motorcycle Units</b>	a. May only become involved in a pursuit as a primary unit when they initiate the pursuit b. Will turn the pursuit over to a marked unit as soon as possible

**K. CONSIDERATIONS**

[41.2.2, 41.2.3]

Figure 2. **Other Pursuit Restrictions**

Category	Restrictions
1. <b>Number of Pursuit Vehicles</b>	a. <b>Only two police units</b> will become <b>actively</b> involved in a pursuit unless directed by a supervisor b. <b>Other officers</b> should be alert to the progress and location of the pursuit, cover escape routes in beats, and attempt to stop endangered cross traffic at major intersections
2. <b>Emergency Lights and Siren</b>	<b>USE EMERGENCY LIGHTS AND SIREN AT ALL TIMES DURING A PURSUIT</b> , unless instructed by a patrol supervisor to use the siren intermittently to aid in radio communication
3. <b>Overtaking Suspects</b>	a. <b>Do not attempt to overtake, pass, or "box in"</b> a fleeing suspect vehicle, placing yourself in a highly vulnerable position unless the actions of the suspect driver present an immediate threat to human life b. <b>Maintain a safe distance</b> from suspect vehicle and other police vehicles while keeping the suspect vehicle in sight until the suspect voluntarily stops to avoid collisions
4. <b>Firearms</b>	<b>DO NOT SHOOT FROM OR AT A MOVING VEHICLE</b> except when necessary in self-defense or in defense of another person's life when all other reasonable means have failed, and then only when the use of the officer's firearm creates no substantial risk to innocent persons
5. <b>Pursuit Considerations</b> (41.2.3)	a. Any actions during a pursuit shall meet the criteria prescribed in this order regarding the Decision to Pursue and be done so in an attempt to mitigate any potential hazards to the public, the officers and the occupants of the pursued vehicle. Additionally, other resources, such

Category	Restrictions
	as air support, known intelligence, undercover units, etc. will be considered. b. Any use of force that may apply in a pursuit situation is subject to the same review as any uses of force pursuant to review under E-01.100
6. <b>Boxing in</b>	May use unmarked units to box in an unaware suspect in order to avoid a pursuit
7. <b>Paralleling</b>	Officers will not normally follow the pursuit at high speeds on parallel streets unless authorized by a supervisor or when it is possible to conduct such an operation without unreasonable hazard to other vehicular and pedestrian traffic
8. <b>Pursuing Left of Center</b>	Officers are <b>prohibited from continually driving left of center</b> or in the opposing direction of travel on any divided highway. This prohibition does not prevent an officer from driving left of center, at slow speeds and for a short duration to: a. Box in a stopped vehicle in the roadway to prevent the driver from moving the vehicle b. Pass stopped traffic if conditions authorizing emergency driving are present

**L. PORTABLE DISABLING DEVICES**

[41.2.3]

Figure 3. **Portable Disabling Devices Guidelines**

Topic	Guidelines
1. <b>Definition</b>	A portable device designed to disable vehicles, including Stop Sticks
2. <b>Authorized Use</b>	a. In pursuit situations as outlined in this order b. When there is definite knowledge that the fleeing person is suspected of a felony c. When the violator constitutes an immediate and continuing hazard d. In any criminal manner where a car is stationary, but it is anticipated that the operator may attempt to flee e. To prevent the removal of a vehicle believed to be evidence f. <b>DO NOT USE Stop Sticks for stopping motorcycles</b> g. Police Intervention is required prior to deploying Stop Sticks
3. <b>Authority to Use</b>	a. All marked Field Operations vehicles may contain Stop Sticks b. Personnel issued Stop Sticks and trained in their use c. Stop Sticks may be deployed to stop vehicles refusing to yield. The deployment of Stop Sticks does not authorize a pursuit of the suspect vehicle.
4. <b>Safety</b>	a. Whenever possible, prevent on-coming vehicular traffic from entering the area b. Place the department vehicle out of the path of the approaching suspect vehicle where it can be used as protection from the suspect vehicle
5. <b>Deployment</b>	a. Stop Sticks may be connected or disconnected when in use b. Officers will document use in an incident report and forward to PSS for administrative review

**M. INTERJURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS**

[41.2.1][41.2.2]

Figure 4. **Chandler Pursuits into Adjacent Jurisdictions Guidelines**

Responsible Party	Responsibility
1. <b>Chandler Supervisor</b>	Should determine whether the other agency should assume the pursuit considering: a. The distance involved b. The pursuing officer's familiarity with the new area c. The seriousness of the violation
2. <b>Adjacent Jurisdiction</b>	a. Does not assume the pursuit, but offers assistance 1) Only the primary pursuing vehicle from Chandler shall continue after the adjacent agency has arrived to assist 2) Backup unit returns to its area of responsibility  b. Assumes the pursuit 1) Initiating officer, if within a reasonable distance, proceeds to the termination point to provide information required for the arrest 2) The backup unit returns to its area of responsibility

Figure 5. **Other Agency Pursuits into Chandler Jurisdiction Guidelines**

Responsible Party	Responsibility
1. <b>Initiating Agency</b>	Responsible for conducting the pursuit
2. <b>Communications</b>	a. Request the nature of the pursuit b. Notify the on-duty supervisor
3. <b>Chandler Supervisor</b>	a. When a request to assist or assume a pursuit from another agency into Chandler, consider: 1) Ability to maintain the pursuit 2) Seriousness of the violation 3) Safety of the public and pursuing officers 4) Reason for the pursuit b. May decline to assist in or assume initiating agency's pursuit
4. <b>Chandler Officers</b>	a. Do not assume or assist in the pursuit unless directed by a supervisor b. If only a single unit from initiating agency is in pursuit, a Chandler unit may join in pursuit until backup units from initiating agency join the pursuit only if the justification for the pursuit is permissible under this order c. May assist with traffic control and associated high risk stops d. If an accident occurs in Chandler's jurisdiction as a result of another agency's pursuit, Chandler may conduct the accident investigation

