

Vehicle Pursuits – Annual Report

Year Ending 2023

Each January, the Deputy Chief shall review vehicle pursuits and submit an overview. This report is the overview of the department's effort and compliance within department policy.

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MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vehicle Pursuits – Annual Report

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Introduction

In the analysis of pursuits conducted by the Monroe Police Department, it is customary to utilize data spanning the past three years to discern and evaluate trends. However, it is noteworthy that in 2023, Monroe Police Department officers were not engaged in any vehicular pursuits. To address this absence of pursuit data, Sno911 introduced a new call type code, designated as "Elude," to systematically track instances where vehicles evade law enforcement, particularly in situations where pursuit is legally prohibited, alongside cases where the subject is subsequently apprehended.

Throughout the course of the year, a total of 20 cases were documented under the category of "Eluding Police Officer," all stemming from traffic stops. Herein follows a succinct overview of these cases:

In January, there were two instances of eluding, both arising from traffic stops for infractions. Subsequently, both drivers were located, with one being incarcerated while charges were filed against the other.

February witnessed three cases of eluding. Among these, one involved a juvenile driver who was apprehended after a traffic stop for speeding, with charges subsequently filed. Another case ensued from an attempted traffic stop on a vehicle suspected of being involved in a catalytic converter theft. The final incident was initiated by an attempted traffic stop on a vehicle previously eluding a SCSO deputy.

March saw a single case of eluding, triggered by an attempted traffic stop for reckless driving and a missing front license plate.

April featured three cases of eluding, two of which involved drivers committing traffic infractions, while the third involved an attempted traffic stop on a potentially stolen vehicle.

May recorded one documented case involving an attempted traffic stop of a motorcycle lacking a license plate.

In June, three instances of eluding occurred: an attempted traffic stop for reckless driving, an attempted stop on a motorcycle without a license plate resulting in charges against the driver, and a welfare check on an individual found unconscious in a running vehicle who subsequently fled, leading to charges being forwarded.

July encompassed two cases, one involving officers attempting to apprehend a fleeing robbery suspect, and the other concerning a suspect evading police following a jewelry theft. Charges were filed against the identified suspect in the latter incident.



MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT

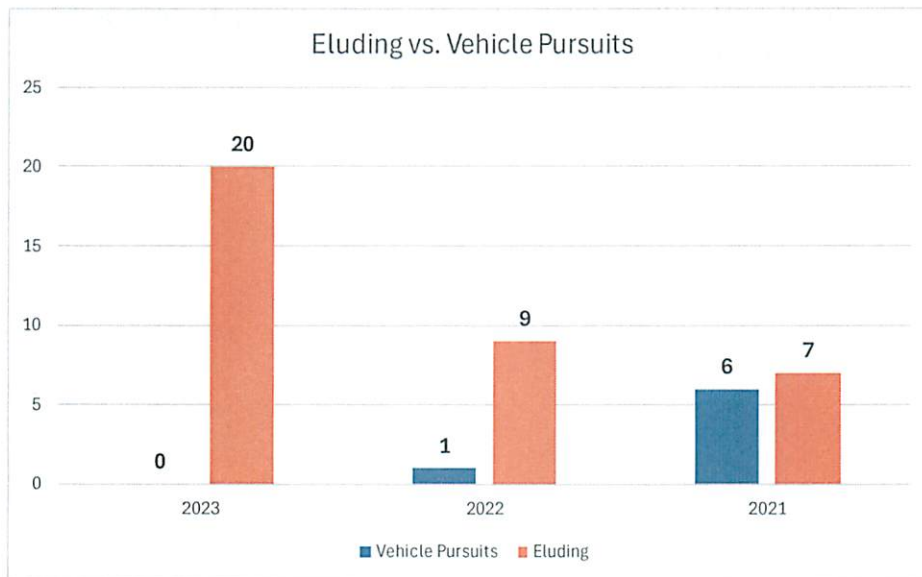
Vehicle Pursuits – Annual Report

Year 2023

August saw officers conducting a welfare check on an individual found unconscious behind the wheel, who subsequently fled upon contact. Additionally, an attempted traffic stop on a motorcycle featuring alterations, including partial obstruction of the license plate, was documented.

October presented three cases: two involving attempted traffic stops for vehicle equipment violations, and another concerning an attempted stop in relation to an alleged Protection Order Violation and Domestic Violence investigation. The driver was subsequently arrested on multiple charges, including Attempt to Elude.

The final incident occurred in December when a patrol officer initiated a traffic stop after narrowly avoiding a collision. The driver was located and subsequently booked into custody.



Policy Review

The Vehicle Pursuit Policy 307 was updated on October 9, 2023, to address Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs accreditation standards. Prior to this update, the policy was updated in May and June 2023 in response to 2023 WA SB 5352 which amended the vehicle pursuit law to allow for pursuits based on reasonable suspicion rather than probable cause for a larger category of crimes. Both the previous and updated Policy were reviewed by Deputy Chief Irving. No discrepancies were found in the policy relating to our procedures. No changes were recommended at the time of this report. The pursuit reporting procedures outlined in section 307.12 were reviewed and remain accurate.



MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vehicle Pursuits – Annual Report

Year 2023

Vehicle pursuits pose a high risk for the community and the pursuing officers. It is the policy of the Monroe Police Department to exercise good judgment and consider public safety in the decision to pursue, continue, or terminate vehicle pursuits and to use sound tactics during those pursuits to ensure safe resolution.

Training

With pursuit policy updates occurring throughout 2023, all sworn employees were required to review and acknowledge the updated policies.

Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training was conducted for sworn employees in 2023. This annual training is of the utmost importance as it equips officers with the necessary skills to effectively apply policy and law in emergency vehicle driving scenarios within a secure environment. Throughout this training program, officers have the opportunity to enhance their understanding and application of policy while refining their safe driving techniques, ensuring heightened proficiency in managing emergency situations on the road.