



Memorandum

TO: Chief Fisher *hef*
FROM: Assistant Chief D. Woods #249
DATE: January 6, 2020
SUBJECT: Annual Vehicle Pursuits Recap for 2019

Chief Fisher,

Introduction:

The Fife Police Department encountered eight (8) vehicular pursuit incidents in 2019. Of the eight vehicular pursuit incidents, all were within departmental policy.

Analysis of Findings:

Police pursuits are inherently dangerous for the officer, suspect and bystanders. The Fife Police Department instituted a strict pursuit policy in 2019 and closely analyzes each pursuit situation. In reviewing pursuit incidents in 2019, I am confident members of this department are adhering to Department policy and making decisions that not only apprehend dangerous individuals, but also maintain safety of the public. The Fife Police Department will continue to review each pursuit, determine the strength and weaknesses of policies, and continue to provide education and training to our officers.

In 2019, the Fife Police Department implemented a more stringent pursuit policy, limiting pursuits to dangerous felony crimes. The below analysis addresses both involved pursuits and pursuits initiated by the violator and terminated by members of this agency.

- The eight (8) documented incidents is a slight decrease from nine (9) in 2018. The slight decrease may be a result of the more restrictive pursuit policy. The Fife Police Department documents all incidents in which the driver fled from officers, whether officers initiated a pursuit or terminated.
- There is no pattern regarding day of the week, time of day or location for pursuits.
- Two vehicles fled from traffic stops. Two vehicles fled after the officer attempted to stop a reported stolen vehicle. One vehicle fled from a Domestic Violence incident. We attempted to assist an outside agency on one incident, attempting to deploy stop sticks (unsuccessfully). Two vehicles fled from violent felonies (drive-by shooting and homicide suspect).
- Officers terminated pursuing the vehicles in five incidents. One incident resulted in the suspect stopping prior to a P.I.T. maneuver. One incident involved officers impacting the vehicle causing a

force stopped (homicide suspect). And in one incident (drive-by shooting) the suspect evaded officers.

- Of the eight pursuits, two suspects were immediately taken into custody. One additional suspect was taken into custody by an outside agency in which we attempted to deploy stop sticks.
- No Officers, suspects, or bystanders reported any injuries resulting from Fife Police Department pursuits.
- Weather and traffic conditions did not play a factor in any reported pursuit.
- All pursuits fell within current policy.

Officers are abiding by department policy, considering the risk of the violators actions and the danger to motoring public. Officers are quickly analyzing the facts presented and making a predetermination to pursue or not based on the facts known at the time. In two incidents, Officers were faced with taking subjects into custody that represented a high risk to the public. In one incident involving a homicide suspect, non-traditional methods were employed after the vehicle had fled from one agency, attempted to flee from our officers, and represented a high risk to motorists during heavy traffic conditions. In the second high risk situation involving a drive-by shooting suspect, multiple officers and jurisdictions attempted to stop the suspect. The suspect drove with willful and wanton disregard for the public and evaded apprehension.

In reviewing all pursuits, Officers used sound judgement when determining to continue the pursuit. Officers considered our policy, the type of violation and the public's interest in all pursuits.

All pursuit incidents are entered into a national database through IACP Pursuits.com. Please see attached data and diagrams provided through IACP Pursuit.com.

Recommendations:

The City of Fife participates in bi-annual Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) with a cooperatives cities coalition to provide the most amount of training opportunity at the lowest cost. Each year, half of the Fife Police Department participates in the training. The training consists of an Instructor Training Day, an evaluation of departmental related collisions, decision making, P.I.T., mock pursuits and emergency driving techniques. It is recommended the Fife Police Department continue to provide EVOC Instructors and participate in the cooperative cities coalition. EVOC Instructors review prior pursuits from area departments, discuss individual department policies, and evaluate decision making processes during scenarios. EVOC Instructors from the cooperative cities review patrol related collisions from their respective agencies and implement training to address those driving concerns. In 2019 the EVOC Instructors provided training at the Washington State Patrol training facility. This location encompasses conditions suitable for PIT, skills and high speed driving.

The Fife Police Department has a Sergeant or Officer in Charge (OIC) on all shifts monitoring potential pursuit situations. The Department will continue to submit a Pursuit Report, approved by a first level supervisor, Division Chief of Operations and Division Chief of Administrative Services.

Having input and oversight of the Cooperative Cities EVOC program, I recommend the Fife Police Department continue their participation. It is further recommended shift supervisors periodically review department policies with their patrol staff.

