

Vehicle Pursuits

314.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

~~Vehicle pursuits expose innocent citizens, law enforcement officers and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. The primary purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidance in balancing the safety of the public and themselves against law enforcement's duty to apprehend violators of the law. Another purpose of this policy is to reduce the potential for pursuit-related collisions. Vehicular pursuits require officers to exhibit a high degree of common sense and sound judgment. Officers must not forget that the immediate apprehension of a suspect is generally not more important than the safety of the public and pursuing officers.~~

~~Deciding whether to pursue a motor vehicle is a critical decision that must be made quickly and under difficult and unpredictable circumstances. In recognizing the potential risk to public safety created by vehicular pursuits, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a vehicular pursuit because of the risk involved. This includes circumstances where department policy would permit the initiation or continuation of the pursuit. It is recognized that vehicular pursuits are not always predictable and decisions made pursuant to this policy will be evaluated according to the totality of the circumstances reasonably available at the time of the pursuit.~~

~~Officers must remember that the most important factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment. Officer's conduct during the course of a pursuit must be objectively reasonable; that is, what a reasonable officer would do under the circumstances. An unreasonable individual's desire to apprehend a fleeing suspect at all costs has no place in professional law enforcement. [This policy provides guidelines for vehicle pursuits in order to protect the safety of involved officers, the public, and fleeing suspects.](#)~~

314.1.1 ~~VEHICLE PURSUIT DEFINED~~ [DEFINITIONS](#)

[Blocking](#) - [A low-speed tactic where one or more authorized police \[department/office\] emergency vehicles intentionally restrict the movement of a suspect vehicle, with the goal of containment or preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not boxing in or a roadblock.](#)

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

[Pursuit Intervention](#) - [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 \(known as Pursuit Intervention Technique or Precision Immobilization Technique\), ramming, or roadblock procedures.](#)

[Pursuit Intervention Technique \(PIT\)](#) - [A low-speed tactic intentionally applied to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out and terminate the pursuit.](#)

[Ramming](#) - [The deliberate act of impacting a suspect's vehicle with another vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.](#)

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

Tire deflation device - A device that extends across the roadway designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle, sometimes referred to as spike strips.

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

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 event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect, who is attempting to avoid arrest while operating a motor vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop.

314.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

~~It- Vehicle pursuits shall be the policy of this department that a vehicle pursuit shall be conducted only with red light and siren- only be conducted using authorized police [department/office] emergency vehicles that are equipped with and displaying emergency lighting and sirens as required by Vehicle Code § 21055- for exemption from compliance with the rules of the road. The following policy is established to provide officers with guidelines for- . Officers are responsible for continuously driving with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons using the highway as required by- and property (Vehicle Code § 21056).~~

314.2.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

~~Officers may engage in vehicular pursuits only when the officer can articulate the following factors are present:~~

~~(a) When a violator is driving in a non-hazardous manner, but willfully failing to yield to emergency lights and siren, the officer may continue to follow the vehicle to attempt a traffic enforcement stop, until the driving behavior or circumstances change that would make it unsafe to continue; or~~

~~(b) When the violator is believed to be a violent felon who poses a significant, ongoing threat to public safety; or~~

~~(c) When the violator is believed to be a violent misdemeanor, ARMED, and poses a significant and ongoing threat to public safety; or~~

~~In all cases, the seriousness of the offense and the threat posed by the fleeing suspects(s) must justify the vehicle pursuit.~~

~~When initiating or continuing a vehicle pursuit, officers should continually weigh the seriousness of the offense(s) against the potential dangers to themselves and members of the public. When specific facts and circumstances change to the point that the danger or serious injury posed by the~~

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~~vehicle pursuit to other motorists and pedestrians outweighs the need to apprehend the violator the pursuit shall be terminated.~~

~~Personnel who are involved in a vehicle pursuit with a non-violent felon, misdemeanor, or vehicle code violator, shall terminate the pursuit when it becomes apparent the violator exhibits the intent to evade and willfully flees in a hazardous manner, or otherwise attempts to elude the pursuing officer(s), by driving without due care for the safety of others.~~

~~The following factors individually and collectively shall~~ Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit when the officer reasonably believes that a suspect, who has been given appropriate signal to stop by a law enforcement officer, is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle.

