

Vehicle Pursuits

313.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for vehicle pursuits in order to protect the safety of involved deputies, the public, and fleeing suspects.

313.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Blocking or vehicle intercept - A slow-speed coordinated maneuver where two or more vehicles simultaneously intercept and block the movement of a suspect vehicle, the driver of which may be unaware of the impending enforcement stop. The goal is containment and preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not a moving or stationary roadblock.

Boxing-in - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed maneuver designed to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out, stall, and come to a stop.

Ramming - The deliberate act of contacting a suspect's vehicle with another law enforcement vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.

Roadblocks - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by intentionally placing a law enforcement vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the suspect's vehicle.

Terminate - To discontinue a pursuit or stop chasing fleeing vehicles.

Tire deflation device - A device designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle.

Trail - Following the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow rate of speed, the trailing vehicle will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit vehicles so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

Vehicle pursuit - An attempt by a uniformed peace officer in a vehicle equipped with emergency lights and a siren to stop a moving vehicle where the operator of the moving vehicle appears to be aware that the officer is signaling the operator to stop the vehicle and the operator of the moving vehicle appears to be willfully resisting or ignoring the officer's attempt to stop the vehicle by increasing vehicle speed, making evasive maneuvers, or operating the vehicle in a reckless manner that endangers the safety of the community or the officer. (RCW 10.116.060).

Vehicle-to-vehicle contact - Contact between vehicles designed to guide or prevent movement of a vehicle, but without significant impact (ramming) and not reasonably likely to cause injury. The goal is containment and prevention of a pursuit.

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313.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to weigh the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.

313.3 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized sheriff's office emergency vehicles that are equipped with and displaying emergency lighting and sirens as required by law.

Deputies shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property. However, deputies may, when in pursuit of a suspect and provided there is no unreasonable risk to persons and property (RCW 46.61.035):

- (a) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- (b) Exceed the speed limit.
- (c) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

313.3.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Deputies may not engage in a pursuit unless (RCW 10.116.060):

- (a) When reasonable suspicion exists to believe that a person in the vehicle has committed or is committing:
 - 1. A violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030.
 - 2. A sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030.
 - 3. A vehicular assault offense under RCW 46.61.522.
 - 4. A first, second, third, or fourth degree assault offense involving domestic violence as defined in RCW 10.99.020.
 - 5. An escape under Chapter 9A.76 RCW.
 - 6. An impaired driving offense under RCW 46.61.502.
- (b) The pursuit is necessary for the purpose of identifying or apprehending the person.
- (c) The person poses a serious risk of harm to others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicle pursuit under the circumstances.

A peace officer may not engage in a vehicular pursuit unless:

- 1. The pursuing officer notifies a supervising officer immediately upon initiating the vehicular pursuit;
- 2. There is supervisory oversight of the pursuit;
- 3. The pursuing officer, in consultation with the supervising officer,
 - (a) Considers alternatives to the vehicular pursuit,

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- (b) The justification for the vehicular pursuit and other safety considerations, including but not limited to speed, weather, traffic, road conditions, and the known presence of minors in the vehicle. RCW 10.116.060(1)(d)(i).

The pursuing officer and the supervising officer shall comply with any agency procedures for designating the primary pursuit vehicle and determining the appropriate number of vehicles permitted to participate in the vehicular pursuit. See 313.3.3 below.

The supervising officer, the pursuing officer, or dispatcher shall notify other law enforcement agencies or surrounding jurisdictions that may be impacted by the vehicular pursuit or called upon to assist with the vehicular pursuit, and the pursuing officer and the supervising officer, if applicable, shall comply with any agency procedures for coordinating operations with other jurisdictions, including available tribal police departments when applicable.

The pursuing officer must be able to directly communicate with other officers engaging in the pursuit, the supervising officer and the dispatch agency, such as being on a common radio channel or having other direct means of communication.

As soon as practicable after initiating a vehicular pursuit, the pursuing officer, supervising officer, or responsible agency shall develop a plan to end the pursuit through the use of available pursuit intervention options, such as the use of the pursuit intervention technique, deployment of spike strips or other tire deflation devices, or other department authorized pursuit intervention tactics; and

The pursuing officer must have completed an emergency vehicle operator's course, must have completed updated emergency vehicle operator training in the previous two years, where applicable, and must be certified in at least one pursuit intervention option. Emergency vehicle operator training must include training on performing the risk assessment analysis described in subsection 313.3.1 (c) above.