Respectfully submitted,



D. Woods #249

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Reports: Data Summary Report**Search Results****Data Summary Report**

Report Scope: Department: Fife Police Department (Fife, WA)

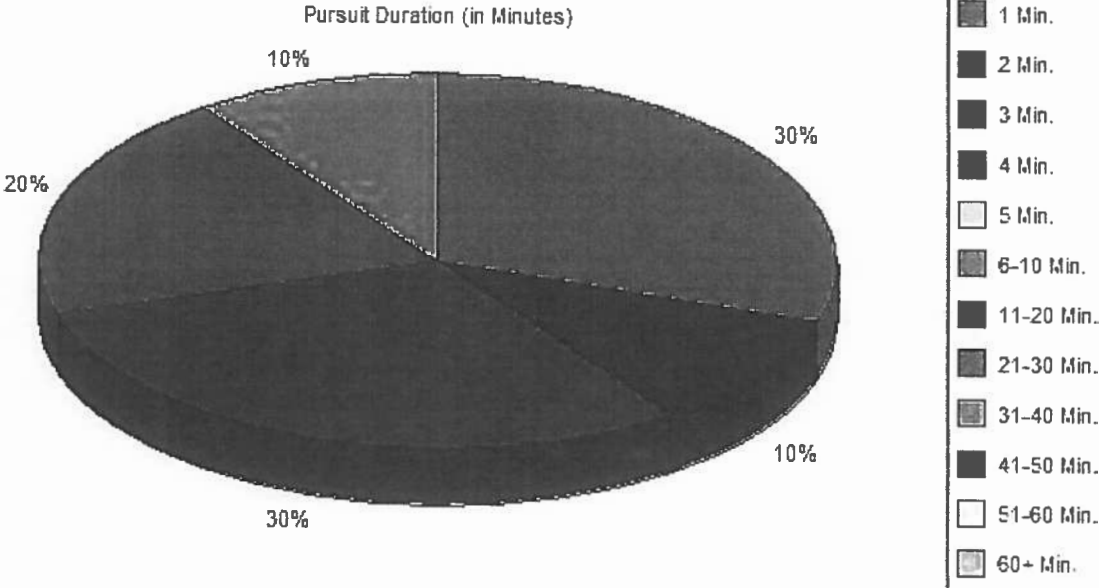
Report Period: 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019

Print Date: 1/6/2020 4:34:32 PM

[Return to Criteria](#)**Count of Total Pursuits: 10****Number of Agencies Reporting: 1****Duration of Pursuit (in minutes)**

Minutes	Count	% of Total	Minutes	Count	% of Total
1	3	30 %	11-20	0	0 %
2	1	10 %	21-30	0	0 %
3	3	30 %	31-40	1	10 %
4	2	20 %	41-50	0	0 %
5	0	0 %	51-60	0	0 %
6-10	0	0 %	Over 60	0	0 %

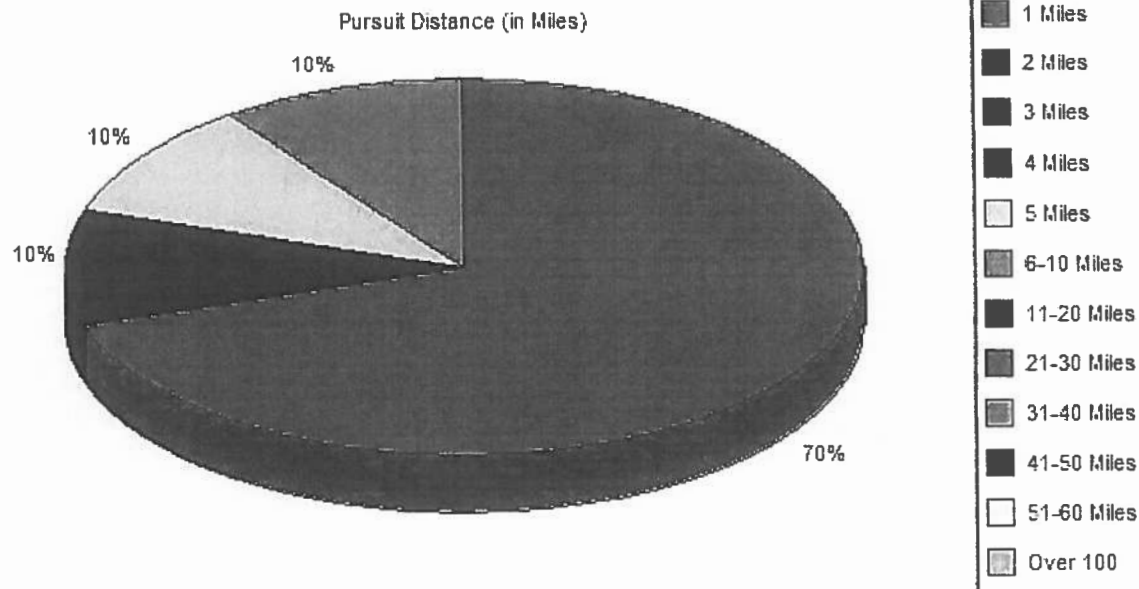
Pursuits



Distance of Pursuit (in miles)