Factors that should be considered in deciding whether to initiate a pursuit include:

- (a) ~~Seriousness~~ 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) ~~Apparent nature of the fleeing suspects (e.g., whether the suspects represent a serious threat to public safety).~~
- (d) ~~The identity of the suspects has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspects to be apprehended at a later time.~~
- (e) ~~Safety of the~~ 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.
- (f) ~~Pursuing~~ The pursuing officers' familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing units and the [dispatcher / supervisor], and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (g) ~~Weather~~ Whether weather, traffic, and road conditions ~~that substantially unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit beyond the worth of apprehending the suspect.~~Performance when weighed against the risk of the suspect's escape.
- (h) 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.
- (i) The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speeds and other conditions of the pursuit. ~~Vehicle~~
- (j) Emergency lighting and siren limitations on unmarked police [department/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.
- (k) Suspect and officer vehicle speeds.
- (l) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders ~~and~~, hostages).

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- (m) Availability of other resources such as ~~helicopter assistance. The police unit is carrying passengers other than police officers. Pursuits should not be undertaken with a prisoner in the police vehicle~~ air support or vehicle locator or deactivation technology.

314.2.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be ~~discontinued~~ 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 present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

The factors listed in ~~**WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT**~~ ~~of this policy are expressly included herein and will~~ this policy on when to initiate a pursuit will apply equally to the decision to ~~discontinue as well as the decision to initiate~~ 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 ~~themselves~~ the public when electing to continue a pursuit. ~~In the context of this policy, the term "terminate" shall be construed to mean discontinue or to stop chasing the fleeing vehicle.~~

In addition to the factors ~~listed in~~ ~~**WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT**~~ ~~of this policy, the following factors should also~~ that govern when to initiate a pursuit, other factors should be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit, including:

- (a) ~~Distance~~ The distance between the pursuing ~~officers~~ vehicle and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time and/or distance.
- (b) ~~Pursued~~ The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- (c) ~~Officer's pursuit~~ The pursuing vehicle sustains ~~any type of damage~~ damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) ~~There are hazards~~ The pursuing vehicle's emergency lighting equipment or siren becomes partially or completely inoperable.
- (e) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (f) ~~If the~~ 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 ~~offender~~ suspect is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit, ~~officers should strongly consider discontinuing the pursuit and apprehending the offender at a later time.~~
- (h) ~~Pursuit is terminated by a supervisor.~~
- (i) .
- (j) Extended pursuits of violators for misdemeanors not involving violence, risk of serious harm, or weapons (independent of the pursuit) are generally discouraged.

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~~Once a pursuit is terminated, the pursuing officer shall turn off his/her emergency equipment and make an overt action, e.g., stopping, turning or some other effort to be out of view of the suspect.~~

314.2.3 SPEED LIMITS

The speed of a pursuit is a factor that should be evaluated on a continuing basis by the officer and supervisor. Evaluation of vehicle speeds ~~shall~~ should take into consideration public safety, officer safety, and the safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle.

Should high vehicle speeds be reached during a pursuit, officers and supervisors ~~shall~~ should also consider these factors when determining the reasonableness of the speed of the pursuit:

- (a) Pursuit speeds have become unreasonably unsafe for the surrounding conditions.
- (b) Pursuit speeds have exceeded the driving ability of the officer.
- (c) Pursuit speeds are beyond the capabilities of the pursuit vehicle thus making its operation unsafe.

314.2 POLICY

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

314.3 PURSUIT UNITS

~~Pursuit units~~ When involved in a pursuit, unmarked police [department/office] emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a supervisor); however, the number of units involved ~~will~~ may vary with the circumstances.

An officer or supervisor may request additional units to join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it reasonably appears that the number of officers involved ~~would~~ may be insufficient to safely arrest the suspects. All other officers should 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 termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

314.3.1 MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS

~~A distinctively marked patrol vehicle equipped with emergency overhead lighting should replace a police motorcycle as primary and/or secondary pursuit unit as soon as practical~~ When involved in a pursuit, police [department/office] motorcycles should be replaced by marked four-wheel emergency vehicles as soon as practicable.