313.3.1 VEHICLE PURSUIT FACTORS

Factors that shall be considered, both individually and collectively, when deciding to initiate or continue a pursuit include but are not limited to (RCW 10.116.060):

- (a) The seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety.
- (b) The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to deputies, innocent motorists, and others.
- (c) The safety of the public in the area of the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (e.g., school zones), and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.
- (d) The pursuing deputies' familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing vehicles and the dispatcher/supervisor, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing deputies under the conditions of the pursuit.

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- (e) Whether weather, traffic, and road conditions unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.
- (f) Whether the identity of the suspect has been verified and whether there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.
- (g) The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speed and other conditions of the pursuit.
- (h) Emergency lighting and siren limitations on unmarked sheriff's office vehicles that may reduce visibility of the vehicle, such as visor or dash-mounted lights, concealable or temporary emergency lighting equipment, and concealed or obstructed siren positioning.
- (i) Vehicle speeds.
- (j) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., minors, passengers, co-offenders, hostages).
- (k) The availability of other resources, such as air support assistance.
- (l) Whether the pursuing vehicle is carrying passengers other than on-duty sheriff's deputies. Pursuits should not be undertaken with an arrestee in the pursuit vehicle unless exigent circumstances exist, and then only after the need to apprehend the suspect is weighed against the safety of the arrestee in transport. A vehicle containing more than a single arrestee should not be involved in a pursuit.

313.3.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

A vehicular pursuit shall be terminated if any of the requirements of the factors listed in this policy on when to initiate a pursuit are not met. (Chapter 235 § 7, 2023 Laws) RCW 10-116-060.

Pursuits should be terminated whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the deputy or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

When a supervisor directs the pursuit to be terminated, deputies will immediately terminate the pursuit.

Deputies and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists, themselves and the public when electing to continue a pursuit.

In addition to the factors that govern when to initiate a pursuit, other factors should be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit, including:

- (a) The distance between the pursuing vehicle and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time or distance.
- (b) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.

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- (c) The pursuing vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) The pursuing vehicle's emergency lighting equipment or siren becomes partially or completely inoperable.
- (e) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (f) The danger that the continued pursuit poses to the public, the deputies or the suspect, balanced against the risk of allowing the suspect to remain at large.
- (g) The identity of the suspect is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit.

313.3.3 PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing unit will be designated as the primary pursuit unit and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless it is unable to remain reasonably close enough to the violator's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the deputy initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspect(s) without unreasonable danger to themselves or other persons.

Notify Skagit 911 that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated and as soon as practical provide information including, but not limited to:

- (a) Reason for the pursuit.
- (b) Location and direction of travel.
- (c) Speed of the fleeing vehicle.
- (d) Description of the fleeing vehicle and license number, if known.
- (e) Number of known occupants and identity/description.
- (f) Road and weather conditions.
- (g) Information concerning the use of firearms, threat of force, injuries, hostages or other unusual hazards.

The deputy in the primary unit shall be responsible for the broadcasting of the progress of the pursuit unless relieved by a supervisor or when practical circumstances indicate otherwise. Whenever possible, the primary unit should relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or aircraft in order to concentrate on pursuit driving.

313.3.4 SECONDARY UNIT(S) RESPONSIBILITIES

The second deputy in the pursuit is responsible for the following:

- (a) The deputy in the secondary unit should immediately notify the dispatcher of entry into the pursuit.
- (b) Remain a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary deputy, or if the primary unit is unable to continue the pursuit.
- (c) The secondary deputy should be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit unless the situation indicates otherwise.

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313.4 PURSUIT VEHICLES

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked sheriff's office emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable.

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three sheriff's office emergency vehicles (two pursuit vehicles and the supervisor vehicle). However, the number of vehicles involved will vary with the circumstances.

A deputy or supervisor may request that additional vehicles join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of deputies involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the number of suspects. All other deputies shall stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any deputy who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the pursuit termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

313.4.1 MOTORCYCLES

When involved in a pursuit, sheriff's office motorcycles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles as soon as practicable.

