

7.1.7 VEHICLE PURSUITS

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Patrol Bureau will have audit responsibility.

7.1.7.1 DEFINITIONS

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- A) **Pursuit** – An event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspected or actual violator of the law in a motor vehicle while the driver is using evasive tactics, including, but not limited to, high speed driving, driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but failing to yield to the officer's signal to stop.
- B) **Actively involved units** – The primary unit, the secondary unit, and any other unit pursuing the suspect vehicle.
- C) **Other Involved units, including, but not limited to:**
 - 1) Units requested by supervisor for traffic control
 - 2) Units needed to set perimeter
 - 3) Units needed for rescue or arrest teams
 - 4) Units for evidence collection and transportation
 - 5) Air support
- D) **Supervisor** – A sworn employee with the rank of Sergeant or higher.
- E) **Surveillance mode** – Observation of the suspect vehicle, by the Air Support Unit (ASU), after a pursuit has been terminated by ground units.
- F) **Pursuit rated vehicle** – Pursuant to [California Vehicle Code \(CVC\) § 21806](#), vehicles with the following:
 - 1) Alternating headlights that flash on and off;
 - 2) A forward facing, fixed red light; and
 - 3) A siren sounding.

7.1.7.2 INITIATING PURSUITS

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The duty of a suspect to yield to the lawful authority of an officer is defined in [CVC § 21806](#) and requires the police unit's red light and siren to be activated at all times.

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit in the following circumstances:

- 1) The officer has reasonable cause to believe that the suspect he or she is attempting to arrest has committed, is about to commit, or is threatening to commit a felony crime.
- 2) The officer, prior to initiating the pursuit, has reasonable cause to believe that the driving ability of the suspect is so impaired that the suspect may cause death or serious injury to another person.

An officer initiating a pursuit should, as soon as reasonably possible, notify the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications Department (Communications Center) of the following:

- 1) Location;
- 2) Direction of travel;
- 3) Speed;
- 4) Reason for initiating the pursuit;
- 5) Vehicle description and license plate, if available;
- 6) Number of additional units reasonably needed to join the pursuit to safely effect the arrest;
- 7) Other facts relating to the suspect(s) that may present an increased danger;

When approval for continuation cannot be obtained by a supervisor, officers shall cancel the pursuit.

7.1.7.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

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A vehicle pursuit shall be conducted with red light and siren for exemption from compliance with the rules of the road, as required by [CVC § 21055](#). Officers shall drive with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons using the highway, as required by [CVC § 21056](#).

7.1.7.4 ASSESSMENT OF RISK FACTORS

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A police pursuit is a dangerous activity that should be engaged in with the utmost awareness of the risks to other drivers, bystanders, the officers, and the suspect(s). The primary purpose of a motor vehicle pursuit is to arrest fleeing suspects with the minimum amount of force necessary and to minimize the risk of harm to people and property. Even when a pursuit is justified, everyone involved must continually evaluate whether the dangers or risks of a pursuit outweigh the need to immediately apprehend the suspect.

Some factors which should be considered and evaluated when initiating, authorizing, continuing, or terminating a pursuit include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Time of day;
- 2) Vehicular traffic conditions;
- 3) Pedestrian traffic conditions;
- 4) Weather conditions;
- 5) Roadway conditions, e.g., slippery or under construction;
- 6) Area of pursuit, e.g., near school or residential area;
- 7) Severity of crime;
- 8) Whether the suspect has been identified and/or can be located, making later apprehension probable;

- 9) Speed and recklessness of suspect;
- 10) Capabilities and limitations of pursuing vehicle;
- 11) Availability of backup;
- 12) Officer's familiarity with area of pursuit;
- 13) Quality of radio communications with the dispatcher, pursuing units, and the authorizing supervisor;
- 14) Whether the suspect is known to be a juvenile; and
- 15) Involvement of the Air Support Unit.

7.1.7.5 PURSUIT COORDINATION

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The unit that initiates the pursuit shall be the primary unit and shall broadcast all pertinent information regarding the pursuit, unless the primary unit specifically requests the ASU or another actively involved unit to broadcast.

The primary unit may request as many units as necessary to allow for control and arrest of the suspect(s). The field supervisor in charge of the pursuit will authorize the number of units to engage, or assist, in the pursuit. This decision will be based upon an assessment of the risk factors and information received from the primary unit.