314.3.2 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

~~Vehicles~~ Officers operating vehicles not equipped with red light and siren are generally prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. ~~Officers in such vehicles, however, may become involved in~~

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~~emergency activities involving serious crimes or life threatening situations. Those officers should terminate their involvement in any pursuit immediately upon arrival of a sufficient number of emergency police vehicles or any police helicopter. The exemptions provided by Vehicle Code § 21055 do not apply to officers using vehicles without emergency equipment.~~

314.3.3 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~~ the officer is unable to remain reasonably ~~close enough~~ close to the violator's- suspect's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the officer initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspects without unreasonable danger to ~~him/herself or other persons~~ any person.

~~Notify the Communications Center~~ The primary unit 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:

~~Reason for the pursuit.~~

~~Location and~~

- (a) The location, direction of travel
- (b) , and estimated speed of the

~~- fleeing~~

- (a) suspect's vehicle.
- (b) The description of the

~~- fleeing~~

- (a) suspect's vehicle
- (b) including license plate number, if known.

~~- Number of known occupants~~

- (a) The reason for the pursuit.
- (b) Known or suspected weapons. Threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.

~~The identity or description of the known occupants.~~

~~Unless~~

- (a) The suspected number of occupants and identity or description.
- (b) The weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- (c) The need for any additional resources or equipment.
- (d) The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

Until relieved by a supervisor or secondary unit, the officer in the primary unit ~~shall be~~ is responsible for the broadcasting of the progress of the pursuit. Unless ~~practical~~ circumstances

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reasonably indicate otherwise, ~~and in order to concentrate on pursuit driving,~~ the primary pursuing officer should, as soon as practicable, relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or ~~aircraft~~ air support joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing officer to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

314.3.4 SECONDARY ~~UNITS~~ UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The second officer in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary unit and is responsible for ~~the~~ following:

- (a) The officer in the secondary unit should immediately notify the dispatcher of entry into the pursuit as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (b) Remaining a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary

~~- officer,~~

- (a) pursuit vehicle or if the primary
- (b) pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.

~~- The secondary officer should be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit~~

- (a) Broadcasting the progress, updating known or critical information, and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (b) Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.
- (c) Serving as backup to the primary pursuing officer once the suspect has been stopped.

314.3.5 PURSUIT DRIVING ~~TACTICS~~

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of ~~considerations outlined in~~ the factors ~~to be considered concerning pursuit initiation and termination~~ the officer considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for units involved in the pursuit:

- (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 maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- (b) Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Available units 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 units should exercise due regard and caution when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- (c) As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving left of center (wrong way)

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- (d) [against traffic](#). In the event that the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:

1. Requesting assistance from

-- an

- (a) 1. [available](#) air
- (b) 1. [support](#).

- Maintaining

- (a) 1. [Maintain](#) visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling it on the correct side of the roadway.
- (b) 1. [Request](#) other units to observe exits available to the suspects.

Notifying

- (a) [Notify](#) the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and/or other
- (b) [law enforcement agency](#) if it appears that the pursuit may enter

-- their

- (a) [its](#) jurisdiction.
- (b) Officers involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other units unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the primary unit [and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved units](#).

314.3.6 ~~TACTICS/PROCEDURES FOR UNITS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT~~

~~There should be no paralleling of the pursuit route. 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. Officers should remain in their assigned area and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.~~

~~Non-pursuing personnel needed at the termination of the pursuit should respond in a non-emergency manner, observing the rules of the road.~~

~~The primary and secondary units should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (red light and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.~~

314.3.7 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event the initiating unit from this agency either relinquishes control of the pursuit to another unit or jurisdiction, that initiating unit may, with permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide ~~necessary~~ information and assistance for the arrest of the suspects ~~.The term trail means to follow 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 unit will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit units so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit~~ [and reporting the incident](#).

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314.3.7 UNITS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

There should be no paralleling of the pursuit route. 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. Officers should remain in their assigned area and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

The primary and secondary units should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (red light and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.

314.3.8 ~~AIRCRAFT~~ AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

When available, ~~aircraft~~ air support assistance should be requested. Once the air unit has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, ~~it~~ the unit should assume control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground units, or involved supervisor, will maintain operational control but should consider whether the participation of ~~aircraft assistance when determining whether to continue the~~ air support warrants the continued close proximity and/or involvement of ground units in the pursuit.