313.4.2 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Deputies operating vehicles not equipped with emergency lights and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. Deputies in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing vehicles as long as the vehicle is operated in compliance with all traffic laws. Those deputies should discontinue such support immediately upon arrival of a sufficient number of authorized emergency sheriff's office vehicles or any air support.

313.4.3 PRIMARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing deputy will be designated as the primary pursuit vehicle and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless the deputy is unable to remain reasonably close to the suspect's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the deputy initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspect without unreasonable danger to themselves or others.

The primary pursuing deputy shall notify a supervisor immediately upon initiating a vehicle pursuit. The deputy and the supervisor shall consider alternatives to initiating a vehicle pursuit as well as safety considerations (RCW 10.116.060).

The primary pursuing deputy shall notify the dispatcher, commencing with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including but not limited to:

- (a) The location, direction of travel, and estimated speed of the suspect's vehicle.
- (b) The description of the suspect's vehicle including the license plate number, if known.
- (c) The reason for the pursuit.
- (d) The use of firearms, threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.

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- (e) The number of occupants and identity or description.
- (f) The weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- (g) The need for any additional resources or equipment.
- (h) The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

Until relieved by a supervisor or a secondary pursuing deputy, the deputy in the primary pursuit vehicle shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary pursuing deputy should, as soon as practicable, relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a deputy in a secondary pursuit vehicle or to air support joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing deputy to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

313.4.4 SECONDARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The second deputy in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary pursuit vehicle and is responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying the dispatcher of his/her entry into the pursuit.
- (b) Remaining a safe distance behind the primary pursuit vehicle unless directed to assume the role of primary pursuit vehicle or if the primary pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.
- (c) Broadcasting information that the primary pursuing deputy is unable to provide.
- (d) Broadcasting the progress of the pursuit, updating known or critical information and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (e) Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.
- (f) Serving as backup to the primary pursuing deputy once the suspect has been stopped.

313.5 PURSUIT DRIVING

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of the factors the deputy considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for deputies who are involved in the pursuit:

- (a) Deputies, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to unusual maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- (b) Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Available deputies not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.
 - 2. Pursuing deputies should exercise due caution and slow down as may be necessary when proceeding through controlled intersections.

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- (c) As a general rule, deputies should not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong direction on a roadway, highway or freeway. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Request assistance from available air support.
 - 2. Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling the vehicle while driving on the correct side of the roadway.
 - 3. Request other deputies to observe exits available to the suspect.
- (d) Notify the Washington State Patrol or other law enforcement agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter its jurisdiction.
- (e) Deputies involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other pursuing vehicles unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the pursuing deputy and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved deputies.

313.5.1 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event that initial pursuing deputies relinquish control of the pursuit to another agency, the initial deputies may, with the permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide information and assistance for the arrest of the suspect and reporting the incident.

313.5.2 AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

When available, air support assistance should be requested. Once the air support crew has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, they should assume communication control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground pursuit vehicles, or involved supervisor, will maintain operational control but should consider whether the participation of air support warrants their continued close proximity and/or involvement in the pursuit.

The air support crew should coordinate the activities of resources on the ground, report progress of the pursuit, and provide deputies and supervisors with details of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards or other pertinent information to evaluate whether to continue the pursuit. If deputies on the ground are not within visual contact of the pursued vehicle and the air support crew determines that it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air support crew should recommend terminating the pursuit.

313.5.3 DEPUTIES NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

Deputies who are not involved in the pursuit should remain in their assigned areas, should not parallel the pursuit route and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor. Uninvolved deputies are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Those deputies should attempt to place their vehicles in locations that provide some safety or an escape route in the event of an unintended collision or if the suspect intentionally tries to ram the sheriff's office vehicle.

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Non-pursuing members needed at the pursuit termination point should respond in a nonemergency manner, observing the rules of the road.

The primary pursuit vehicle, secondary pursuit vehicle and supervisor vehicle should be the only vehicles operating under emergency conditions (emergency lights and siren) unless other deputies are assigned to the pursuit.