7.1.7.6 AIR SUPPORT UNIT (ASU) RESPONSIBILITIES

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When available, the ASU shall respond to the scene of a pursuit and shall assist pursuing units and the supervisor as follows:

- 1) Notify the Communications Center when they have visual contact with a pursuit;
- 2) If requested, assume responsibility for broadcasting locations and the direction of travel of the pursuit;
- 3) Assist ground units and the supervisor monitoring the pursuit by identifying and broadcasting all potential safety risks;
- 4) Once visual contact is made, provide the supervisor with the number of ground units involved;
- 5) When possible, identify units participating in the pursuit for the purpose of management and control;
- 6) Stay in radio contact with assisting ground units to aid in the capture of the suspect(s);
- 7) Electronically record the pursuit and the termination point (the recording shall be placed into evidence);
- 8) When a supervisor terminates a pursuit and surveillance mode is initiated, the ASU will assume a position that affords the suspect little possibility of detecting the ASU. The searchlight will not be used during the surveillance mode. The ASU will follow the suspect vehicle until the vehicle stops, or the surveillance is canceled.

7.1.7.7 FOREIGN JURISDICTION PURSUITS

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LBPB units, including the ASU, shall not engage in pursuits initiated by foreign jurisdictions, unless the pursuit meets the criteria of the LBPB pursuit policy and assistance is requested by the pursuing agency.

LBPB units engaged in a foreign jurisdiction's pursuit shall terminate their involvement if the pursuit leaves the Long Beach city limits, unless directed to continue by an LBPB supervisor.

If a foreign jurisdiction pursuit terminates within the Long Beach city limits, the LBPB supervisor who approved the pursuit shall verify which agency will coordinate pursuit termination activities.

7.1.7.8 PURSUITS LEAVING CITY LIMITS

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If an LBPB pursuit leaves the city limits, the unit broadcasting the pursuit shall immediately notify the supervisor. The supervisor will direct the Communications Center to inform other affected agencies of the pursuit.

Supervisors may request an outside agency to take over a pursuit if it reasonably appears the other agency is better able or equipped to continue the pursuit. If a pursuit is turned over to another agency, LBPB units shall verify that agency has assumed control and then shall terminate participation; however, the primary unit and field supervisor will remain available to cooperate with the arresting agency if the suspect(s) is apprehended.

If a request is made by another agency for the LBPB to abandon a pursuit within that agency's jurisdiction, that request shall be complied with immediately.

7.1.7.9 PURSUIT LIMITATIONS

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- 1) Police vehicles not equipped for pursuits shall not engage in a pursuit;
- 2) When the ASU is ordered to perform in a surveillance mode, all units will attempt to stay clear of the area in which the suspect vehicle is operating;
- 3) Vehicles transporting prisoners shall not engage in pursuits under any circumstances;
- 4) Officers shall not use a vehicle as a barricade or to make intentional contact with a suspect vehicle during a pursuit, unless the use of deadly force is justified. The use of a vehicle as a force option is governed by LBPB Manual § 7.1.2 USE OF FORCE.

7.1.7.10 MOTORCYCLE UNITS

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A motorcycle unit may only initiate a vehicle pursuit for a violent felony or in other extreme circumstances. The supervisor shall acknowledge that a motorcycle unit is involved and approve or cancel the pursuit. The supervisor must explain the necessity of the motorcycle unit's involvement, per LBPD Manual § 7.1.7.14 SUPERVISOR POST-PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, motorcycle units shall cease their involvement when a four-wheeled, pursuit rated vehicle joins the pursuit and takes over as the primary unit. Once a motorcycle unit ceases involvement in the pursuit, they shall follow all requirements in LBPD Manual § 7.1.7.12 PURSUIT TERMINATION.

7.1.7.11 TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE

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Tire deflation devices should be used whenever possible to safely end vehicle pursuits. Only personnel who are trained in the operation and deployment of tire deflation devices shall be permitted to deploy these devices. Use of a tire deflation device shall be documented on a Supervisor's Vehicle Pursuit Report.

The Collision Investigation Detail will be responsible for the following:

- 1) Maintaining liaison with manufacturing companies for equipment purchase and replacement;
- 2) Training existing and newly assigned personnel in the use of tire deflation devices;
- 3) Distributing tire deflation devices throughout the Patrol Divisions;
- 4) Ensuring tire deflation devices issued to the Divisions are properly maintained;
- 5) Maintaining expertise regarding the tire deflation device, usage, and procedural issues.