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

314.4 **SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY** RESPONSIBILITIES

~~It is the policy of this department that available~~ Available supervisory and management control will be exercised over all vehicle pursuits involving officers from this [department/office].

The field supervisor of the officer initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest field supervisor will be responsible for ~~the following: Upon becoming aware of a pursuit, immediately~~

- (a) Immediately notifying involved unit and the [dispatcher of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit
- (b) .
- (c) Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- (d) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (e) Ensuring that no more than the required number of

~~-- required police~~

- (a) units
- (b) are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- (c) Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in

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-- his/her

- (a) the supervisor's judgment, it is
- (b) unreasonable to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (c) Ensuring that

-- aircraft are requested

- (a) assistance from air support, canines, or additional resources is requested, if available and appropriate.
- (b) Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- (c) Ensuring that the Watch Commander is notified of the pursuit as soon as practicable.
- (d) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this
- (e) [department/office].
- (f) Controlling and managing

-- APD

- (a) Alameda Police Department units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (b) Preparing
- (c) a post-pursuit

-- critique

- (a) review and
- (b) documentation of the pursuit

-- for training purposes

- (a) .
 1. Supervisors should initiate follow up or additional review when appropriate.

314.4.1 WATCH COMMANDER ~~RESPONSIBILITY~~ RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the Watch Commander should monitor and continually assess the situation and ensure the pursuit is conducted within the guidelines and requirements of this policy. ~~The~~ Once notified, the Watch Commander has the final responsibility for the coordination, control, and termination of a vehicle pursuit and shall be in overall command.

The Watch Commander shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward to the Bureau Commander.

314.5 ~~COMMUNICATIONS~~ THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

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 ~~communications-~~ [dispatcher]. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this [department/office] or such is imminent, involved units

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should, whenever available, switch radio communications to ~~an~~ a tactical or emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies and units.

314.5.1 ~~COMMUNICATION CENTER~~ THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

~~Upon notification~~ Upon notification or becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the ~~Communications Center will:~~

~~Coordinate~~

[dispatcher is responsible for:

- (a) Clearing the radio channel of non-emergency traffic.
- (b) Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved units and personnel.
- (c) ~~Notify and coordinate with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.~~
- (d) ~~Ensure~~ Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.
- (e) Ensuring that a field supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- (f) ~~Assign an incident number and log all pursuit activities.~~
- (g) ~~Broadcast pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary~~ Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (h) Notify the Watch Commander as soon as practicable.
- (i) Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.

314.5.2 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

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

314.6 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

~~When~~ When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary officer or supervisor, taking into consideration 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 officer or supervisor ensure that notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether such jurisdiction is expected to assist.

314.6.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

~~Units originally involved will discontinue~~ Officers will relinquish control of the pursuit when ~~advised that~~ another agency has assumed the pursuit ~~and~~ , unless the continued assistance of the Alameda Police Department is ~~no longer needed~~ requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon ~~discontinuing~~ relinquishing control of the pursuit, the ~~primary unit~~ involved officers may

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proceed ~~upon request~~, with ~~or at the direction of a supervisor~~ supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation.

~~The role and responsibilities of officers at the termination of a pursuit initiated by this department shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the units from the agency assuming the pursuit.~~

The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information that is necessary for any reports. 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 agencies and CHP units, a request for CHP assistance will mean that they will assume responsibilities for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves the freeway and a request for assistance is made to this department, the CHP should relinquish control.~~

314.6.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit ~~shall be~~ is responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from this [department/office] should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing agency ~~whose officers are in pursuit and there is reasonable belief the fleeing suspect has committed a violent felony~~ and with approval from a supervisor. The exception to this is when a single unit from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, ~~at the discretion of the on duty watch commander or patrol supervisor, a unit from this department may~~ a supervisor may authorize units from this [department/office] to join the pursuit until sufficient units from the initiating agency join the pursuit or until additional information is provided allowing withdrawal of the pursuit.

