

together, usually in a line.

EMERGENCY LIGHTS - Emergency lights include roof-mounted light bars, on-dash or in-grill blue or red and blue rotating or flashing lights.

EMERGENCY MODE - A designated emergency vehicle in motion when responding to a call with both emergency lights and siren on continuously.

EMERGENCY OR POLICE VEHICLE - Any vehicle designated by the Sheriff or Bureau Commander, equipped with both emergency lights and siren. Examples include: **[CFA 17.09M)**

1. Any Sheriff's Office marked unit equipped with both emergency lights and siren,
2. Unmarked Sheriff's Office unit equipped with both emergency lights and siren,

EMERGENCY SITUATION OR CALL - A Priority 1 complaint received by Communications that, based on the available information, includes the following: **[CFA 17.08]**

1. Situations involving an immediate and serious danger to a person's life (armed and/or dangerous subject(s), shooting, a deputy in trouble, etc.).
2. Situations requiring immediate action to prevent serious injury or death (fire, explosions, chemical hazards, etc.).
3. Situations involving injuries that require immediate attention (accident, shooting, stabbing, etc.).
4. Felonies in progress, robberies, bank alarms, etc. Any other situation meeting emergency criteria (Priority 1) as established by the Sheriff's Office.

INTERVENTION - The use of a stinger, moving roadblock (boxing-in), or ramming techniques to stop a fleeing vehicle.

MARKED UNIT - An authorized law enforcement vehicle equipped with all of the following: functional roof-mounted emergency lights, siren, and identified by a conspicuous paint scheme and agency insignia. **[CFA 17.09M]**

PARALLELING - Vehicles keeping pace with the pursuit and driving on parallel streets.

PRIMARY UNIT - The first unit directly pursuing a fleeing vehicle.

PURSUIT - An active attempt by a deputy in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend the occupant(s) of another vehicle. However, the driver of the vehicle must be aware of the attempt and willfully flee in an attempt to elude.

PURSUIT SUPERVISOR - A supervisor directly responsible for the coordination and safety of the pursuit.

RAMMING - The deliberate act by the driver of a vehicle to forcibly strike another vehicle in an attempt to stop or disable the other vehicle.

ROADBLOCK - A barricade or other obstruction of a roadway that reroutes, stops, or prevents the escape of a fleeing vehicle.

SECONDARY UNIT - The second unit that helps the primary unit and is directly involved in the pursuit.

SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY - A bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death; a bodily injury that causes serious permanent disfigurement, or results in long-term loss or impairment of the function of any body member or organ.

SIREN - An approved audible device or equipment capable of a continuous monotone warble, and two-tone warning. A horn will not be used instead of a siren.

STINGER OR SIMILAR DEVICE - A device used to puncture and slowly deflate the tire(s) of a pursued vehicle.

SUPPORT UNIT - Units that provide assistance during a pursuit situation.

UNMARKED UNIT - Any law enforcement vehicle other than a marked unit.

VI. PROCEDURE:

A. GENERAL

1. Only sworn members may operate a vehicle in an emergency mode.
2. Each vehicle used in general or routine patrol must be equipped with emergency lights, a siren, and a mobile radio transceiver in operational order. **[CFA 17.09M]**
3. Sheriff's Office emergency vehicles operated in an emergency mode will use emergency lights and siren. In daylight hours, flashing headlights may be used for added visibility. **[CFA 17.07M B] [CFA 22.04M A,B,C]**
4. A member engaged in emergency vehicle operations may:
 - a. Exceed the speed limit after weighing the risks of danger to life and property, and after considering road, traffic, and weather conditions. **[CFA 17.07M B]**
 - b. Go past a red stop signal or a stop sign, but only after slowing or stopping as may be necessary for safe operation. However, a Sheriff's Office vehicle will not enter a controlled intersection against the directed flow of traffic at a speed greater than reasonable. The driver will be sure that cross-traffic flow has yielded in each lane before attempting to

