

Vehicle Pursuits

307.1 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. Officers' 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.

307.1.1 VEHICLE PURSUIT DEFINED

A vehicle pursuit is 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.

307.1.2 PURSUIT OF MISDEMEANOR AND INFRACTION SUSPECTS

It is the policy of this department that absent of unusual circumstances and supervisory approval, officers shall not pursue misdemeanor suspects unless the misdemeanor crime is related to that of the threatening to use, possess or has used a deadly weapon (independent of the pursuit).

It is the policy of this department that we do not pursue for infraction violations. There may be the rare circumstance where the violator is willfully failing to yield to the authority of the officer, yet still complying with rules of the road. This action meets the definition of a pursuit in section §307.1.1. In this instance, officers may pursue violators who are not using high speed driving or other evasive tactics at these legal speeds as long as they continue to follow the rules of the road. The officer and supervisor must continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to the public. If the violator begins using high speed driving or evasive tactics, then the violation

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must be a violent felony or a misdemeanor who has threatened to use, possesses or has used a deadly weapon.

307.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the policy of this department that a vehicle pursuit shall be conducted only with red light and siren 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 driving with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons using the highway as required by Vehicle Code § 21056.

307.2.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Officers are authorized to initiate a pursuit with someone who is suspected of committing

- (a) A violent felony which is defined as a serious criminal offense that involves physical injury or serious threats to victims/witnesses or any other such crimes that are listed in Penal Code § 667.5 (c)..
- (b) A misdemeanor who has threatened to use, possesses or has used a deadly weapon.

Note: The decision whether or not to initiate a pursuit may be affected by the presence of non-sworn personnel in the police vehicle. A member of the Department may initiate or continue a pursuit as described above if the passenger is an adult participant in an authorized ride-along program but always consider the immediate circumstances as to whether or not to continue or terminate the pursuit.

Members of the Department shall not engage in a pursuit if they have prisoners in the car, a juvenile in the car, or a witness or other persons to whom they are providing courtesy transportation.

307.2.2 WHEN TO CONTINUE A PURSUIT

The following factors individually and collectively shall be considered in deciding whether to continue a pursuit:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Apparent nature of the fleeing suspects (e.g., whether the suspects represent a serious threat to public safety).
- (c) The identity of the suspects has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspects to be apprehended and later time.
- (d) 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 and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.
- (e) Pursuing officer's 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.

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- (f) Weather, traffic and road conditions that substantially increase the danger of the pursuit beyond the worth of apprehending the suspect.
- (g) Performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speeds and other conditions of the pursuit.
- (h) Vehicle speeds.
- (i) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders and hostages).
- (j) Availability of other resources such as helicopter assistance.

307.2.3 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be discontinued 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 § 307.2.1 and § 307.2.2 of this policy are expressly included herein and will apply equally to the decision to discontinue as well as the decision to initiate and continue a pursuit. Officers and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to the public and themselves 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 § 307.2.1 and § 307.2.2 of this policy, the following factors should also be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit:

- (a) Distance between the pursuing officers 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 vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- (c) Officer's pursuit vehicle sustains any type of damage that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) There are hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (e) If the identity of the offender 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.
- (f) Pursuit is terminated by a supervisor. The pursuing officer shall do so immediately and shall acknowledge the directive on the radio.

307.2.4 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 take into consideration public safety, officer safety

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and the safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle. Should high vehicle speeds be reached during a pursuit, officers and supervisors shall 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.

307.3 PURSUIT UNITS

Pursuit units should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a supervisor); however, the number of units involved will vary with the circumstances. An officer or supervisor may request additional units to 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 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, with approval from a supervisor, proceed to the termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

307.3.1 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.

307.3.2 LOW PROFILE POLICE VEHICLES

Low profile police vehicles such as flat tops (i.e. school resource vehicles) which initiate a pursuit shall terminate their involvement as the primary unit in the pursuit when a fully marked vehicle with a light bar is in position to assume the role. When a second fully marked vehicle is able to join the pursuit, then the low profile vehicle shall discontinue involvement in the pursuit unless authorized to continue by a supervisor.

307.3.3 UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLES

Unmarked police vehicles such as detective vehicles equipped per Vehicle Code §21806 that become involved in a pursuit shall relinquish the role as the primary unit when a marked police vehicle has joined the pursuit. Unmarked police vehicles such as detective vehicles equipped per Vehicle Code §21806 that become involved in a pursuit shall relinquish the role as the secondary unit when a marked police vehicle has joined the pursuit.

307.3.4 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

A vehicle not equipped with red light and siren is prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit.

307.3.5 PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing unit will be designated as the primary pursuit unit and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless it is unable to remain reasonably close enough to the violator's

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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. The primary unit shall notify the Communications Center that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated and as soon as practicable provide information including, but not limited to:

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

Unless relieved by a supervisor or secondary unit, the officer in the primary unit shall be responsible for the broadcasting of the progress of the pursuit. Unless practical circumstances indicate otherwise, and in order to concentrate on pursuit driving, the primary officer should relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or aircraft joining the pursuit.

307.3.6 SECONDARY UNITS RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

307.3.7 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, continuation and termination. 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.

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- (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 caution when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- (c) Officers shall not pursue a vehicle driving left of center (wrong way) on a divided highway. In the event that the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Requesting assistance from an air unit.
 - 2. Maintaining visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling it on the correct side of the roadway.
 - 3. Requesting other units to observe exits available to the suspects.
- (d) Notifying the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and/or other jurisdictional agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter their jurisdiction.
- (e) 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.

307.3.8 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. With supervisor's approval, 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.

307.3.9 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.