Miles	Count	% of Total	Miles	Count	% of Total
1	7	70 %	11-20	0	0 %
2	1	10 %	21-30	0	0 %
3	0	0 %	31-40	0	0 %
4	0	0 %	41-50	0	0 %
5	1	10 %	51-100	0	0 %
6-10	1	10 %	Over 100	0	0 %

Pursuits



Initial Violation

Violation	Count	% of Category	% of Total
Traffic - DWI	0	0 %	0 %
Traffic - Speeding	1	50 %	10 %
Traffic - Reckless	0	0 %	0 %
Traffic - Other	1	50 %	10 %
Misdemeanor - DWI	0	0 %	0 %
Misdemeanor - Assault/Battery	1	100 %	10 %
Misdemeanor - Firearm Related	0	0 %	0 %
Misdemeanor - Other	0	0 %	0 %
Non-Violent Felony - Burglary	1	25 %	10 %
Non-Violent Felony - Stolen Auto	2	50 %	20 %
Non-Violent Felony - White Collar	0	0 %	0 %
Non-Violent Felony - Other	1	25 %	10 %
Violent Felony - Homicide	0	0 %	0 %
Violent Felony - Robbery	0	0 %	0 %
Violent Felony - Violent Assault	2	100 %	20 %
Violent Felony - Rape	0	0 %	0 %
Violent Felony - Other	0	0 %	0 %

Assisting Other Department

1

100 %

10 %

Environmental Conditions

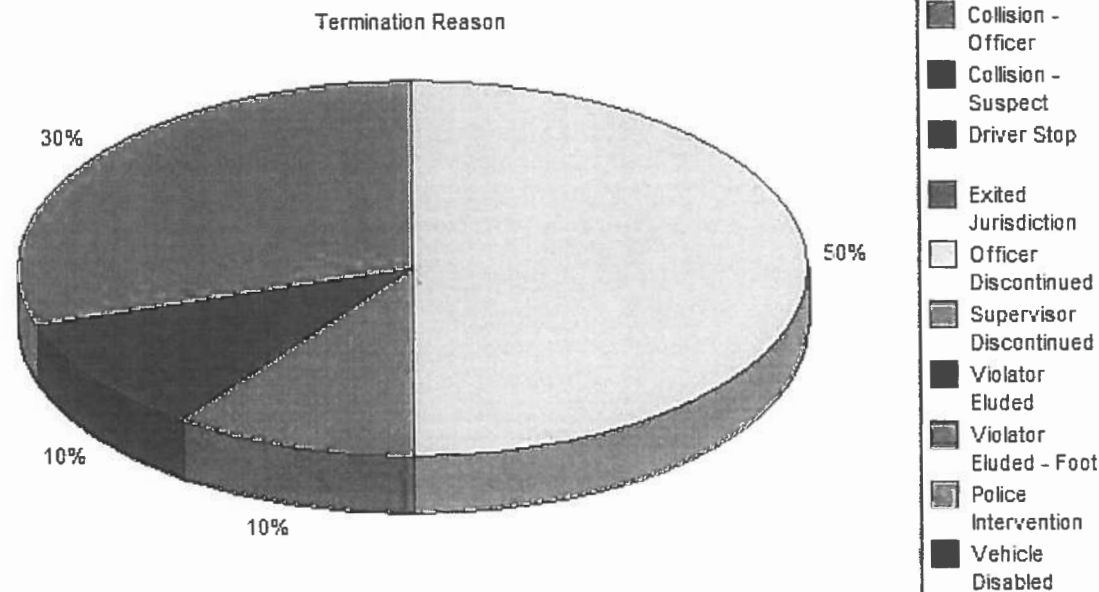
Category	Sub Category	Count	% of Total
Demographics	Urban	10	100 %
	Suburban	0	0 %
	Rural	0	0 %
	Interstate Highway	0	0 %
Light Conditions	Light	8	80 %
	Dusk	0	0 %
	Dark	2	20 %
Average Speed Over Limit	Below Limit	0	0 %
	Low (0-10 mph)	2	20 %
	Medium (11-25 mph)	2	20 %
	High (26+ mph)	6	60 %
Traffic Conditions	Light	5	50 %
	Moderate	2	20 %
	Heavy	3	30 %
Road Conditions	Dry	10	100 %
	Wet	0	0 %
	Ice	0	0 %
	Snow	0	0 %
Maximum Pursuit Speed (mph)	0-30 mph	1	10 %
	31-50 mph	2	20 %
	51-60 mph	2	20 %
	61-70 mph	1	10 %
	71-80 mph	1	10 %
	81-90 mph	1	10 %
	91+ mph	2	20 %