cross that lane. **[CFA 17.07M B]**

- c. Disregard regulations governing direction or movement, or turning in specified directions after considering or weighing the risks of injury to life or property. **[CFA 17.07M B]**
 - d. Disregard the laws governing the parking of vehicles under ordinary circumstances, except a Sheriff's Office vehicle will not block access to a fire hydrant at a fire scene or in any way obstruct the passage of fire apparatus. Marked Sheriff's Office vehicles should be strategically parked in roadways to protect accident scenes, injured persons, or deputies directing traffic. When such use is practical, the emergency lights will be activated. **[CFA 17.07M B]**
5. Sheriff's Office vehicles being used to transport prisoners or witnesses will not engage in emergency response without a supervisor's approval. **[CFA 17.07M B]**
6. The provisions of Section VI do not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. These provisions will not protect the driver from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others [F.S. 316.072(5)]. **[CFA 17.07M B]**

VII. LIGHTS, NO SIREN EXCEPTIONS:

All units responding in an emergency mode will use emergency lights and siren continuously, except as follows:

- A. Lights, without a siren, may be used when responding to a felony in progress when the siren would warn the suspect or endanger the lives of any victim or hostage. Units responding with lights and no siren will continue with extreme caution and safety. Such units should not go through any intersection without first slowing to ensure the safety of all pedestrians and motorists. **[CFA 17.07M B] [CFA 22.04M A, B]**
- B. When responding to an emergency call, a siren may be stopped while passing through residential areas during the late night or early morning hours when there is no pedestrian or vehicle traffic in the area. The emergency lights must be on and the responding unit must slow at each intersection or crossing. **[CFA 17.07M B; 22.04M B]**

VIII. EMERGENCY RUN INITIATION:

- A. The authority to initiate emergency operation of an agency vehicle will be at the discretion of the deputy, based upon available information and the deputy's training and experience. Prior approval by a supervisor is not required. **[CFA 17.07M A, B; 17.08]**
- B. Pursuits will be terminated when immediate apprehension cannot be

made with reasonable safety. The deputy will attempt to obtain sufficient information to make a future arrest.

- C. Patrol supervisors or Watch Commanders are responsible for monitoring, upgrading or downgrading, and controlling the number of units responding to an emergency call for service. The supervisor may initiate or countermand an emergency run, if necessary. Factors to consider include: **[CFA 17.07M A, E]**
1. The seriousness of the originating offense and its relationship to community safety,
 2. Safety of the public in the area of the pursuit,
 3. Safety of pursuing officer(s),
 4. Time of day,
 5. Volume of vehicular traffic,
 6. Volume of pedestrian traffic,
 7. Location of pursuit (residential or rural),
 8. Weather conditions,
 9. Road conditions,
 10. Familiarity of officers and supervisors with the area of pursuit,
 11. Speeds involved,
 12. Quality of radio communications between pursuing unit(s), the dispatcher, and supervisor,
 13. Type of road, and
 14. Whether the suspect being pursued is readily identifiable or subject to capture at another time or by another means.

IX. PURSUITS:

A. GENERAL

When engaged in pursuits, deputies will follow the listed guidelines: **[CFA 17.07M B]**

1. Deputies will use emergency lights and siren throughout the pursuit and comply with F.S. 316.126 and this order. **[CFA 22.04M A, B]**
2. A pursuit will normally be limited to three units: a primary unit, a secondary unit and a third backup unit in case "boxing-in" of the violator's vehicle is justified. Additional units will be monitored by the Watch Commander.

3. Other pursuit vehicles will not pass the primary unit unless authorized by the primary pursuit deputy.
4. Primary and other units will not drive parallel to each other during the pursuit, except during an authorized pass or during a "boxing-in". **[CFA 17.07M F]**
5. "Caravanning" of vehicles during a pursuit situation shall be strictly monitored by the Watch Commander.
6. Paralleling - Units directed to "parallel" in the pursuit route will use emergency lights unless directed otherwise by the appropriate supervisor.

B. PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES [CFA 17.07M B]

1. Upon initiation of a pursuit, an officer should immediately request assistance, notify the dispatcher of the pursuit, and furnish all pertinent details.
2. The primary unit is responsible for continually evaluating the circumstances of the pursuit and terminating the pursuit if it exceeds the limits of this order.
3. The primary unit will provide communications with the following:
 - a. Location and direction of travel,
 - b. Occupants and vehicle description,
 - c. Offense committed or attempted,
 - d. Need for assistance,
 - e. Location of vehicle when pursuit has stopped.
4. The pursuit unit will inform Communications when a pursuit may be headed toward, or has crossed into, another jurisdiction.
 - a. CCSO units will become secondary units if another jurisdiction assumes the primary position of the pursuit.
 - b. The pursuit may continue according to this procedure if another jurisdiction will not assume the primary pursuit position.

C. SECONDARY & BACKUP UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES [CFA 17.07M C]

1. The secondary and backup units are authorized to pursue at a safe distance and to assist the primary unit.
2. While operating in close proximity of the pursuit, the secondary and/or backup unit may assist the primary unit with radio communications, relaying the pursuit location, direction of travel, and any other pertinent information. This will not restrict the supervisor from giving instructions directly to the primary unit, the secondary and/or backup unit, or the Communications Division.

3. Whenever a pursuit takes place during the operational hours of an air unit, a request should be promptly made through Communications for the air unit's assistance, especially if it appears that the pursuit may be of an extended nature.
 - a. Once the air unit identifies the pursued vehicle, ground units shall drop back to a safe speed while continuing the pursuit. The air unit shall continue the pursuit and assume the communications responsibility of the primary officer, and
 - b. If a pursuit is terminated, for any reason, the air unit shall provide the location where the vehicle was last seen, its speed, and last direction of travel.

D. OTHER PURSUIT VEHICLES

1. Deputies on motorcycles, in vans, unmarked cars, or vehicles with nonpolice personnel as passengers, who are equipped with emergency lights and siren and have probable cause to believe that a felony offense has taken place and the suspect(s) are escaping in a vehicle, may pursue the fleeing vehicle, using due care, only until a marked vehicle with emergency equipment can assume the position as primary unit. When conditions permit, unmarked vehicles who are equipped with emergency lights and siren may take a secondary or back up position.
2. Officers on motorcycles will not engage in a pursuit for a traffic offense.

E. BACKUP UNITS RESPONSIBILITIES **[CFA 17.07M C]**

1. Additional backup units may be assigned by the pursuit supervisor as needed for the apprehension of violent fugitives, suspects in major felonies, multiple fleeing vehicles, or multiple occupants in a fleeing vehicle.
2. Deputies not directly involved in the pursuit, who are responding and being coordinated as additional support, will drive their vehicles in a safe and prudent manner.
3. All units will refrain from nonemergency radio traffic on the pursuit channel to ensure an open channel of communications for the pursuing units. The supervisor, the Watch Commander, and the pursuing units are the only exceptions. Unless otherwise advised, pursuit units will remain on their assigned frequencies.

F. COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES **[CFA 33.12]**

1. Upon notification of a pursuit in progress, the Communications Division will immediately: **[CFA 17.07M D]**
 - a. Clear the radio group for emergency radio traffic,

- b. Notify the appropriate patrol supervisor(s) of the pursuit,
 - c. Monitor the pursuit and provide communications assistance to those involved.
2. Upon receiving notification that a pursuit has entered Citrus County from another jurisdiction or agency, Communications will: **[CFA 17.07M D, H]**
 - a. Determine the location of the pursuit, direction of travel, and the reason for the pursuit.
 - b. Use plain language radio transmissions with other agencies.
 - c. Relay all decisions relating to pursuit information to the affected agencies.
 3. In cases where the pursuit continues into another jurisdiction, Communications will notify the law enforcement agency within that jurisdiction of the pursuit, its progress, and the known charges against the violator. Communications will notify the Watch Commander when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction. **[CFA 17.07M D,H]**

G. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The supervisor assigned to monitor the pursuit will: **[CFA 17.07M E]**
 - a. Maintain command of the pursuit until relieved,
 - b. Solicit all information available and decide to continue or terminate the pursuit,
 - c. Enforce pursuit procedures.
2. The supervisor will monitor the pursuit and direct additional assistance, as required. Factors in the decision to assign additional assistance will include, but are not limited to: **[CFA 17.07M A, E]**
 - a. Nature and circumstances of the offense,
 - b. Number of suspects,
 - c. Number of deputies in the assigned pursuit units.
3. A pursuit entering another jurisdiction will continue to be commanded by the supervisor authorizing the pursuit. If the vehicle being pursued leaves Citrus County, the supervisor in charge will: **[CFA 17.07M E,H]**
 - a. Ensure that the jurisdiction being entered is notified of the pursuit,

- b. Request the jurisdiction being entered to assume command of the pursuit. CCSO units will act as support units,
- c. Request support units from the outside agency if the jurisdiction being entered does not assume command,
- d. Inform the outside agency of pertinent information.

X. INTERVENTION:

Intervention of a pursued vehicle will only be permitted when all other reasonable means of stopping the vehicle have failed. Intervention is warranted by the seriousness of the offense or hazard to the safety of persons or property. **[CFA 17.07M F]**

A. STINGER OR SIMILAR DEVICE

Supervisors may authorize the use of a stinger, with certain exceptions, anytime during a pursuit as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle. The stinger is a reasonable force alternative to assist in the termination of a vehicle pursuit. The stinger will not be used to stop: **[CFA 17.07M E,F]**

- 1. Motorcycles, ATV's or other open type vehicles,
- 2. Motor vehicles carrying hazardous and/or explosive materials,
- 3. Motor vehicles which may contain innocent hostages.

B. A supervisor may authorize the use of "boxing-in" if there is a substantial risk the pursued law violator will cause death or serious physical injury to others if apprehension is delayed. **[CFA 17.07M A, E, F; 24.04M A, B]**

C. A supervisor may authorize the use of "ramming" as a last resort when all other reasonable means to stop the violator have failed. Also, the member must reasonably believe the violator has committed, has attempted to commit, or is attempting to commit a felony that involved the use, or threatened use, of deadly force and there is substantial risk that the violator will cause death or serious physical injuries to others if apprehension is delayed. Caution must be used to assure the ramming does not jeopardize other persons or property. Members pursuing a motorcycle will not use ramming as a means to stop the violator. Ramming a vehicle should be considered deadly force. **[CFA 17.07M A, E, F]**

D. Fixed roadblocks will not be used as a means to stop a pursued violator. **[CFA 17.07M F; 24.04M A, B]**

E. Where a Sheriff's Office vehicle is involved in ramming or other physical contact with a pursued vehicle resulting in property damage, injury, or death, the incident will be investigated as outlined in General Order 620.00. **[CFA 17.07M F]**

- F. A deputy will not fire at a moving vehicle or from a moving vehicle unless the use of deadly force is justified under state law and is consistent with providing due care for the safety of the public.

XI. TERMINATION OF PURSUIT:

- A. Members will terminate a pursuit when: **[CFA 17.07M A, G]**
 - 1. There is an immediate serious danger to the public or deputies involved,
 - 2. A supervisor or higher authority orders the pursuit terminated,
 - 3. The unit in pursuit loses visual contact with the law violator,
 - 4. The unit in pursuit loses radio contact with Communications.
- B. Strong consideration should be given to stopping a pursuit when: **[CFA 17.07M A, G]**
 - 1. The pursuit enters a congested area and an unreasonable hazard to the public exists,
 - 2. The visibility, weather conditions, or road conditions limit the probability of a safe and successful end to the pursuit,
 - 3. The violator can be identified where later apprehension can be accomplished, and the unit violator is not a threat to the public.
- C. When a member is in pursuit and the vehicle being pursued enters the wrong way on an interstate highway, divided highway, or divided roadway, the following options should be evaluated by the pursuing member: **[CFA 17.07M A, G]**
 - 1. End the pursuit;
 - 2. Maintain visual contact by paralleling the law violator on the lawful side of the pursuit highway;
 - 3. Request that other members be assigned to observe exits available to the law violator.

