
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 minimize the potential for pursuit-related collisions. Vehicle 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 (ORC § 2935.031).

314.1.1 PHILOSOPHY

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 risk to public safety created by vehicle pursuits, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a vehicle pursuit due to the risk involved. This includes circumstances where Department policy would permit the initiation or continuation of the pursuit. It is recognized that vehicle 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 individual's unreasonable desire to apprehend a fleeing suspect at all costs has no place in professional law enforcement.

314.2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Eluding/Fleeing - An active attempt by one or more law enforcement officers to apprehend a suspect who is either an occupant of or operating a motor vehicle during which time the operator of the motor vehicle is attempting to avoid capture by using high speed driving or other evasive tactics such as driving off a roadway, or making sudden or unexpected maneuvers.

Refusal to Stop - An active attempt by one or more law enforcement officers to stop a motor vehicle by use of emergency lights and sirens, during which time the operator of the motor vehicle is driving at a reasonable speed. (i.e. at or below the established speed limit), but willingly refusing to pull over and stop.

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.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

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

Stop Stick- A device consisting of (three) red and white cautioned striped, triangular shaped sections which are three feet long. Each stick contains hundreds of hollow steel quills capable of penetrating an automotive tire and deflating it in a manner which reduces the risk of blowout or sudden loss of control. Sections can be used individually or conjunctively to form a length of nine feet or slid into a black sleeve to reduce their visibility.

314.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the policy of this department that a vehicle pursuit shall be conducted with at least one red or blue flashing, rotating or oscillating light, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of, and a siren activated on an authorized emergency vehicle (ORC § 4513.21, ORC § 4511.01(D) and ORC § 4511.041).

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.

314.3.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Officers

Justification for engaging in a vehicle pursuit must be based on facts known by the officer when the decision is made to engage in a pursuit. Information not established as a fact at the time the pursuit was initiated cannot be considered later in determining whether the pursuit was justified. In all instances of vehicle pursuits, the initiating officer must be able to clearly articulate the reason why the pursuit was initiated.

Eluding/Fleeing pursuits are NOT authorized when the sole suspected original offense is a Minor Misdemeanor(s). (ORC 2921.331(B)).

Vehicle pursuits are justified only when the officer knows or has probable cause to believe:

- a. The occupant has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violent felony. (i.e. armed robbery, and other crimes against a person in which violence is an element of the felony offense).
- b. The occupant(s) present a clear and immediate threat to the safety of others and therefore the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the vehicle pursuit.
- c. A "Refusal to Stop" pursuit, as previously defined within this policy, may be initiated and maintained for a lesser offense than described above. However, once the "Refusal to Stop" pursuit becomes an "Eluding/Fleeing" pursuit, as previously defined within this policy, justification for the pursuit must meet at least one of the criteria (subsection a or b) above.

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

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (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) The apparent nature of the fleeing suspect (e.g., whether the suspect represents a serious threat to public safety).
- (c) The identity of the suspect has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.
- (d) 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.
- (e) The pursuing officer's familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communication between the pursuing units and the dispatcher/supervisor, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (f) The weather, traffic and road conditions that unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.
- (g) The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speed 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) The availability of other resources, such as aircraft assistance.
- (k) The police unit is carrying passengers other than on-duty police officers. Pursuits should not be undertaken with a prisoner in the pursuit vehicle unless exigent circumstances exist, and then only after the need to apprehend the suspect is weighed against the safety of the prisoner in transport. A unit containing more than a single prisoner should not participate in a pursuit.

314.3.2 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 risk of continuing the pursuit reasonably appears to outweigh the risk resulting from the suspect's escape.

Operating an emergency vehicle in a pursuit with emergency lights and siren does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and does not protect the driver from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others (ORC § 4511.45(B)).

The above factors on when to initiate a pursuit are expressly included herein and will apply equally to the decision to discontinue as well as the decision to initiate a pursuit. Officers and supervisors

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists, themselves and the public when electing to continue a pursuit. In the context of this policy, the term "terminate" shall be construed to mean to discontinue or to stop chasing the fleeing vehicle. At this point, officers shall deactivate lights and sirens and obey all traffic laws and signals.

In addition to the factors listed above, the following factors should be considered when deciding whether to terminate a pursuit:

- (a) The 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 or distance.
- (b) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- (c) The officer's pursuit vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) The pursuit vehicle suffers an emergency equipment failure that causes the vehicle to no longer qualify for emergency operation use.
- (e)
- (f) The hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists
- (g) When the identity of the offender is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risk associated with continuing the pursuit, officers shall discontinue the pursuit and apprehend the offender at a later time.
- (h) When directed to terminate the pursuit by a supervisor.