When a request is made for this [department/office] to assist or take over a pursuit ~~from another agency~~ that has entered ~~this~~ the jurisdiction of Alameda Police Department, the supervisor should consider ~~these additional following factors~~:

- (a) ~~Ability to maintain the pursuit~~
- (b) ~~Circumstances~~ The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (c) The safety of the pursuing officers.
- (d) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit ~~(i.e. a violent felony has occurred.)~~ Adequate
- (e) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (f) The ~~public's safety within this jurisdiction~~
- (g) ~~Safety of the pursuing officers~~
- (h) ability to maintain the pursuit.

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

Assistance to a pursuing allied agency by officers of this [department/office] will terminate at the City limits provided that the pursuing officers have sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this [department/office] may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that a pursuit from another agency terminates within this jurisdiction, officers ~~shall~~ should provide appropriate assistance to officers from the allied agency including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports, and any other reasonable assistance requested or needed.

314.7 WHEN PURSUIT INTERVENTION IS AUTHORIZED

~~Pursuit intervention is an attempt to terminate the ability of a suspect to continue to flee in a motor vehicle through tactical application of technology, road spikes, blocking, boxing, PIT (Pursuit Intervention Technique), ramming or roadblock procedures. In this context, ramming shall be construed to mean maneuvering the police unit into contact with the pursued vehicle to mechanically disable or forcibly position it such that further flight is not possible or practicable. 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 risks of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards to the public arising from the use of each tactic, the officers, and persons in or on the pursued vehicle to determine which, if any, intervention tactic may be reasonable.~~

314.7.1 ~~WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED~~

~~Use of pursuit intervention tactics should be employed only after approval of a supervisor. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors/watch commanders should balance the risks 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 these risks in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances confronting the officer at the time of the decision.~~

~~It is imperative that officers act within the bounds of legality, good judgment and accepted practices.~~

314.7.2 DEFINITIONS

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

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~~**Boxing-in** --A tactic designed to stop a violator'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 and terminate the pursuit.~~

~~**Ramming** --The deliberate act of impacting a violator's vehicle with another vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the violator's vehicle to stop.~~

~~**Roadblocks** --A tactic designed to stop a violator's vehicle by intentionally placing an emergency vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the violator's vehicle.~~

~~**Spikes or tack strips** --A device that extends across the roadway designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle.~~

314.7.3 USE OF FIREARMS

~~The use of firearms to disable a pursued vehicle is not generally an effective tactic and involves all the dangers associated with discharging firearms. Officers should not utilize firearms during an ongoing pursuit unless the conditions and circumstances dictate that such use reasonably appears necessary to protect life. 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. An officer should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle or its occupants when the officer reasonably believes there are no other reasonable means available to avert the threat of the vehicle, or if deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others.~~

~~Officers should not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle (see the Use of Force Policy).~~

314.7.4 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any ~~pursuit~~ 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 subject to the ~~requirements for~~ policies guiding such use. Officers ~~shall~~ should consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where, and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

- (a) Blocking
- (b) should only be

~~-- considered in cases involving felony suspects or impaired drivers who pose a threat to public safety 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~~

- (a) used after giving consideration to the following:
 - 1. The technique should only be
- (b) 1. used by officers who have received training in

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~~-- such tactics after giving consideration to the following:~~

- ~~(a) 1. [the technique.](#)~~
- ~~2. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving~~
- ~~(b) 1. [reasonably appears to outweigh](#) the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.~~

~~All other reasonable intervention techniques have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.~~

~~Employing the blocking maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk to officer safety.~~

~~The target vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.~~

~~At no time should civilian vehicles be used to deploy this technique.~~

~~Only those officers trained in the use of the Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) will be authorized to use this procedure and only then with approval of a supervisor upon consideration of the circumstances and conditions presented at the time, including the potential for risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle~~

- ~~(a) 1. [It reasonably appears the technique will contain or prevent the pursuit.](#)~~
- ~~(b) [The PIT should only be used after giving consideration to the following:](#)~~
 - ~~1. [The technique should only be used by officers who have received training in the technique, including speed restrictions.](#)~~
 - ~~2. [Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.](#)~~
 - ~~3. [The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.](#)~~
 - ~~4. [It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit.](#)~~
- ~~(c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should~~
- ~~(d) [only be](#) done~~

~~-- only after other reasonable tactical means at the officer's disposal have been exhausted. This tactic should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method. This policy is an administrative guide to direct officers in their decision-making process before ramming another vehicle. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, one or more of 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.~~
- ~~(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.~~
- ~~(c) 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.~~

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(d) after giving consideration to the following:

1. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.
2. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to substantially outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
3. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit.
4. Ramming may be used only under circumstances when deadly force would be authorized.
5. Ramming may be used when all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or reasonably appear ineffective.

