

Office of the Sheriff



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 8-4-03

TO: Jim Phillips

FAX #: _____

FROM: Bob Carpenter - PIO

FAX#: _____ PHONE#: _____

TOTAL # PAGES (including cover sheet) 2

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Thank you.

NOTES:

IF THIS TRANSMISSION IS INCOMPLETE OR ILLEGIBLE, PLEASE CALL THE ABOVE NUMBER.

* -2.2 Vehicle Pursuits & Emergency Vehicle Operation

- A. A Vehicle pursuit may be initiated when a member is in close proximity to a suspect, driving a vehicle with the emergency equipment activated and the suspect fails to yield, or if the member has reasonable cause to believe that the suspect has committed, or has attempted to commit, or is in the process of committing a serious felony and is known to pose a danger to the public. Members will keep this exercise due regard for the safety of all persons and remember that all provisions of F.S.S. 316.072(5) and Office Policy concerning the operation of emergency vehicles applies in any pursuit. Members will avoid increasing the danger already caused by the motorist being pursued and are cautioned that they are accountable for the consequences if there is a reckless disregard either by their own actions or those of the suspect for the safety of others.
- B. Florida Statutes 316.072 (5) place legal limits on law enforcement use of motor vehicles when responding to emergency situations, and the Office has established directives to protect its members and the public.
- C. No vehicle, marked or unmarked, will be operated in an emergency response mode unless it is properly equipped and making use of audible and visible emergency signal devices. When engaged in emergency vehicle operations in the performance of official duties, drivers of authorized emergency vehicles are granted exemptions from certain traffic laws by Florida Statutes;
- D. Definitions
1. 10-18 Emergency - A situation or sudden occurrence which poses an actual threat of serious injury or loss of human life and which demands swift law enforcement action, e.g., seriously ill or injured person, shooting or rape, assault, robbery or burglary in progress of an occupied premise; hazardous chemical spill; toxic gas leak; or serious motor vehicle crash in which the extent of injuries is unknown.
 2. Routine Activity - Situations of a routine nature which do not pose an immediate threat to human life and do not require extraordinary measures.
 3. Traffic Violation Stop - Vehicular stop for the purpose of enforcing traffic laws.
 4. Selective Enforcement Stop - Vehicular stop in a designated area in response to specific traffic problems.
 5. Investigative Stop - Vehicular stop conducted as part of an investigation involving actual or suspected criminal activity.
 6. Vehicle pursuit - An active attempt by a member in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend the occupants of a moving vehicle, providing the driver of such vehicle is aware of the attempt and increases his/her speed or takes other evasive actions in an attempt to avoid apprehension.
 7. Primary pursuit unit - Generally the law enforcement unit which initiates the pursuit but is, in all cases, the unit in closest proximity to the fleeing vehicle.
 8. Support unit - The law enforcement unit which trails the primary pursuit unit at a safe distance and which is immediately available to assume the primary role or assist the primary pursuit unit in the event the fleeing vehicle is stopped.
 9. Other back up units - With the exception of the two active pursuit units (primary and support), other involved law enforcement vehicles along the geographical route that the pursuit takes may be designated as other back up units. They are to remain alert to the direction and progress of the pursuit and may position themselves at strategic sites along the probable pursuit route, or on parallel roadways, for response to exigencies that may develop. These units are not to be operated in an emergency mode.
 10. Emergency signal devices - Siren and flashing or revolving red and/or blue lights which meet requirements of Florida Statutes.
- E. Sergeants are responsible for monitoring Emergency Vehicle Responses and High Speed Pursuits by members. This includes Active Participation through decision making in terms of upgrading or downgrading them, controlling the number of units responding and/or terminating them.