XII. PURSUIT OUTSIDE JURISDICTION:

- A. A deputy in fresh and continuous pursuit may pursue outside his jurisdiction (F.S. 901.25). **[CFA 17.07M H]**
- B. All involved deputies will follow appropriate procedures of this order and if another jurisdiction assumes the primary position of the pursuit, all CCSO units will relinquish their positions and follow at a safe distance. **[CFA 17.07M H]**

XIII. OTHER AGENCY PURSUITS:

Members will not engage in pursuits initiated by agencies outside the Sheriff's Office jurisdiction that enter Citrus County unless instructed to do so by a patrol supervisor or higher authority. All guidelines and restrictions regarding pursuits described in this procedure will be followed. Members will stop their involvement if the pursuit leaves Citrus County. The closest patrol supervisor and Watch Commander will be kept informed. **[CFA 17.07M H]**

XIV. ARRESTS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS:

- A. When a member makes an arrest outside Citrus County, the member will immediately have the officer in charge of the jurisdiction notified. **[CFA 17.07M H]**
- B. The pursuing deputy and the officer from the other jurisdiction will take the arrestee before a county court judge or other committing magistrate of the county where the arrest was made without delay (F.S. 901.25). Note: The arrestee may exercise his/her rights and waive this requirement to attend first appearance after they have been booked into the county where the arrest was made. **[CFA 17.07M H]**

XV. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

- A. Immediately following any pursuit or pursuit in assistance provided to an outside agency, all deputies involved will document their involvement. Copies of all reports will be forwarded to the appropriate commander. (Attachment I) **[CFA 17.07M H]**
- B. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES
 - 1. Primary Deputy - The primary deputy will initiate the original Offense Incident Report.
 - 2. Secondary Deputies - All other deputies involved in the pursuit will complete a supplement report on their involvement.
 - 3. Pursuit Supervisor - The supervisor in charge of the pursuit will complete a supplement report. This report will document the supervisor's actions and involvement.
- C. All pursuit documentation will be reviewed by the appropriate Division Commander. The critique will include the following:
 - 1. The initial charge,
 - 2. Weather conditions and road surfaces at the time of the pursuit,
 - 3. Population of the area(s) where the pursuit took place,
 - 4. The date and time of day,

5. Deputies involved,
 6. Positive and negative aspects of the pursuit,
 7. A determination if agency policy was followed.
- E. Within five days of the pursuit, the Division Commander will forward a written memorandum of his or her findings to the appropriate Bureau Commander for review.

-signed-
JEFFREY J. DAWSY, SHERIFF

ATTACHMENT I

CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
VEHICLE PURSUIT
AFTER ACTION REPORT

Case Number:
Primary Deputy _____ Reporting Date/Time _____
Date of Pursuit _____ Time of Pursuit _____ Zone: _____ Shift: _____
Nature of Offense (Explain): _____

Reason for Pursuit (Explain): _____

Number of Vehicles Involved in Pursuit: ____ Pursuit Speed Range: _____

Other Agency Involved: ____ Yes ____ No Agency's Name _____

Vehicle Tactics Utilized: ____ Stationary Roadblock ____ Ramming
____ Moving Roadblock or Boxing in ____ Contact ____ None
Other Explain:

Road Conditions: ____ Dry ____ Wet ____ Slippery ____ Icy Other

Road Surface Type: ____ Gravel/Stone ____ Blacktop ____ Concrete ____ Dirt

Road System: ____ Interstate ____ State ____ County ____ Municipal ____ Private/Rural

Lighting: ____ Daylight ____ Dusk ____ Dawn ____ Night time

Weather Conditions: ____ Clear ____ Cloudy ____ Rain ____ Fog

Volume of Vehicular Traffic: ____ Light ____ Medium ____ Heavy ____ None

Pedestrian Traffic: ____ Light ____ Medium ____ Heavy ____ None

Geographic Location: ____ Rural ____ Urban ____ Business

Visibility and Illumination: ____ Good ____ Fair ____ Poor

Quality of Radio Communications Between Vehicles & Dispatch:
____ Good ____ Fair ____ Poor

Supervisory Critique Summary:

CHAIN-OF-COMMAND

Sergeant: _____ Date: _____
Lieutenant: _____ Date: _____
Captain: _____ Date: _____
Bureau Commander: _____ Date: _____