314.3.3 SPEED LIMITS

The speed of a pursuit is a factor that should be evaluated on a continuing basis by the officer and supervisor. Vehicle speeds shall be taken into consideration to prevent endangering 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 also consider these factors when determining the reasonableness of the speed of the pursuit (ORC § 4511.24):

- (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.

314.4 PURSUIT UNITS

Pursuit units should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a K-9 unit). However, the number of units involved will vary with the circumstances.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

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 suspect. All other officers shall 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.

Distinctively marked patrol vehicles should replace unmarked vehicles involved in a pursuit whenever practicable.

314.4.1 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 practicable.

314.4.2 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Vehicles not equipped with a red or blue emergency light and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. Officers in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing units as long as the vehicle is operated in compliance with all traffic laws (ORC § 4511.041 and ORC § 4513.21).

314.4.3 PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing officer 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 vehicle. The primary responsibility of the officer initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspect without unreasonable danger to him/herself or other persons.

The primary unit should notify Cancom, 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:

- (a) The reason for the pursuit.
- (b) The location and direction of travel.
- (c) The speed of the fleeing vehicle.
- (d) The description of the fleeing vehicle and license number, if known.
- (e) The number of occupants.
- (f) The identity or description of the known occupants.
- (g) The weather, road and traffic conditions.
- (h) The identity of other agencies involved in the pursuit.
- (i) Information concerning the use of firearms, threat of force, injuries, hostages or other unusual hazards.

Officers will continually update Cancom with pursuit speeds as well as any driving violations committed by the fleeing vehicle during the pursuit.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

Unless relieved by a supervisor or secondary unit, the officer in the primary unit shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary unit should relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or aircraft joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary unit to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

314.4.4 SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The second officer in the pursuit is responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying the dispatcher of his/her entry into the pursuit.
- (b) Remaining at 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) Broadcasting the progress of the pursuit unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (d) Serving as backup to the primary unit once the subject has been stopped.

314.4.5 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 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) Officers may proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation (ORC § 4511.03).
- (c) 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.
- (d) As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong way on a roadway, highway or freeway. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
 1. Requesting assistance from an available air unit.
 2. Maintaining visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling on the correct side of the roadway.
 3. Requesting other units to observe exits available to the suspect.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (e) Notify the Ohio State Highway Patrol or other law enforcement agency if it appears the pursuit may enter their jurisdiction.
- (f) 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 a clear understanding of the maneuver process exists between the involved officers.

314.4.6 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 unit, secondary unit and supervisor should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (emergency lights and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.

314.4.7 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event that the initiating unit from this agency 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 information and assistance for the arrest of the suspect.

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 to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

314.4.8 AIRCRAFT ASSISTANCE

When available, 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 primary and secondary ground units should consider whether the participation of an aircraft warrants their continued involvement 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 to continue the pursuit. If ground units are not within visual contact and the air unit determines that it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air unit should recommend terminating the pursuit.

314.5 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

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 notifying involved officers and Cancom of supervisory presence and ascertaining 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.
- (b) Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- (c) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (d) Ensuring that no more than the number of required law enforcement units needed are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- (e) Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in his/her judgment, it is not justified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (f) Ensuring that aircraft assistance is requested, if available.
- (g) Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- (h) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this agency.
- (i) Controlling and managing CPD units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (j) Preparing a post-pursuit critique and analysis of the pursuit for training purposes.

314.5.1 SHIFT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The Shift Commander shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward them to the Division Commander.

314.6 COMMUNICATIONS

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 or such is imminent, involved units should, whenever available, switch radio communications to an emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies and units.

314.6.1 CANCOM RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification that a pursuit has been initiated, Cancom will be responsible for:

- (a) Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved units and personnel.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (b) Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (c) Ensuring that a field supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- (d) Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.
- (e) Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.
- (f) Notifying the Shift Commander as soon as practicable.

314.6.2 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

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

314.7 INTERJURISDICTIONAL 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.

314.7.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Canton Ohio Police Department officers will discontinue the pursuit when another agency has assumed the pursuit, unless continued assistance of the Canton Ohio Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. 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, a request for another agency's assistance will mean that its personnel will assume responsibility for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves another jurisdiction and a request for assistance is made to this department, the other agency should relinquish control.

314.7.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from this department should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the agency whose peace officers are in pursuit. The exception to this is when a single unit from the initiating agency is

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

in pursuit of a serious and/or violent offender. Under this circumstance, a unit from this department may join the pursuit until sufficient units from the initiating agency join the pursuit.

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 these additional 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 Shift Commander should review a request for assistance from another agency. The Shift Commander or supervisor, after consideration of the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

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

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

314.8 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

Pursuit intervention with the use of "Stop Stick" tire deflation devices shall be conducted according to this policy. The primary goal of the Canton Police Department is the protection of life and property. The deployment of Stop Sticks shall be conducted in a manner that does **not** expose any police officer, member of the public, or the violator to unnecessary risk of physical harm.

