

**Holly Hill Police Department
General Order 41.4**

Title: Vehicle Pursuits
General Order: 41.4
Effective: December 1, 2002
Revised:
CALEA Standards: 41.2.2, 41.2.3, 61.3.4
Pages: 05

2. Emergency Signal Device: The siren and flashing or revolving red and/or blue lights that meet the requirements of Florida State Statutes.

D. Procedure:

1. Responsibility: Sworn personnel have the responsibility to attempt to apprehend suspected violators of the law while operating vehicles in a manner that does not unnecessarily endanger the public.

2. Authority: Only sworn personnel in an authorized emergency vehicle shall participate in a pursuit.

3. Vehicles Not Authorized To Engage in Pursuits: Vehicles not authorized to engage or participate in pursuits are:

- a. Department vehicles not equipped with emergency signal devices (lights and siren).
- b. Bicycles and Electric Vehicles
- c. Volunteers In Police Service vehicle.

4. Emergency Equipment:

- a. When engaged in a pursuit, sworn personnel shall utilize a siren and a revolving or flashing red and/or blue lights.
- b. For increased visibility, headlights should be used.

5. Authorized Pursuits: Sworn personnel may initiate a vehicle pursuit when the driver: [CALEA 41.2.2.a,b]

A. Purpose: This Order provides members with the policies and procedures governing vehicle pursuits.

B. Policy: Because vehicle pursuits pose a danger to the public and Departmental members, the Holly Hill Police Department shall develop and maintain a set of policies and procedures that enable members to safely conduct pursuits.

C. Definition: [CALEA 41.2.2]

1. Pursuit: An active attempt by a sworn member of the Department to apprehend the driver of a moving vehicle when the driver knowingly and willfully refuses to stop and violates other laws in an attempt to avoid apprehension.

a. It is not a pursuit if the violator continues to obey all traffic regulations (i.e., stop signs, traffic lights, speed limits) while the member is attempting to stop the vehicle.

b. It is not a pursuit during the time the member attempts to catch up with a vehicle to initiate a vehicle stop.

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a. Refuses to stop; and

b. The member reasonably believes, prior to initiating the pursuit, that an occupant of the vehicle has committed a *life threatening, violent felony* or poses an immediate threat to the life of another person; and

c. The jeopardy to public safety is not out of proportion to the offense committed

6. **Pursuit Criteria:** The decision to initiate or continue a vehicle pursuit shall be governed by: [CALEA 41.2.2.a,b]

a. The seriousness of the violation(s),

b. Danger to the public and the sworn personnel involved,

c. Road, weather, lighting conditions,

d. Surrounding traffic,

e. Geographical location and direction of travel,

f. Other hazards/considerations.

7. **Initiating a Pursuit:** The Department member initiating the pursuit shall notify the communications dispatcher of the pursuit and the following information: [CALEA 41.2.2.b]

a. Unit identification,

b. Location,

c. Speed,

d. Direction of travel,

e. Specific reason for the pursuit (including known violations of the law),

f. Vehicle description (including license plate number and the number and description of the occupants of the vehicle being pursued).

8. **Pursuit Protocol:**

a. **Primary Vehicle:** The primary pursuit unit is the vehicle that initiates the pursuit.

1) Primary vehicle status shall be assumed by the closest unit to the fleeing vehicle.

2) The primary vehicle shall direct other related police action and the location of the support vehicle.

b. **Support Vehicle:** The support unit is defined as the unit that assists the primary unit by trailing the primary unit at a safe distance and being available to assume the primary role. [CALEA 41.2.2.c]

1) The support unit may assume radio communication responsibility if more practical.

c. **Number of Vehicles:**

1) The primary and support unit shall be the only two vehicles actively involved in the pursuit, unless a supervisor controlling the operation directs otherwise.

2) Except for the primary and support unit directly involved in the immediate pursuit, there shall be no "caravanning" by other units.

3) Paralleling a pursuit is prohibited, unless authorized by a supervisor.

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9. Supervisory Responsibilities:
[CALEA 41.2.2.f]

a. **Initial:** Upon being notified of the pursuit, the on-duty patrol supervisor shall verify the following:

- 1) Reason for the pursuit,
- 2) No more than the required number of units are involved in the pursuit,
- 3) Proper radio frequency is being used,
- 4) Affected inter-jurisdictional agencies are notified.

b. **Monitoring Pursuit:** The field supervisor shall assert control of the pursuit by:

- 1) Monitoring and directing specific units into or out of the pursuit;
- 2) Re-designating primary, support, and other back-up unit responsibilities;
- 3) Approving or ordering alternative tactics;
- 4) Terminating the pursuit.

c. **Post-Pursuit:** The supervisor shall respond immediately to the termination point of a pursuit and:

- 1) Assume responsibility for controlling police action at the scene,
- 2) Ensure adherence to Department policies,
- 3) Ensure appropriate documentation is completed.

d. **Report:** The patrol supervisor shall forward a summary of the pursuit activities to the Commander. [CALEA 41.2.2.j]

10. Roadblocks: Rolling roadblocks, boxing in, heading off, stationary roadblocks, and the use of the police vehicle to make deliberate contact with a fleeing vehicle are prohibited. [CALEA 41.2.2.g; 61.3.4]

11. Use of Stop Sticks: See General Order 40.33.

12. Shooting at/from Moving Vehicle: Sworn members shall not shoot at or from a moving vehicle, except when the use of deadly force is justified in accordance with Florida law, Department policy, and is consistent with "due care" considerations for the innocent public.

