

Effective Date
May 24, 2002

Supersedes G.O. 8.02 effective 6-18-01

JERRY L. BARKER
CHIEF OF POLICE

1. POLICY
 - Emergency driving and high-speed pursuits are among the most dangerous acts performed by police officers. These acts are dangerous to the officer, the general public, and to the fleeing suspect and passengers in the case of a vehicular pursuit. It is the policy of the Indianapolis Police Department to act in a manner that will minimize the risks associated with emergency driving and high-speed vehicular pursuits.
 - II. PROCEDURES
 - A. Normal Emergency Operation
 1. Department vehicles must be operated under emergency conditions only when the officer is responding to a reported or confirmed emergency situation, or when properly operating under pursuit conditions.
 2. When operating a police vehicle under emergency conditions the emergency lights and siren must be utilized.
 3. Only when responding to an emergency situation or when properly operating a department vehicle under pursuit conditions may an officer disregard an automatic traffic control signal or stop sign. In both instances the officer must approach the intersection with caution and be prepared to stop. The officer may proceed only when it is safe by clearing the intersection lane by lane.
 4. Police vehicles approaching an automatic traffic control signal or intersecting street controlled by a stop sign must be prepared to take evasive action and brake, if necessary. The police vehicle operator must proceed with caution.
 5. Any officer operating a police vehicle under emergency conditions will cease emergency operation once notification is made that sufficient assistance is on the scene.
 6. Specialty unit officers may continue to proceed under emergency conditions after being notified sufficient assistance is on the scene only if it is determined that a specialty skill is necessary as approved by the appropriate supervisor.
 7. The first officer arriving on the scene of an incident must evaluate the situation and advise control operators to disregard officers and equipment not needed. Units that have been disregarded will not proceed to the scene.
 - B. Silent Runs
 1. A silent run is the operation of a police vehicle under emergency conditions utilizing emergency lights, but no audible signal (siren).
 2. Silent runs are authorized for the following:
 - a. Robberies in progress;
 - b. Burglaries in progress; or
 - c. Situations the officer determines through his training, experience, and judgment require silent run operation.
 3. When on a silent run, the officer must:
 - a. Obey all traffic laws;



Indianapolis Police Department
GENERAL ORDER



EMERGENCY RESPONSES, PURSUITS,
AND ESCORTS

NUMBER: 8.02

EMERGENCY RESPONSES, PURSUITS, AND ESCORTS

- b. Stop at all stop signs and traffic signals, proceeding only when it is safe by clearing the intersection lane by lane, and
- c. Operate with extreme caution at a reasonable speed which will not endanger the life and property of others.

C. Pursuits

1. A pursuit is an active attempt by a sworn officer, operating a department vehicle while using its emergency lights and siren, to apprehend the occupant(s) of a fleeing vehicle and is authorized for the following:
 - a. On-sight pursuit of a known or suspected felon;
 - b. On-sight pursuit of traffic or misdemeanor violators witnessed by the officer; or
 - c. To assist a pursuing vehicle when directed to do so by a supervisor.
2. Before initiating, or during the course of any pursuit, the pursuing officer(s) and supervisor(s) must consider the following:
 - a. The seriousness of the offense for which the violator is being pursued;
 - b. Weather conditions (rain, ice, etc.);
 - c. Lighting conditions and visibility;
 - d. Density of vehicular and pedestrian traffic; and
 - e. Locality of the pursuit (residential, highway, etc.).

3. When operating under pursuit conditions the emergency lights and siren must be in operation.

- a. Officers will not participate in any pursuit unless their vehicle is equipped with departmentally installed emergency lights and sirens.
- b. Should an officer's emergency lights or siren fail or become disabled during the course of a pursuit, the officer must discontinue involvement and relinquish responsibility for continuation to the secondary pursuing officer.

4. Officers must clearly notify Communications of any pursuit activity including a decision to terminate. Terms such as "following" or "trying to catch up with" must not be used when announcing a pursuit situation. The announcement of "pursuit" will prompt Communications to immediately begin the patching of radio channels of nearby districts or jurisdictions to enhance officer safety.

5. Sworn personnel in either unmarked police sedans or motorcycles only, and equipped with emergency lights and sirens, may initiate a pursuit. Officers operating these vehicles must immediately relinquish control of the pursuit to a marked sedan using emergency lights and siren as soon as possible. Vans, trucks, or prisoner wagons, will not initiate or become involved in a pursuit under any circumstances.

NOTE: Any police vehicle transporting a prisoner(s) will not initiate or become involved in a pursuit.

