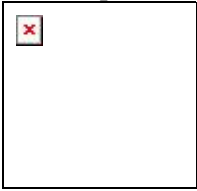


<p>Accreditation Standards: 17.07, 24.04</p> <p>Codified: 01-200-59</p> <p>Rescinds/Amends: 85-61, 98-200-59</p> <p>References: FSS 316.1935</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Florida State University Police Department</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">General Order</p>
TITLE: MOTOR VEHICLE PURSUITS	

01-200-59 Motor Vehicle Pursuits.

01-200-59.1 Purpose. The purpose of this directive is to establish policy and guidelines relating to the pursuit of motor vehicles.

01-200-59.2 Discussion. The primary obligation and responsibility of law enforcement is the protection of human life. Motor vehicle pursuits are synonymous with hazard. It is not the intent of this directive to prohibit all motor vehicle pursuits; however, it is the intent to restrict motor vehicle pursuits to those situations and circumstances in which the immediate apprehension of the violator outweighs the hazards to officers, the public and the occupants(s) of the vehicle being pursued.

Officers must constantly evaluate the changing circumstances surrounding the initiation or continuation of a pursuit and question whether the seriousness of the violation reasonably warrants pursuit. **Nothing justifies the reckless disregard of the safety of innocent persons.**

01-200-59.3 Policy. For the purpose of this directive, a pursuit is defined as a vehicular attempt to apprehend the occupant (s) of a motor vehicle when the driver has been requested or signaled to stop and is resisting apprehension by refusing to stop or otherwise maneuvering the vehicle in such a manner as to elude the officer. Officers may engage in pursuit in order to apprehend an individual(s) reasonably suspected of committing a **felony** involving **violence** or the threat of violence to another person. Such crimes include, but are not limited to, murder (all degrees), manslaughter, vehicular homicide, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, battery on a law enforcement officer, kidnapping, aggravated child abuse, and robbery. Officers shall not initiate or actively participate in pursuits not meeting the above criteria.

01-200-59.4 Procedure. This section defines responsibilities of units involved in a pursuit. Unmarked vehicles not equipped with visible signals and audible signals by siren are not classified as "authorized emergency vehicles" by FSS 316.2397 and 316.271(6) and will not engage in any pursuit. Unmarked vehicles equipped with blue lights and sirens will not engage in any pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the Shift Commander or higher authority.

A. Initiating Members Responsibility. The unit initiating the pursuit shall be the primary unit.

1. The initiating unit, in making the decision to pursue, shall consider the following criteria:

- a. The potential danger to the public caused by the eluding acts of a fleeing violator,
- b. Nature of the suspected crime,
- c. Traffic congestion, time of day, weather conditions and road conditions,
- d. The possibility of identifying the driver and/or the vehicle at a later time,
- e. Type of police vehicle (marked or unmarked), mechanical condition and performance capability,

2. The initiating unit, upon engaging in pursuit, shall inform Communications that a pursuit is in progress and provide the location, direction of travel, color, year, make, body style, license of the vehicle being pursued and the crime or suspected

crime for which the pursued is wanted and a description of the suspect(s) if possible.

- a. Headlights, emergency lights and siren shall be activated.
- b. The pursuing unit shall keep Communications fully informed of location, direction of travel, speed, and the need for assistance from other agencies if the pursuit moves into their jurisdiction.
- c. The suspect vehicle shall not be followed the wrong way on a limited access roadway or a one-way street.
- d. Police vehicles transporting other than sworn police officers shall not engage in pursuits.

B. Secondary Unit Responsibilities. A secondary unit may be assigned by the shift supervisor or a command officer to assist the primary unit. The secondary unit shall trail the primary unit at a safe distance and be available to assume the primary role or assist if the fleeing vehicle is stopped.

1. All other on-duty patrol units will closely monitor the pursuit but no other units shall enter into emergency operation unless specifically directed to do so by the shift supervisor or higher authority.

C. Termination of the Pursuit. The pursuit shall be terminated under the following conditions:

1. When the risk of injury or accident outweighs the necessity of apprehension;
2. When environmental conditions indicate that it would be futile or excessively dangerous to continue the pursuit e.g. road and weather, distance between the pursuer and pursued, time of day and vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns;
3. When directed to do so by the shift supervisor or other ranking officer;
4. When the pursuing unit loses sight of the suspect vehicle other than for a momentary period in which case the shift supervisor shall be immediately notified;
5. When the fleeing vehicle comes under air surveillance at which time the primary and secondary units will return to the posted speed limits and deactivate emergency lights/sirens unless ordered otherwise.
6. Except in extreme cases, pursuits will terminate when radio contact with Communications or the shift supervisor is lost.