313.6 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisor authorization and control is required for a deputy from this office to engage in a pursuit. The supervisor in consultation with the pursuing deputy must consider alternatives to the vehicular pursuit. The supervisor must consider the justification for the vehicular pursuit and other safety considerations, including but not limited to speed, weather, traffic, road conditions, and the known presence of minors in the vehicle, and the vehicular pursuit must be terminated if any of the requirements of the policy on when to initiate a pursuit are not met (RCW 10.116.060).

The field supervisor of the deputy initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest field supervisor, will be responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying involved deputies and the dispatcher of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit. This is to ensure that the pursuit is conducted within established office guidelines.
- (b) Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- (c) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (d) Ensuring that no more than the required law enforcement vehicles are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- (e) Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in his/her judgment, it is not justified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (f) Ensuring that assistance from air support, canines, or additional resources is requested, if available and appropriate.
- (g) Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- (h) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this office.
- (i) Controlling and managing Skagit County Sheriff's Office deputies when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (j) Preparing a post-pursuit review and documentation of the pursuit as required.
- (k) The supervisor of the deputy initiating the pursuit shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward them to the Division Chief.

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313.7 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

When the pursued vehicle is lost, the involved deputies should broadcast pertinent information to assist other deputies in locating the vehicle. The primary pursuing deputy or supervisor will be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

313.8 INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary pursuing deputy or supervisor, taking into consideration the distance traveled, unfamiliarity with the area and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the pursuit.

Unless entry into another jurisdiction is expected to be brief, it is generally recommended that the primary pursuing deputy or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether the jurisdiction is expected to assist.

313.8.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Deputies will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved deputies may proceed, with supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation. The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information that is necessary for any reports.

The roles and responsibilities of deputies at the termination point of a pursuit initiated by this office shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the needs of the agency assuming the pursuit.

Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific. Because of communication limitations between local law enforcement agencies, a request for another agency's assistance will mean that its personnel will assume responsibility for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves another jurisdiction and a request for assistance is made to this office, the other agency should relinquish control.

313.8.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Deputies from this office should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing agency and with approval from a supervisor. The exception to this is when a single vehicle from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, a deputy from this office may, with supervisor approval, immediately join the pursuit until sufficient vehicles from the initiating agency join the pursuit or until additional information is provided allowing withdrawal from the pursuit.

When a request is made for this office to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, the supervisor shall consider:

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- (a) Whether the pursuit meets the standards of this policy on when to initiate a pursuit and vehicle pursuit factors.
- (b) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (c) The safety of the pursuing deputies.
- (d) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (e) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (f) The ability to maintain the pursuit.

As soon as practicable, a supervisor will review a request for assistance from another agency. The supervisor, after considering the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing agency by deputies of this office will conclude at the County limits, provided that the pursuing agency has sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this office may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that the termination point of a pursuit from another agency is within this jurisdiction, deputies shall provide appropriate assistance including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

313.9 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

Pursuit intervention is an attempt to stop the suspect's ability to continue to flee in a vehicle through tactical application of technology, tire deflation devices, blocking or vehicle intercept, boxing-in, the PIT, ramming or roadblock procedures.

313.9.1 WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED

As soon as practicable after initiating a pursuit, the primary pursuing deputy and supervisor, if available, shall develop a plan for the termination of the pursuit using available intervention options (RCW 10.116.060).

In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, deputies/supervisors should balance the risk of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the deputies, and persons in or on the pursued vehicle. With this in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances apparent to the deputy at the time of the decision.

313.9.2 USE OF FIREARMS

A deputy may not fire a weapon upon a moving vehicle unless necessary to protect against an imminent threat of serious physical harm resulting from the operator's or a passenger's use of a deadly weapon. A vehicle is not considered a deadly weapon unless the operator is using the vehicle as a deadly weapon and no other reasonable means to avoid potential serious harm are immediately available to the deputy (see the Use of Force Policy)(RCW 10.116.060).

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Imminent threat of serious physical injury or death means that, based on the totality of the circumstances, it is objectively reasonable to believe that a person has the present and apparent ability, opportunity, and intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person.