307.3.10 AIRCRAFT ASSISTANCE

With supervisor approval, aircraft assistance should be requested. Once the air unit has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, it should assume control over the pursuit. The

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primary and secondary ground units should consider the participation of aircraft assistance when determining whether to continue 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.

307.4 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY

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

All pursuits shall be monitored by a supervisor. Should a pursuit be initiated that cannot be monitored by a supervisor, dispatch shall advise the initiating officer who shall terminate the pursuit immediately. Pursuits already in progress shall be terminated when circumstances are present that prevent a supervisor from monitoring the event.

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

- (a) Upon becoming aware of a pursuit, immediately acknowledge by radio that the pursuit is being monitored.
- (b) Ascertain all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit in order to ensure that the pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.
- (c) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (d) Ensuring that no more than the number of required police units needed are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- (e) The supervisor may approve additional units to join the pursuit if it appears that the number of officers involved would not be sufficient to safely affect the arrest of the suspect(s).
- (f) Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in his/her judgment, it is unjustified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (g) Request additional support (K-9, Air Support, ect.)
- (h) Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- (i) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this agency.
- (j) Controlling and managing SCPD units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (k) Respond to the termination point of the pursuit to provide the necessary supervision.
- (l) Preparing post-pursuit critique and analysis of the pursuit for training purposes.

307.4.1 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

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

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requirements of this policy. 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 complete the "Vehicle Pursuit Post Incident Review" and review all pertinent reports for content and forward to the Division Commander for review.

307.5 COMMUNICATIONS

If the pursuit is confined within the City limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary talk group unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or communications dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved units should remain on their primary talk group.

307.5.1 COMMUNICATION CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification that a pursuit has been initiated, the Communications Center will:

- (a) Coordinate pursuit communications of the involved units and personnel.
- (b) Patch the primary talk group with South Bay Law talk group should allied agencies be needed.
- (c) Restrict radio traffic.
- (d) prompt units for updates as needed
- (e) Notify and coordinate with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (f) Ensure that a field supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- (g) Document updates in the event on CAD.
- (h) Broadcast pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.
- (i) Notify the Watch Commander as soon as practicable.

307.5.2 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 be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

307.6 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

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.

307.6.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Units originally involved will discontinue the pursuit when advised that another agency has assumed the pursuit and assistance of the Santa Clara Police Department is no longer needed.

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Upon discontinuing the pursuit, the primary unit may proceed upon request, with or at the direction of a supervisor, to the termination point 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. 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.

307.6.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

When notified of the pursuit extending into this jurisdiction Dispatch shall immediately notify the on duty units, including the appropriate supervisors, of the pursuit by an outside agency. The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from this department should not join a pursuit unless directed to by a supervisor. If assistance is requested, Dispatch shall notify the appropriate supervisor at the first opportunity and the supervisor shall acknowledge by radio.

When a request is made for this department to assist or take over a pursuit from another agency that has entered this jurisdiction, the supervisor should consider the compliance of this policy and the additional following factors:

- (a) Ability to maintain the pursuit
- (b) Circumstances serious enough to continue the pursuit
- (c) Adequate staffing to continue the pursuit
- (d) The public's safety within this jurisdiction
- (e) Safety of the pursuing officers

As soon as practicable, a supervisor or the Watch Commander should consider a request for assistance from another agency. The supervisor or Watch Commander, after consideration of 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 will terminate at the City limits provided that the pursuing officers have sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only upon approval by a supervisor. At the direction of the supervisor, officers should be prepared to provide logistical support to the pursuing units. In the event that a pursuit from another agency terminates within this jurisdiction, officers shall provide appropriate assistance to officers from the allied agency including, but not limited

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to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

307.7 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

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, and 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.

307.7.1 WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED

Use of pursuit intervention tactics should be employed only after approval of a supervisor except in extraordinary circumstances when immediate action is required to protect the public or other officers from great bodily injury or death. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors 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. **Only officers that are trained in pursuit intervention tactics are authorized to use such procedures and with approval by a supervisor.**

307.7.2 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.

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.

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.

307.7.3 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

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ongoing pursuit unless the conditions and circumstances dictate that such use reasonably appears necessary to protect life. Refer to the department's Use of Force policy for further information.

307.7.4 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 deadly force and subject to the requirements for such use. Officers shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

- (a) Blocking or vehicle intercept 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 technique should only be employed by officers who have received training in such tactics after giving consideration to the following:
 - 1. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers, or other members of the public.
 - 2. All other reasonable intervention techniques have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.
 - 3. Employing the blocking maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk to officer safety.
 - 4. The target vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed.
 - 5. At no time should civilian vehicles be used to deploy this technique.
- (b) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should 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 of the two 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.
 - 3. **Note: 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.**
- (c) Spikes or tack strips shall not be deployed in school zones or other places where pedestrians may be jeopardized. The use of spike strips shall not be deployed in another jurisdiction except at the request by the agency. The spike strips may be used in our city as a means of terminating a pursuit initiated by an outside agency. but

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only after that agency agrees of the usage and after they have been advised of the location where the device will be deployed. Although spike strips will effectively work on motorcycles, they shall not be deployed against a motorcycle unless the offense for which the rider is wanted justifies the use of deadly force.

- (d) 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 and only then under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention techniques 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 other members of the public.

307.7.5 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. Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary 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 the suspects.

307.8 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following reports should be completed upon conclusion of all pursuits:

- (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) The Division Commander will review the "Vehicle Pursuit Post Incident Review" of the pursuit and submit their findings to Chief of Police.

307.8.1 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

In addition to 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 no less than annually in regular and periodic department training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public at all times, including a recognition of 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)).

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307.8.2 POLICY REVIEW

Each sworn member of this department shall certify in writing that they have received, read and understand this policy initially and upon any amendments. 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.

307.9 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.