

## **554.00 FOOT PURSUITS**

### **554.01 POLICY**

The safety of department members and the public should be the primary consideration when determining whether a foot pursuit should be initiated or continued. Officers must be mindful that immediate apprehension of a suspect is rarely more important than the safety of the public and department members.

Officers may be justified in initiating a foot pursuit of any individual the officer reasonably believes is about to engage in, is engaging in, or has engaged in criminal activity. The decision to initiate or continue such a foot pursuit, however, must be continuously re-evaluated in light of the evolving circumstances known to the officer at the time. The severity of the crime involved should be part of the evaluation process when determining whether a foot pursuit is warranted.

Mere flight by a person who is not suspected of criminal activity shall not serve as justification for engaging in an extended foot pursuit without the development of reasonable suspicion regarding the individual's involvement in criminal activity or being wanted by law enforcement.

Deciding to initiate or continue a foot pursuit is a decision that an officer must make quickly, and under unpredictable and dynamic circumstances. It is recognized that foot pursuits may place department members and the public at significant risk. It is also known that individuals will sometimes flee an area to draw officers away from a wanted individual. Therefore, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a foot pursuit because of the perceived risk involved.

If circumstances permit, surveillance and containment are generally the safest tactics for apprehending fleeing persons. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, an officer should continuously consider reasonable alternatives to a foot pursuit based upon the circumstances and resources available, such as:

- (1) Containment of the area.
- (2) Saturation of the area with law enforcement personnel, including assistance from other agencies.
- (3) A canine search.
- (4) Thermal imaging or other sensing technology.
- (5) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle support.
- (6) Apprehension at another time when the identity of the suspect is known or there is information available that would likely allow for later apprehension, and the need to

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immediately apprehend the suspect does not reasonably appear to outweigh the risk of continuing the foot pursuit.

### **554.02 PROCEDURES**

When reasonably practicable, officers should consider alternatives to engaging in or continuing a foot pursuit when:

- (1) Directed by a supervisor to terminate the foot pursuit; such an order shall be considered mandatory.
- (2) A subject flees from a vehicle stop while others remain in the vehicle.
- (3) The officer is acting alone.
- (4) Two or more officers become separated, lose visual contact with one another, or obstacles separate them to the degree that they cannot immediately assist each other should a confrontation take place. In such circumstances, it is generally recommended that a single officer keep the suspect in sight from a safe distance and coordinate the containment effort.
- (5) The officer is unsure of his/her location and direction of travel.
- (6) The officer is pursuing multiple suspects and it is not reasonable to believe that the officer would be able to control the suspect should a confrontation occur.
- (7) The physical condition of the officer renders him/her incapable of controlling the suspect if apprehended.
- (8) The officer loses radio contact with the dispatcher or with assisting or backup officers.
- (9) The suspect enters a building, structure, confined space, isolated area or dense or difficult terrain, and there are insufficient officers to provide backup and containment. The primary officer should consider discontinuing the foot pursuit and coordinating containment pending the arrival of sufficient resources.
- (10) The officer becomes aware of unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances that unreasonably increase the risk to officers or the public.
- (11) The officer reasonably believes that the danger to the pursuing officers or public outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension.
- (12) The officer loses possession of his/her firearm or other essential equipment.
- (13) The officer or a third party is injured during the pursuit, requiring immediate assistance, and there are no other emergency personnel available to render assistance.
- (14) The suspect's location is no longer definitely known.
- (15) The suspect gets far enough ahead of the officer that the officer loses sight of the suspect as they round corners and other obstacles. In that case, slowing down and conducting a more methodical search will prevent the officer(s) from running into a potential ambush.
- (16) The identity of the suspect is established or other information exists that will allow for the suspect's apprehension at a later time, and it reasonably appears that there is no immediate threat to department members or the public if the suspect is not immediately apprehended.
- (17) The officer's ability to safely continue the pursuit is impaired by inclement weather, darkness or other environmental conditions.

### **554.03 INITIATING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

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Unless relieved by another officer or a supervisor, the initiating officer shall be responsible for coordinating the progress of the pursuit. When acting alone and when practicable, the initiating officer should not attempt to overtake and confront the suspect, but should attempt to keep the suspect in sight until sufficient officers are present to safely apprehend the suspect.

Early communication of available information from the involved officers is essential so that adequate resources can be coordinated and deployed to bring a foot pursuit to a safe conclusion. Officers initiating a foot pursuit should, at a minimum, broadcast the following information as soon as it becomes practicable and available:

- (1) Badge number
- (2) Location and direction of travel
- (3) Reason for the foot pursuit
- (4) Number of suspects and description
- (5) Whether the suspect is known, or believed, to be armed with a dangerous weapon

Officers should be mindful that radio transmissions made while running may be difficult to understand and may need to be repeated. Absent extenuating circumstances, any officer unable to promptly and effectively broadcast this information should terminate the foot pursuit. If the foot pursuit is discontinued for any reason, immediate efforts for containment should be established and alternatives considered based upon the circumstances and available resources.

When a foot pursuit terminates, the officer will notify the dispatcher of his/her location and the status of the pursuit termination (e.g., suspect in custody, lost sight of suspect), and will direct further actions as reasonably appear necessary, to include requesting medical aid as needed for officers, suspects or members of the public.

### **554.04 ASSISTING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Whenever any officer announces that he/she is engaged in a foot pursuit, all other officers should minimize non-essential radio traffic to permit the involved officers maximum access to the radio talk group. Officers should respond in a safe manner to the location of the foot pursuit, mindful that they not place the safety of the public or themselves at risk during their response.

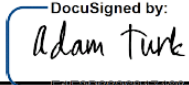
### **554.05 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Upon becoming aware of a foot pursuit, the supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to ascertain sufficient information to direct responding resources and to take command, control and coordination of the foot pursuit. The supervisor should respond to the area whenever possible. The supervisor shall continuously assess the situation in order to ensure the foot pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.

The supervisor shall terminate the foot pursuit when the danger to pursuing officers or the public appears to unreasonably outweigh the objective of immediate apprehension of the suspect. Upon apprehension of the suspect, the supervisor may proceed to the

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termination point to direct the post-foot pursuit activity if they believe such oversight would be beneficial.

<b>General Order 554.00</b>	<b><u>FOOT PURSUITS</u></b>	<b>Reviewed: 02/23</b>
<b>Authorized by Adam Turk, Chief of Police</b>		
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<b>Signature</b>		