Unless the use of deadly force is justified, tire deflation devices shall not be used to stop the following vehicles:

- 1) Motorcycles, mopeds, or other similar type vehicles
- 2) Vehicles transporting hazardous materials
- 3) Buses with passengers

7.1.7.12 PURSUIT TERMINATION

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A pursuit shall be immediately terminated under the following conditions:

- 1) A field supervisor orders the pursuit terminated;
- 2) Officers lose visual contact with the suspect vehicle and the ASU is not in a position to provide immediate directions;
- 3) Officers lose clear radio contact with the Communications Center;
- 4) Officers lose clear radio contact with the field supervisor authorizing the pursuit.

Once the decision is made to terminate the pursuit, pursuing units shall:

- 1) Obey the rules of the road;
- 2) Deactivate their red lights and siren;
- 3) Turn off from the pursued vehicle's direction of travel (do not follow);
- 4) Notify the Communications Center of the termination;
- 5) ASU will not continue to follow the vehicle unless placed into surveillance mode.

7.1.7.13 PURSUIT TERMINATION

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A field supervisor shall be notified immediately when a unit initiates a pursuit. After evaluation of the circumstances surrounding the pursuit, the field supervisor shall make a decision on whether to allow the pursuit to continue and shall transmit that decision to the pursuing unit. If possible, the supervisor should not be actively involved in the pursuit, but shall monitor radio transmissions and be responsible for the progress of the pursuit. The supervisor may terminate the pursuit at any time.

Any supervisor initiating a pursuit shall be considered the primary unit and subject to the duties of a primary unit, including seeking authorization for the pursuit from another supervisor. The supervisor should relinquish his or her role as the primary unit to the first assisting unit on scene.

7.1.7.14 SUPERVISOR POST-PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES

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A field supervisor shall go to the scene of a terminated pursuit and take command. The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring all appropriate crime and arrest reports are filed.

On each pursuit, the supervisor shall complete a Supervisor's Vehicle Pursuit Review, which will include the following:

- 1) Identification of all personnel involved both authorized and unauthorized;
- 2) Summary of the events leading up to the pursuit;
- 3) Chronological events of the pursuit;
- 4) Pertinent events occurring after the pursuit;
- 5) Any retraining.

A supervisor who was actively involved in a pursuit shall not file the Supervisor's Vehicle Pursuit Review.

7.1.7.15 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT (COMMUNICATIONS CENTER) RESPONSIBILITIES

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Upon notification by a unit that he or she is in pursuit, the Communications Center will contact a sworn field supervisor to take supervisory control of the pursuit. The supervisor will be informed of all available information including the units involved.

The dispatcher handling communications for the pursuit will provide all necessary information to the field units. All units will be advised when the pursuit is terminated or a supervisor requests a surveillance mode. Any necessary information will then be conveyed to the ground units to avoid unnecessary contact with the suspect during the surveillance operation.

The cancellation of a pursuit will be broadcast to all units along with the suspect's direction of travel, so units may stay clear of the suspect vehicle.

7.1.7.16 REVIEW OF PURSUITS – POLICE VEHICLE AND AIR SUPPORT UNIT

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The Collision Investigation Detail shall gather all pertinent pursuit information and generate a Pursuit Review Report. This report shall contain an analysis summary of the pursuit reports, supervisor's report, video recordings, audio recordings, and any other information related to the pursuit.

7.1.7.17 REVIEW OF PURSUITS – TIME PERIOD

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Pursuant to [CVC § 14602.1](#), the Collision Investigation Detail shall complete all State-mandated reporting requirements within 30 days.

7.1.7.18 REVIEW OF PURSUITS – COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

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The involved employee's Commander will review the Pursuit Review Report, provide recommendations and administrative insight for the recommended action, and forward the Pursuit Review Report to the involved employee's Bureau Deputy Chief.

7.1.7.19 REVIEW OF PURSUITS – BUREAU RESPONSIBILITIES

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The involved employee's Bureau Chief will review the Pursuit Review Report, and forward the Pursuit Review Report to the Internal Affairs Division.

The involved employee's Division Commander and the CID supervisor will be notified of any action to be taken.

7.1.7.20 TRAINING

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All sworn personnel will participate in Annual training that shall include, at minimum, a review of this policy.