

# Vehicle Pursuits

## 306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

### 306.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

**Blocking or vehicle intercept** - A slow-speed coordinated maneuver where two or more pursuing 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 road block.

**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 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 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.

**Violent Offense**- Any of the following felonies: Any felony defined as a class A felony or an attempt to commit a class A felony, criminal solicitation of or criminal conspiracy to commit a class A felony, Manslaughter 1st, Manslaughter 2nd, Indecent liberties if committed by forcible compulsion, Kidnapping 2nd, Arson 2nd, Assault 2nd, Assault of a Child 2nd, Extortion 1st, Robbery 2nd, Drive-by shooting, Vehicular Assault when the driver is believed to be under the

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influence or driving recklessly, Vehicular Homicide when the driver is believed to be under the influence or driving recklessly..

**Sex Offense**-Any of the following crimes: Rape 1st, Rape 2nd, Rape 3rd, Rape of a Child 1st, Rape of a Child 2nd, Rape of a Child 3rd, Child Molestation 1st, Child Molestation 2nd, Child Molestation 3rd, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor 1st, Sexual Misconduct with a Minor 2nd..

#### **306.2 POLICY**

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

#### **306.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized police department emergency vehicles that are equipped with and displaying emergency lighting and sirens as required by law.

Officers shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property. However, officers 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 parking, direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

##### **306.3.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT**

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when authorized by a supervisor and(RCW 10.116.060):

- (a) There is probable cause to believe that a person in the vehicle has committed or is committing a violent offense or sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 or an escape under Chapter 9A.76 RCW.
- (b)
- (c) The pursuit is necessary for the purpose of identifying or apprehending the person.
- (d) The person poses an imminent threat to the safety of others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person is considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicle pursuit under the circumstances.

The officer requesting authorization and the supervisor shall consider alternatives to initiating a vehicle pursuit as well as safety considerations (RCW 10.116.060).

##### **306.3.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT**

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

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

The factors listed in this policy on when to initiate a pursuit will apply equally to the decision to terminate a pursuit. Officers 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.
- (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 officers 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.
- (h) .

#### 306.3.3 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 officers, 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 officers' 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 officers under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (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.

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- (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 police department 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 police officers. 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.

#### **306.4 PURSUIT VEHICLES**

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked police department emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable.

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three police department emergency vehicles. However, the number of vehicles involved will vary with the circumstances.

An officer or supervisor may request that additional vehicles join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of officers involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the number of suspects. All other officers shall stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any officer 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.

##### **306.4.1 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

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

##### **306.4.2 PRIMARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

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The primary pursuing officer should 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.
- (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 officer, the officer in the primary pursuit vehicle shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary pursuing officer should, as soon as practicable, relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to an officer in a secondary pursuit vehicle to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing officer to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

#### **306.4.3 SECONDARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The second officer 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 officer 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 officer once the suspect has been stopped.

#### **306.5 PURSUIT DRIVING**

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

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- (a) Officers, 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 officers 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 officers should exercise due caution and slow down as may be necessary when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- (c) As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong direction on a divided roadway, highway or freeway. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
  - (a) Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling the vehicle while driving on the correct side of the roadway.
  - (b) Request other officers 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) Officers 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 officer and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved officers.

#### 306.5.1 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event that initial pursuing officers relinquish control of the pursuit to another agency, the initial officers 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.

#### 306.5.2 OFFICERS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

Officers who are not involved in the pursuit may parallel the pursuit route, but should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor. Uninvolved officers 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 officers 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 police department vehicle.

Non-pursuing members needed at the pursuit termination point should respond in a manner appropriate for the situation.

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 officers are assigned to the pursuit.

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### **306.6 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Available supervisory and management control will be exercised over all vehicle pursuits involving officers from this department.

The on-duty supervisor will be responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying involved officers 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 department 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.
- (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 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 department.
- (i) Controlling and managing Moses Lake Police Department officers when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (j) Review each pursuit report.

### **306.7 DISPATCH**

If the pursuit is confined within the City limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved officers should, whenever available, switch radio communications to a tactical or emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies.

### **306.8 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE**

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

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### **306.9 INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary pursuing officer 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 officer 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.

#### **306.9.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY**

Officers will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Moses Lake Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved officers 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 officers at the termination point of a pursuit initiated by this department 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 department, the other agency should relinquish control.

#### **306.9.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION**

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Officers from this department 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, an officer from this department 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 department to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of the Moses Lake Police Department, the supervisor should consider:

- (a) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (b) The safety of the pursuing officers.
- (c) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (d) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.



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- (e) The ability to maintain the pursuit.

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

Assistance to a pursuing agency by officers of this department will conclude at the City limits, provided that the pursuing agency has sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department 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, officers shall provide appropriate assistance including, but not limited to, apprehension of any suspects, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

#### **306.10 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, PIT, ramming or roadblock procedures.

##### **306.10.1 WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED**

Whenever practicable, an officer shall seek approval from a supervisor before employing any intervention to stop the pursued vehicle. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/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 officers 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 officer at the time of the decision.

##### **306.10.2 USE OF FIREARMS**

Officers shall not utilize firearms during an ongoing pursuit unless the conditions and circumstances meet the requirements authorizing the use of deadly force. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any officer from using a firearm to stop a suspect from using a vehicle as a deadly weapon where there is no other reasonable means to avoid potential serious harm immediately available to the officer.