Deployment

- (a) When time permits and safety conditions are satisfied, the use of a controlled tire deflation device is authorized.
- (b) When possible, pursuing officers will be made aware of and acknowledge that a controlled tire deflation device will be used, including the location and any officer controlled lane restrictions.
- (c) The officer deploying the Stop Stick tire deflation device must have received training in the recommended uses of the device.
- (d) The deploying officer should stay with and collect the device after use.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

Stationary Vehicle Situations

- (a) The Stop Stick or Mini Stick may be used in stationary vehicle situations to prevent a vehicle from being moved by a suspect attempting to flee the scene.
- (b) The Stop Stick or Mini Stick may be used to prevent movement of a vehicle which may be seized as evidence.

Assembly and Position

- (a) Each Stop Stick section may be placed singularly across the intended vehicle's path.
- (b) The Stop Stick sections may be interlocked and pulled into the intended vehicle's path using the cord reel.
- (c) The Stop Stick sections may also be slid into the black nylon sleeve attached or unattached and pulled into the intended vehicle's path with the cord reel.
- (d) Officers should not transport Stop Stick sections in the passenger compartment of the patrol vehicle, due to the possibility of being injured by the device.

Reporting

- (a) The deployment of stop stick devices shall be documented in the required, pursuit incident report. Stop Sticks which have been deployed and need replaced shall be tagged into evidence. The deploying officer shall submit a vehicle repair request, via TAC computer, to advise the Fleet Manager of the need for replacement Stop Stick sections.

314.8.1 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 should balance the risk 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 this in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances apparent to the officer at the time of the decision.

It is imperative that officers act within legal bounds using good judgment and accepted practices.

314.8.2 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any 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 are subject to Department policies guiding 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, and when officers reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

the vehicle. Because of the potential risk involved, this technique should only be employed by officers who have received training in such tactics and after giving consideration to the following:

1. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risk 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) Use of the PIT maneuver is NOT authorized.
- (c) 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 or more of the 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.
- 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.
- (d) As with all intervention techniques, pursuing officers should obtain supervisor approval 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 apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
- (e) Tire deflation devices should be deployed only when it is reasonably apparent that only the pursued vehicle will be affected by their use. Prior to the deployment of spike strips, the officer shall notify pursuing units and the supervisor of the intent and location. 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 the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

vehicle transporting hazardous materials or a school bus transporting children, officers and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.

- (f) 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 risk of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, officers or other members of the public.

314.8.3 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 that 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 suspect following the pursuit. Officers should consider safety of the public and the involved officers when formulating plans to contain and capture the suspect.

314.9 REPORTING AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

All appropriate reports shall be completed to comply with local and state regulations.

- (a) The primary officer shall complete appropriate crime/arrest reports.
- (b) The primary officer or supervisor shall complete an incident report for any vehicle pursuit.
- (c) After first obtaining available information, the on-duty field supervisor shall promptly complete a Supervisor's Log or interoffice memorandum, briefly summarizing the pursuit to the Chief of Police or designee. This memo should minimally contain the following information:
 - 1. Date and time of pursuit.
 - 2. Length of pursuit in distance and time.
 - 3. Involved units and officers.
 - 4. Initial reason and circumstances surrounding the pursuit.
 - 5. Starting and termination points.
 - 6. Alleged offense, charges filed or disposition: arrest, citation or other release.
 - 7. Arrestee information should be provided if applicable.
 - 8. Injuries and/or property damage.
 - 9. Medical treatment.

Canton Ohio Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

10. The outcome of the pursuit.
 11. Name of supervisor handling or at the scene.
 12. A preliminary determination that the pursuit appears to be in compliance with this policy or that additional review and/or follow-up is warranted.
- (d) After receiving copies of reports, logs and other pertinent information, the Chief of Police or designee shall conduct or assign the completion of a post-pursuit review as appropriate to the circumstances.
- (e) Annually, the Chief of Police should direct a documented review and analysis of Department vehicle pursuits to minimally include policy suitability, policy compliance and training needs.

314.9.1 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all sworn employees will participate, no less than annually, in regular and periodic training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public at all times. Training will include a recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to officers and others.

314.9.2 POLICY REVIEW

Sworn members of this department shall certify in writing that they have received, read and understand this policy initially and upon any amendments (ORC § 2935.031).

314.9.3 SUMMARY

This procedure is not intended to be used as a standard of care in a negligence lawsuit, but rather it is intended to be used as a set of guidelines to be followed during vehicular pursuits in order to minimize the danger and risks to life, health, and property.