

EVO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURS MANUAL

SUBJECT: VEHICULAR PURSUITS

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Evo County Sheriff's Department to pursue a person suspected of committing a felony who is attempting to escape by use of a motor vehicle when the risk to the public, deputies and suspect created by the pursuit does not outweigh the benefit of the immediate apprehension of the suspect.

DEFINITIONS:

Pursuit: The act of a peace officer chasing a suspected law violator, who is attempting to elude the officer.

Primary Unit: The primary unit is the police vehicle initiating the pursuit, or the police vehicle that takes the lead position in the event the initiating vehicle relinquishes the lead position.

Agency of Jurisdiction: The police department or sheriff's office that has primary jurisdiction for the location where the pursuit is currently occurring.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Pursuit Authorized in Unincorporated Evo County
 - A. Deputies are authorized to initiate a pursuit in unincorporated Sheriff's Department, outside of municipalities, when there are reasonable grounds to believe the offender being pursued has committed, attempted to commit, or is about to commit a felony (not including vehicular eluding).

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- II. A. When possible and practical, deputies are to use strategies and tactics that may reduce the possibility that a vehicular pursuit will occur, or aid with identifying the driver, prior to attempting the vehicle stop. These tactics may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Query the vehicle license plate number and obtain "wants" and warrants, and address information on the registered owner.
 - 1. Move other units equipped with "spike strips" into the area and position them along obvious escape routes.
 - 2. Plan the stop for an area on the highway or street that may make it difficult for the driver to maneuver in an attempt to elude.

III. Operations

- A. Pursuit Vehicles
 - 1. While being aware of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, deputies engaged in pursuits may exercise the privileges set forth in CRS 42-4-108.
 - 2. Emergency lights and siren must be activated while in pursuit.
 - 3. Unmarked cars are prohibited from engaging in pursuits unless the car is equipped with emergency lighting and siren in compliance with CRS 42-4-213.
 - a. Unmarked units are to relinquish their position in a pursuit to a fully marked emergency vehicle as soon as is practical.
- B. Role of the primary unit
 - 1. The primary unit provides the Communication center and other participating units with all information pertinent to the pursuit, such as location, direction of travel, speed, vehicle description, occupant(s) description, manner in which the fleeing vehicle is being driven, and grounds for pursuit.
 - a. The communications function should be turned over to the secondary unit as soon as possible.

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2. The primary unit may relinquish its position to another police vehicle due to the lack of knowledge of the terrain, pursuit vehicle becoming inoperable, or other reason, when it improves the chances of successful resolution of the pursuit.

C. Role of the secondary unit

1. The Secondary Unit is an authorized police vehicle and officer(s) that assists the primary vehicle.

2. The secondary unit maintains a distance that is reasonably safe behind the primary pursuit unit and the fleeing vehicle. The secondary unit will assist the primary unit in the course of, or upon termination of the pursuit, or taking the primary pursuit position if the primary vehicle relinquishes its position.

3. The secondary pursuit unit takes over radio communications as soon as practical, relieving the primary pursuit unit of this function.

D. Methods of Stopping Pursued Vehicles – Extraordinary Tactics

1. The patrol supervisor responsible for overseeing the pursuit may consider the use of a number of different tactics, including extraordinary tactics, to stop the fleeing vehicle. In these cases, a decision to stop the vehicle should be based on the danger to the public of continuing the pursuit, as well as the probability of success and the risk to the public, officers and the suspect. a. The preferred method of attempting to stop a fleeing vehicle is by the use of “stop sticks” or similar tire-deflating device.

2. Extraordinary tactics, include, but are not limited to: Boxing, rolling roadblocks, ramming and the PIT maneuver. Before any of these tactics are attempted by a deputy the authorizing supervisor must have a reasonable belief that the tactic has a probability of success, and that the risk to pursuing officers, the fleeing suspect(s) and the public created by attempting the tactic is outweighed by an ever increasing danger of injury or death to a person, or persons if the pursuit and/or manner of driving by the suspect is allowed to continue.

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3. Shooting at a vehicle with the intent to disable the vehicle is not authorized unless the use of deadly force against all occupants of the vehicle is justified.
4. A decision to utilize any of these types of tactics to stop a fleeing vehicle must be communicated to all participating units.

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