313.9.3 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the deputies, the public, or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to policies guiding such use (see the Use of Force Policy). Deputies shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where, and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

- (a) Vehicle-to-vehicle contact, blocking or vehicle intercept should only be considered in cases involving felony suspects or impaired drivers who pose a threat to the public's safety, and when deputies reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in the vehicle. Because of the potential risks involved, this intervention tactic should only be employed by properly trained deputies and after giving consideration to the following:
 - (a) The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risk of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, deputies, or others.
 - (b) All other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.
 - (c) Employing the blocking or vehicle intercept maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk of danger to those involved or the public.
 - (d) The suspect vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.
 - (e) Only law enforcement vehicles which are equipped with law enforcement flashing emergency lights shall be used in this tactic. Deputies should activate the emergency lights when officers determine intervention should be revealed.
- (b) The PIT is limited to use by properly trained deputies with the approval of a supervisor and upon assessment of the circumstances and conditions presented at the time, including the potential for risk of injury to deputies, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
- (c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the deputy's disposal have been exhausted or would not be effective, and immediate control is necessary. Ramming should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method. If there does not reasonably appear to be a present or immediately foreseeable serious threat to the public, the use of ramming is not authorized. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, the following factors should be present:
 - (a) The suspect is an actual or suspected felon, who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.

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- (b) The suspect is driving with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of other persons or is driving in a reckless and life-endangering manner or using the vehicle as a weapon.
- (d) Boxing-in a suspect vehicle should only be attempted upon approval by a supervisor. The use of such a tactic must be carefully coordinated with all involved vehicles, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to deputies, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Deputies and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.
- (e) Tire deflation devices should be deployed only after notification of pursuing deputies and the supervisor of the intent and location of the intended deployment, and in a manner that:
 - 1. Should reasonably only affect the pursued vehicle.
 - 2. Provides the deploying deputy adequate cover and escape from intentional or unintentional exposure to the approaching vehicle.
 - 3. Takes into account the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risk to deputies, the public, and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
 - 4. Takes into account whether the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials, or a school bus transporting children.
- (f) Because roadblocks involve a potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop, the intentional placement of roadblocks in the direct path of a pursued vehicle is generally discouraged and should not be deployed without prior approval of a supervisor. If roadblocks are deployed, it should only be done under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective and the need to immediately stop the pursued vehicle substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, deputies, or the public.

313.10 CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Deputies shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the deputy at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing deputy should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect following the pursuit. Deputies should consider the safety of the public and the involved deputies when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspect.

313.11 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All appropriate reports shall be completed to comply with appropriate laws and policies or procedures.

- (a) The primary pursuing deputy shall complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.

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- (b) The primary pursuing deputy or supervisor shall complete the appropriate pursuit report.
- (c) After first obtaining the available information, the involved, or if unavailable, on-duty field supervisor shall promptly complete a supervisor's log or interoffice memorandum, briefly summarizing the pursuit to the Sheriff or the authorized designee. This log or memorandum should include, at a minimum:
 - (a) Date and time of the pursuit.
 - (b) Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
 - (c) Length of pursuit in distance and time, including the starting and termination points.
 - (d) Involved vehicles and deputies.
 - (e) Alleged offenses.
 - (f) Whether a suspect was apprehended, as well as the means and methods used.
 - (a) Any use of force shall be reported and documented in compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
 - (g) Arrestee information, if applicable.
 - (h) Any injuries and/or medical treatment.
 - (i) Any property or equipment damage.
 - (j) Name of supervisor at the scene or who handled the incident.
 - (k) A preliminary determination that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy or that additional review and/or follow-up is warranted.
- (d) After receiving copies of reports, logs and other pertinent information, the Sheriff or the authorized designee shall conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review, as appropriate.
- (e) Annually, the Sheriff should direct a documented review and analysis of office vehicle pursuits to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance and training needs.

313.12 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all deputies will participate, no less than annually, in regular and periodic training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public. Training will include recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to deputies and others.

All deputies engaging in vehicle pursuits shall have completed an emergency vehicle operator course, refresher training in emergency vehicle operation within two years prior to the pursuit, and be certified in at least one pursuit intervention option (RCW 10.116.060).

313.13 POLICY REVIEW

Deputies of this office shall certify in writing that they have received, read and understand this policy initially, upon any amendments and whenever training on the policy is provided.