Termination Reason

Category	Count	% of Total
Collision - Officer	0	0 %

Pursuits

Collision - Suspect	0	0 %
Driver Stop	0	0 %
Exited Jurisdiction	0	0 %
Officer Discontinued	5	50 %
Supervisor Discontinued	1	10 %
Violator Eluded	1	10 %
Violator Eluded - Foot	0	0 %
Police Intervention	3	30 %
Vehicle Disabled	0	0 %



Intervention Method

Category	Count	% of Total
PIT Maneuver	1	33 %
Roadblock	0	0 %
Rolling roadblock	0	0 %
Tire deflator	1	33 %
Remote engine Disabler	0	0 %
Other	1	33 %

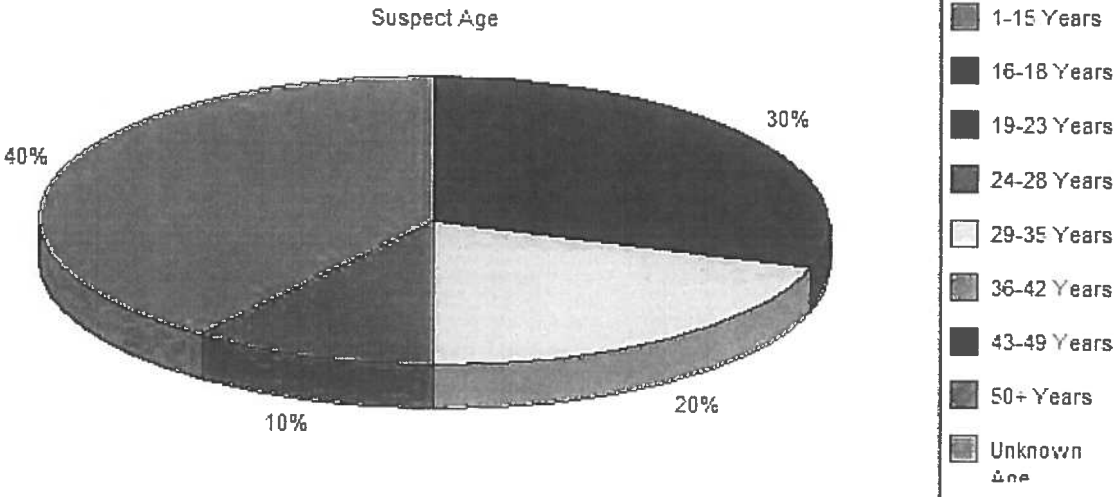
Suspect Information

Category	Sub Category	Count	% of Total
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Pursuits

Suspect Sex	Male (avg. age=29)	8	80 %
	Female (avg. age=)	0	0 %
	Unknown	2	20 %
Suspect Race	Caucasian	5	50 %
	Asian	2	20 %
	African American	1	10 %
	Hispanic	0	0 %
	Other	0	0 %
	Unknown	2	20 %
	Multi-Ethnic	0	0 %
License Status	Licensed	2	20 %
	Unlicensed	4	40 %
	Unknown	4	40 %
Suspect Impairment	None	2	20 %
	Alcohol	0	0 %
	Drugs	4	40 %
	Mental/Illness	0	0 %
	Unknown	4	40 %
Suspect Age	1 - 15 years	0	0 %
	16-18 years	0	0 %
	19-23 years	3	30 %
	24-28 years	0	0 %
	29-35 years	2	20 %
	36-42 years	0	0 %
	43-49 years	0	0 %
	50+ years	1	10 %
	Unknown Age	4	40 %

Pursuits



Injury and Property Damage Statistics

Group	No Injury	Minor Injury	Serious Injury	Fatal Injury	Property Damage
Law Enforcement	10 (100 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	2 (20 %)
Suspect	10 (100 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	2 (20 %)
Uninvolved person / property	10 (100 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)	0 (0 %)

Average Cost of Property Damage: \$650

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