

Hamilton County S.O.
PROCEDURE MEMO #2**OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR
SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLES****PAGE 7***Patrol Procedure Manual*

2. Sheriff's personnel, while operating a vehicle, shall extend all courtesies to other motorists in such a manner so as to reflect favorably on the Sheriff's Office.
3. Abuse of Sheriff's vehicles and related equipment will not be tolerated.
4. Security of vehicles during time assigned personnel are out of the vehicle shall be maximized by locking vehicle when out of view, or at times when this action is not feasible, by removing the keys. All county property, such as radar units, cameras, radios, etc., are to be removed from view and locked in the trunk of vehicle when the vehicle is to be left unattended for an extended period of time, or for overnight parking, etc.
5. Vehicles shall not be permitted to idle for any excessive periods of time except when required due to operation of equipment of same.
6. All Sheriff's personnel and passengers occupying a Sheriff's vehicle will properly utilize the safety restraints provided.
 - a. Responsibility for securing safety restraints on prisoners will be that of the transporting officer.
 - b. Improper usage or attempts to circumvent safety restraint system will be considered as a violation of Section "H" - Paragraph "3".

I. EMERGENCY OPERATION OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLES:

Reference: O.R.C. Section 4511.01 (D) and (E) (2) "Definitions"

4511.24 "Emergency and Public Safety Vehicles
Exempted From Speed Limitations".

1. Policy:
 - a. In the emergency operation of Sheriff's vehicles, whether in response to a call or in pursuit of suspects, it is important that officers weigh the seriousness of the situation (injury, offense, etc.), against the hazards to the health and welfare of other citizens, generated by high speeds or maneuvers such as roadblocks. Officers will, at all times, consider external factors which may have a bearing on the emergency operation of the vehicle, including the time of day, road and traffic conditions, weather, speeds involved, nature of the incident, and their personal ability to control the vehicle.

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The Sheriff's Office expects an officer to terminate his involvement in high speed response or pursuits whenever the risks to his own safety, and that of others, outweigh the consequences of a suspect's escape.

2. Procedure:
 - a. Emergency operation (lights and siren) of a Sheriff's vehicle authorized in the following emergency cases and under the following conditions:
 - 1) Officer needs assistance.
 - 2) Auto Accident where injuries are involved.
 - 3) Report of an explosion.
 - 4) Report of a shooting.
 - 5) Trouble with a prisoner.
 - 6) Crimes in progress, or similar instances requiring the immediate and urgent presence of a police officer.
3. Pursuit:
 - a. When motor vehicle pursuit is permitted.
 - 1) On-sight pursuit of known or suspected felony suspects.
 - 2) On-sight pursuit of traffic or misdemeanor violations, if witnessed by the officer, if a warrant is on file, or reliable information has been furnished that a misdemeanor crime has been committed.
 - 3) When directed by the Communications Center, or a supervisor, to assist in a police pursuit.
4. Notification:
 - a. Information immediately relayed to the Communications Center by pursuing officers:

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- 1) Car Number.
 - 2) Location.
 - 3) Direction.
 - 4) Description of vehicle, license number and occupants.
 - 5) Reason for pursuit.
 - 6) Speeds involved.
 - 7) Request officer's immediate supervisor be advised of pursuit.
5. Number of Units:
- a. Unless directed by the pursuit officer-in-charge, no more than two police units in pursuit.
 - b. The primary unit will be the unit initiating the pursuit, and responsible for keeping the suspect/vehicle in sight.
 - 1) This unit will advise the supervisor if there is a need for more than two police units in pursuit.
 - 2) This unit has the authority to terminate the pursuit should conditions warrant it.
 - (a) The Officer-in-Charge of the pursuing unit also has the authority to terminate the pursuit, whenever he considers it necessary to do so.
 - 3) The primary unit may be replaced by another police unit at the direction of the pursuit Officer-in-Charge.
 - 4) When police aircraft are involved in the pursuit, the observer will take over communication duties and ground units are to defer radio traffic to the aircraft.

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- c. The secondary unit will immediately notify the Communications Center there are two police units involved in the pursuit.
 - 1) The secondary unit will be responsible for providing back-up for the primary unit, in the arrest process.
 - d. No additional units will become involved unless directed by the Officer-in-Charge of the pursuit. There will be ABSOLUTELY no "caravans" of police vehicles in a pursuit situation.
6. Overtaking and Ramming:
- a. Officers will make no attempt to stop pursued vehicles by "boxing-in", heading-off, ramming, or driving along side, during the pursuit.
7. Pursuits leaving Hamilton County:
- a. "Fresh Pursuit" of a misdemeanor or minor misdemeanor traffic violator will terminate at the State Line. Felony suspects may be pursued beyond State boundaries, however, the new jurisdiction will continue the pursuit as the primary unit (if available). The Sheriff's unit will then assist.
 - 1) Pursuits will also be terminated when they lose radio contact with the Communications Center by going beyond radio range.
8. Outside Agency Pursuits into Hamilton County:
- a. In the event of a pursuit from an outside agency into Hamilton County, the Communications Center will notify the appropriate supervisors and the necessary assistance will be provided. The initiating agency will be responsible for the progress of the pursuit.
 - 1) The Communications Center will broadcast the pursuit and its progress.
9. Termination:
- a. A pursuit will be terminated under any of the following conditions:

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- 1) In the opinion of the pursuit officer-in-charge, the level of danger created by the pursuit outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension.
 - 2) The suspect's identify has been established to the point that a later apprehension can be accomplished, and there is no longer any need for immediate apprehension.
 - 3) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer known.
 - 4) The misdemeanor/traffic violator being pursued has crossed the State line.
 - 5) The pursuing unit is out of radio range with the Communications Center.
- b. A post-pursuit report is to be completed by the supervisor/relief commander.
10. Silent Runs:
- a. Sheriff's personnel may make "silent runs" (defined as runs using colored police lights only, with no audible siren), to certain emergency situations such as robberies or burglaries in progress. However, all personnel are hereby advised that:
 - 1) Sheriff's vehicles (including patrol cruisers), making silent runs are not considered by law to be either "emergency vehicles" or "public safety vehicles," and thus are not exempt from observance of all traffic laws (including all legal speed limitations).
 - 2) Sheriff's personnel making silent runs shall proceed with extreme caution, at safe and reasonable speed, with due regard for all traffic laws, and for the safety of all persons and property using the street or highway.
 - b. Emergency runs where neither the colored police lights nor the audible siren are used are strictly prohibited.

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11. Roadblocks:

- a. The following are situations in which roadblocks are justified, and how they are to be applied:
 - 1) Natural Disaster:
 - (a) Used temporarily with all emergency lights flashing until replaced by ropes, wooden barriers, etc.
 - 2) Crash Scenes:
 - (a) All emergency lights flashing; aided by road flares and situated conspicuously so as to noticed by all other traffic. TO BE REMOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 - 3) Work Details:
 - (a) Emergency lights flashing.
 - 4) Fleeing vehicles:
 - (a) Exit must be provided for fleeing and pursuing vehicle(s).
 - (b) Private vehicles to be used in roadblocks only with the permission of the Officer-in-Charge of the pursuit.