13. Termination: Pursuits shall be terminated immediately under the following conditions: [CALEA 41.2.2.h]

a. A supervisor orders the pursuit terminated;

b. The violator is, or becomes, known;

1) Exception: The driver is, or becomes known, and his/her driving or continued liberty would be an unreasonable hazard even if the pursuit was terminated.

c. The Department member loses visual contact with the violator for over 30-seconds;

d. There is equipment failure involving the pursuit vehicle (i.e., an emergency signal device, radio, brakes, steering, or other essential mechanical equipment).

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e. There is a clear and unreasonable danger to the member, fleeing motorist, or other persons.

14. Inter- and Intra-Jurisdictional Pursuits: [CALEA 41.2.2.i]

a. When a Department member pursues a vehicle into another jurisdiction, Communications personnel shall notify that agency and specify:

- 1) If the call is for assistance, or
- 2) The call is for notification and no assistance is requested.

b. Requests by other agencies for pursuit assistance will be immediately relayed to the on-duty shift supervisor.

c. Department members shall only become involved in another agency's pursuit with direct authorization from the on-duty shift supervisor. In most instances, involvement will be limited to protecting other motorists (protecting intersections, redirecting traffic, etc.) and acting as back-up units should the pursuit terminate within the City of Holly Hill.

15. Dispatcher Responsibilities: The Communications dispatcher's responsibilities include: [CALEA 41.2.2.d]

a. Immediately notifying the on-duty supervisor of the fact that a pursuit is in progress and providing any available information;

b. Serving as the controller for all radio messages relevant to the pursuit; advising pursuit vehicles of known hazardous conditions,

and keeping other units advised of pursuit progress;

c. Notifying surrounding law enforcement agencies of the pursuit and all pertinent information if it appears the pursuit may enter into that jurisdiction;

d. Advising surrounding jurisdictions of the pursuit's termination, if applicable.

16. Crashes: The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) shall be contacted and requested to investigate crashes that are related to a vehicle pursuit conducted by Department personnel.

a. If FHP cannot respond, then the on-duty shift supervisor shall decide which Department member(s) shall investigate the crash.

17. Documentation:

a. **Member's Responsibility:** Members involved in a vehicle pursuit shall document their involvement and forward those document(s)/copies to the on-duty supervisor.

1) If no crash or incident report is required, members shall document the pursuit, in detail, in an Inter-Office Correspondence (IOC).

2) If an incident or crash report is related or required, the pursuit may be outlined in the report, as relevant, with supplemental details included in an IOC.

3) Copies of related incident reports and original IOC's shall be forwarded through the supervisor to the Commander for review and comments.

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b. Supervisors' Responsibility: Supervisors will thoroughly review the documents, and include comments about whether or not they agree that policy was followed. They shall then forward the documents to the Commander.

c. Commander Review: The Commander shall review the documentation as soon as possible, then forward copies, with comments about policy compliance to the Chief of Police, Professional Standards, and Training Officer for review. [CALEA 41.2.2.]

1) Should there be disagreement on the conditions of the pursuit, on whether or not policy was followed, or other issue, the Commander should confer with the Chief of Police to determine the next course of action.

2) Violations of pursuit policy shall be formally addressed. Members who are found to have willfully violated the terms and conditions of this policy will face disciplinary action.

18. Annual Review: Pursuits shall be reviewed by the designated personnel for policy and procedure compliance, accreditation standard compliance, and for training needs.

a. Professional Standards Officer: The Professional Standards Officer shall formally review all pursuit incidents at least annually to determine if there is pattern or trend that may indicate training needs or policy modifications.

1) The analysis will review, at least, the following: [CALEA 41.2.2.; 41.2.3]

a) Authorization for the pursuit;

b) Vehicle and related use-of-force tactics used before, during and after the pursuit;

c) Pursuit criteria;

d) Pursuit protocol;

e) Termination of the pursuit;

f) Determining the quality of supervision before, during, and after the pursuit;

g) Resulting personal injuries and / or property damage.

h) Whether or not proper documentation is occurring in order to have a successful review process.

2) The report shall be completed and submitted to the Chief of Police by January 15, of each year.

a) The pursuit review may be combined with the annual use-of-force review and submitted as one report.

By Order of
Donald L. Shinnamon, Sr.

Donald L. Shinnamon, Sr.
Chief of Police