(e) Before attempting to box a suspect vehicle during a pursuit

~~The use of such a technique must be carefully coordinated with all involved units, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions presented at the time as well as the potential risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. The use of spike strips should be approved in advance by a supervisor and deployed only when it is reasonably certain that only the pursued vehicle will be affected by their use. Officers should carefully consider the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risks to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. If~~

(a) the following should be considered:

1. The technique should only be used by officers who have received training in the technique.
2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.
3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
4. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit.

(b) Tire deflation devices should only be used after considering the following:

1. Tire deflation devices should only be used by officers who have received training in their use.
2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using tire deflation devices.
3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
4. It reasonably appears the use will terminate or prevent the pursuit.
5. Tire deflation devices should not be used when the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials, or a school bus transporting children,

(c) 1. except in extraordinary circumstances.

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2. Due to the increased risk to officers deploying tire deflation devices, such deployment should be communicated to all involved personnel.
- (d) Roadblocks should only be used after considering the following:
 1. Roadblocks should only be used by officers who have received training in their use.
 2. Supervisory approval should be obtained before using the technique.
 3. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle reasonably appears to substantially outweigh the risks of injury or death to occupants of the

-- pursued

- (a)
 1. suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
 2. It reasonably appears the technique will terminate or prevent the pursuit. Roadblocks may be used only under circumstances when deadly force would be authorized.
 3. Roadblocks may be used when all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or reasonably appear ineffective.

314.7.5 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, which reasonably appears necessary under the circumstances, to ~~properly perform their lawful duties~~ accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

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

314.8 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

~~The following~~ All appropriate reports should be completed ~~upon conclusion of all pursuits: to~~ comply with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

- (a) The primary officer should complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.
- (b) The Watch Commander shall ensure that an Allied Agency Vehicle Pursuit Report (form CHP 187A) is filed with the CHP not later than 30 days following the pursuit (Vehicle Code § 14602.1). The primary officer should complete as much of the required information on the form as is known and forward the report to the Watch Commander for review and distribution.
- (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 Chief of Police or the authorized designee. This log or memorandum should include, at a minimum:
 1. Date and time of pursuit.

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2. [Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.](#)
 3. [Length of pursuit in distance and time, including the starting and termination points.](#)
 4. [Involved units and officers.](#)
 5. [Alleged offenses.](#)
 6. [Whether a suspect was apprehended, as well as the means and methods used.](#)
 7. [Any use of force that occurred during the vehicle pursuit.](#)
 - (a) [Any use of force by a member should be documented in the appropriate report \(See the Use of Force Policy\).](#)
 8. [Any injuries and/or medical treatment.](#)
 9. [Any property or equipment damage.](#)
 10. [Name of supervisor at 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 should conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review.](#)

[Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of \[department/office\] vehicle pursuit reports to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance, and training or equipment needs.](#)

314.8.1 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

~~In addition to~~ [The Personnel and Training Sergeant shall make available to all officers](#) initial and supplementary Police Officer Standard Training (POST) training on pursuits required by Penal Code § 13519.8, ~~all sworn members of this department will participate~~ [and](#) no less than ~~annually in regular and periodic department~~ [annual](#) training addressing ~~this policy and the~~ [:](#)

- (a) [This policy.](#)
- (b) [The](#) importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public
- (c) [.](#)
- (d) [The](#) need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to officers and others (Vehicle Code § 17004.7(d)).

314.8.2 POLICY REVIEW

~~Each sworn member~~ [Officers](#) of this [department/office] shall certify in writing that they have received, read, and understand this policy initially ~~and~~ [,](#) upon any amendments, ~~and whenever training on this policy is provided~~. The POST attestation form, or an equivalent form, may be used to document the compliance and should be retained in the member's training file.

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314.9 APPLICATION OF VEHICLE PURSUIT POLICY

This policy is expressly written and adopted pursuant to the provisions of Vehicle Code § 17004.7, with additional input from the POST Vehicle Pursuit Guidelines.