##### **306.10.3 INTERVENTION STANDARDS**

Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the officers, 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. Officers shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

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- (a) 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 officers 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 officers 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, officers or others.
  - (b) All other reasonable intervention tactics 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 should be used in this tactic.
- (b) The PIT is limited to use by properly trained officers. Prior to the use of PIT, officers shall assess the circumstances surrounding the pursuit and the conditions presented at the time, including the potential risk of injury to the public, officers, and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
  - 1. PIT 40 MPH and below- The officer may employ this tactic if they believe it can safely end the pursuit. If possible, the officer should attempt to obtain permission from the on-duty supervisor.
  - 2. PIT Over 40 MPH- The officer shall obtain permission from the on-duty supervisor prior to employing PIT.
- (c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the officers'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:
  - 1. The suspect is an actual or suspected felon, who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.
  - 2. 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 officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Officers and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.

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- (e) Tire deflation devices should be deployed only after notification of pursuing officers 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 officer 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 officers, 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, officers or the public.

### **306.11 STARCHASE PURSUIT MANAGEMENT**

The Moses Lake Police Department utilizes the StarChase GPS system and currently has two patrol vehicles equipped. The following information governs the use of the StarChase system.

- (a) For the purpose of clarity of communications, radio traffic should identify the device as "StarChase."
- (b) StarChase equipment in the patrol vehicle will only be operated by officers who have been trained in its use. StarChase equipped vehicles will not be assigned to officers who are not trained on its use unless required by exigent circumstances.
- (a) Except as specified below, officers shall use their own judgment regarding affixing a StarChase tag upon a pursued vehicle and do not need prior approval from a supervisor.
- (b) All safety decisions related to the discharge of a StarChase tag rest with the officer. Uninvolved persons inside the pursued vehicle shall be considered. The following decisions are specifically included:
  - (a) Whether the officer can safely maneuver close enough to the suspect vehicle to come within targeting range.
  - (b) Whether the officer can safely pass any other vehicle involved in the pursuit.
  - (c) Whether any circumstance would indicate the device would not work (e.g. weather conditions, suspect vehicle weaving, etc.)
- (a) StarChase equipped patrol cars, with approval from a supervisor, are authorized emergency response to join a pursuit for potential use of the device.

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- (a) Unless directed otherwise, the StarChase equipped vehicle will join the pursuit at the rear of authorized pursuing vehicles until cleared to pass.
  - (b) Once a StarChase equipped vehicle joins a pursuit, it becomes an authorized unit as it relates to the number of authorized pursuing vehicles.
  - (c) StarChase equipped vehicles may pass other pursuing vehicles only when deemed safe and only with specific permission from the unit to be passed. Permission is to be sought and acknowledged one passing at a time. Officers driving the StarChase equipped vehicle will identify which side of the overtaken vehicle they will pass.
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- (a) StarChase tags will be deployed in accordance with training.
  - (a) Officers assigned the StarChase system are authorized to use this system in the performance of his/her duties to track and apprehend suspects and their vehicles that are attempting to elude law enforcement (traffic stops, pursuits, etc).
  - (b) Officers should attempt to tag a vehicle that has been confirmed to be stolen or suspected in a high risk incident prior to activating any emergency equipment or initiating a traffic stop.
  - (c) Once the StarChase tag has been successfully deployed, pursuing vehicles should normally drop back significantly from the suspect vehicle and deactivate emergency lights and siren. If the driver or occupant has committed a violent felony, and their escape would be a danger to the public, pursuing vehicles should continue pursuing the suspect vehicle until the suspect(s) is apprehended.
  - (d) Once the StarChase tag has been deployed, the deploying officer will notify MACC immediately of the deployment and ask if a dispatcher is available to assume communications with the StarChase Monitor. If MACC is available officers will maintain constant communication with MACC for speed/direction/location updates of the suspect vehicle.
  - (e) If MACC is unavailable to monitor the StarChase system, the shift supervisor or his designee will assume those duties and communicate to the officers the speed/direction/location and updates of the suspect vehicle to the responding patrol units.  
In doing so, the shift supervisor or his designee will disengage from the pursuit and monitor the incident on the StarChase system from a parked patrol car or through a desktop computer until the incident comes to an end.

#### **Tactical Considerations**

- (a) The StarChase tag will not normally be deployed in the following situations unless the suspect poses a substantial risk to the public:
  - (a) During heavy rain.
  - (b) While driving on exceptionally rough terrain.
  - (c) On a motorcycle.

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- (d) When pedestrians are between or very near the suspect vehicle and the StarChase equipped vehicle.
- (a) In addition to the normal pursuit reporting procedures required by policy, Officers who use the StarChase system will report all tag deployments to the Operations Captain.

#### **306.12 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. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

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

#### **306.13 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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

- (a) The primary pursuing officer shall complete appropriate crime/arrest reports. Secondary pursuing officers shall complete statements.
- (b) All pursuing officers shall complete the appropriate pursuit report prior to going on days off.
- (c) The pursuit report shall 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 officers.
  - (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.

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- (j) Name of supervisor at the scene or who handled the incident.
- (d) After receiving copies of reports, logs and other pertinent information, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review, as appropriate.
- (e) Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of department vehicle pursuits to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance and training needs.

### **306.14 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING**

In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all officers 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 officers and others.

### **306.15 POLICY REVIEW**

Officers of this department 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.