D. Communications Responsibilities. Upon notification that a pursuit is in progress, the Communications Section shall:

1. Initiate emergency radio traffic status and advise all other units that a pursuit is in progress and provide all relevant information. All units shall suspend non-emergency traffic during the duration of the pursuit.
2. Expedite completion of a registration and stolen/wanted check on the license plate if the information is available and inform affected personnel if the vehicle has been stolen or is wanted in regard to another crime.
3. Receive and record all incoming information on the pursuit and the pursued vehicle.
4. Immediately contact the on-duty Shift Commander who shall personally monitor the pursuit and call it off if necessary.
5. Notify all law enforcement agencies within the area of the pursuit and attempt to establish a common radio network (e.g. inter-city) when pursuits have or are likely to cross jurisdictional boundaries.
6. Continue to monitor the status of the pursuit until it has been terminated.

E. Supervisory Responsibilities. The shift supervisor may order a pursuit terminated **at any time**.

1. The shift supervisor, in making the decision to terminate the pursuit, shall consider the following criteria:
 - a. The potential danger to the public caused by the eluding acts of a fleeing violator,
 - b. Nature of the suspected crime,
 - c. Traffic congestion, time of day, weather conditions and road conditions,
 - d. The possibility of identifying the driver and/or the vehicle at a later time,

- e. Type of police vehicle (marked or unmarked), mechanical condition and performance capability,
 - f. Any and all circumstances and facts that the supervisor is aware of that are relevant to the pursuit in question.
2. The shift supervisor shall respond immediately to the termination point of the pursuit. The shift supervisor shall critique the pursuit regarding adherence to this directive and shall ensure that a general incident report is prepared on the facts including those leading to the decision to continue or terminate the pursuit.
3. If death, injuries or property damage occurred during or at the conclusion of the pursuit, a complete report or supplement (s) will be filed by all involved personnel. Additionally, the shift supervisor shall submit a written report of the event to the Patrol Division Commander.

F. Inter and Intra-jurisdictional Pursuits.

1. Pursuits crossing other jurisdictions shall be coordinated with the affected agencies in order to provide for the protection of the public. Communications Section will notify outside agencies if the pursuit is heading toward their jurisdiction and if the notification is merely a courtesy or a request for assistance. This decision will be made by the Shift Commander.
2. Units shall not engage in pursuits initiated by other jurisdictions unless approved by the Shift Commander and assistance has been requested by the initiating agency.
3. An agency initiating a pursuit and requesting assistance from the Department shall be required to provide the following:
- a. Nature of the offense,
 - b. Number of suspects,
 - c. Number of units involved,
 - d. Suspect vehicle description and direction.
4. The agency initiating the pursuit has the primary responsibility for continuing or discontinuing the pursuit. Other agencies should assist by protecting innocent motorists (e.g. blocking intersections) and performing as back-up units.

G. Special Tactics and Alternatives.

1. **Ramming.** Use of the police vehicle to make deliberate contact with a fleeing vehicle is considered deadly force and is not authorized.
2. **Moving Roadblocks.** A moving roadblock can be described as when the pursuing vehicle(s) attempt to prevent the unrestricted movement of the suspect vehicle by maneuvering their vehicle(s) in such a manner as to "box in" or "head off" the suspect vehicle. Moving roadblocks are not practical in a University environment, are inherently dangerous, and shall not be attempted.
3. **Fixed Roadblocks.** A fixed roadblock is the strategic positioning of marked patrol vehicles on the roadway itself. The primary purpose of fixed roadblocks is to apprehend a suspect known or believed to be in a specific area. Fixed Roadblocks have also been determined to be deadly force and are not authorized.

H. Critique. The Chief shall, if he deems necessary, designate an officer of the rank of Lieutenant or higher to investigate the facts and circumstances of the pursuit. The investigating officer shall file a report within thirty days to be forwarded to the Chief.

01-200-595 Glossary.

Shift Commander - For the purpose of this directive, a shift commander is a sworn officer, normally but not necessarily a Lieutenant, charged with command of a shift of subordinate police officers, police service technicians and, after normal business hours, those personnel assigned to the Patrol Division.

Shift Supervisor - For the purpose of this directive, a shift supervisor is a sworn officer, normally but not necessarily a Sergeant subordinate to the Shift Commander. The shift supervisor is charged with first line supervision of a shift of police

officers, police service technicians and, after normal business hours, those personnel assigned to the Patrol Division.

Critique - A critical detailed review.

01-200-59.6 Indexing. This directives shall be indexed as:

Deadly Force
Jurisdiction
Pursuit
Roadblocks
Vehicle Operation

01-200-59.7 Attachments. None