6. Any officer initiating a pursuit must immediately notify the Communications Center of the pursuit and provide the following information:

- a. Unit number;



May 24, 2002

4. The assisting officer may take over control of the pursuit only after being requested to do so by the pursuing officer. *The assisting officer must not attempt to pass the primary pursuing officer's vehicle.*
 3. Once a second department vehicle is behind the pursuing officer, the officer in the second vehicle will maintain a safe distance and become responsible for all radio traffic concerning the pursuit.
 2. *Should a pursuit initiated by another agency enter into I/PD's jurisdiction, officers must not join in the pursuit if two (2) or more vehicles are currently in pursuit of the fleeing vehicle unless ordered to do so by a supervisor.*
- NOTE:** A canine vehicle is permitted to be a third department vehicle in the pursuit.
1. At no time will more than two (2) department vehicles operate under pursuit conditions in an attempt to stop a fleeing vehicle unless specifically ordered to do so by a field supervisor. *Assisting units will not convoy behind the pursuing vehicle.*
- D. Assisting Units**
14. The initiating unit, if not still involved in the pursuit, should proceed to the termination point of the pursuit under normal driving conditions in the event of an apprehension.
 13. *Following any pursuit, officers must immediately notify Communications once the vehicle is stopped, regardless of the distance or duration of the pursuit. This applies to pursuits of short duration even if the officer had not yet had an opportunity to broadcast details via radio.*
 12. Blocking a roadway, street, alleyway, etc. with vehicles or any other objects so that a vehicle cannot pass is prohibited by this order.
 11. There will be no paralleling of the pursuit route unless the pursuit passes through an officer's assigned area. The paralleling officer's vehicle must not operate under emergency conditions.
 10. The assigned field supervisor will monitor the pursuit and respond to the termination point of the pursuit to take charge of the scene.
 9. **SUPERVISORS, AFTER ASSESSING CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN II, C., 2., A-E, MAY ORDER THE DISCONTINUATION OF A PURSUIT. OFFICERS ORDERED TO DISCONTINUE A PURSUIT MUST DO SO IMMEDIATELY.**
 8. *The Communications Center must, formally notify and assign the pursuit to the initiating officer's supervisor (or a supervisor assigned to the district in which the pursuit originated) to ensure awareness as well as prompt supervision and field management of the incident. The supervisor assigned to the pursuit will remain responsible for monitoring the pursuit and preparation of the pursuit supervisory special report and related paperwork or reports.*
 7. The pursuing officer will remain in radio contact with Communications and advise all pertinent information until such time as additional units are available to assist.
 - a. Location;
 - b. Direction of travel;
 - c. Reason for the pursuit; and
 - d. Description of the vehicle, occupants, license number, etc.



May 24, 2002

7. The details concerning the use of stop sticks must be documented in the police incident report.
6. If an escape route around stop sticks is possible, stop sticks may also be placed in the escape route.
5. When placing stop sticks on the roadway, emergency lights on all vehicles must be in operation.
4. The officer deploying stop sticks must notify the Communications Center of the location of the stop sticks with ample time for pursuing units to be notified. Extreme caution should be used during deployment.
3. Stop sticks may only be used in the manner in which trained.
2. Only officers with properly documented training may use stop sticks.
1. Stop sticks may be used to end a vehicle pursuit, but may not be used to apprehend a motorcycle or other two-wheeled vehicle.

G. Stop Sticks

3. The officer initiating the pursuit will be responsible for the arrest of the suspect when the suspect voluntarily terminates the pursuit, is involved in a traffic accident, or is forced to stop by other means. If the officer initiating the pursuit is unable to proceed to the termination point, i.e., involved in a traffic accident, then the officer directly in pursuit at the time of the apprehension will be responsible for the arrest and reports.
2. The only units remaining at the termination point of a pursuit will be the initial pursuing officer, the last pursuing officer, and other personnel ordered by the supervisor.
1. Pursuits may be terminated by the pursuing officer or a supervisor. Factors to consider include type of crime or violation, time of day, location, weather, traffic, pedestrians, and speed or recklessness of the fleeing vehicle. The supervisor and pursuing officer are responsible for quickly weighing the above factors and determining if it is in the public interest to continue a pursuit. Supervisors are responsible and accountable for ordering the termination of a pursuit if, in their experience and judgment, the risk factors are too great to continue the pursuit.

F. Termination Of The Pursuit

4. Helicopter personnel are responsible for advising ground personnel of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards, and other factors that may endanger life and property.
3. When a helicopter is available and has visual contact with the pursued vehicle, the pursuing vehicle, when appropriate, will *discontinue pursuit driving conditions* and allow the helicopter to continue the surveillance of the suspect and provide directions to the ground units.
2. The pursuing officer and supervisor must be promptly advised of the availability of a helicopter.
1. Helicopter assistance will be requested on all pursuits. *Communications will request Tactical Air Patrol using an all channels broadcast.*

E. Helicopter Assistance During Pursuits

5. Police units relatively close to the pursuit may move in to assist using normal police vehicle operation, but may not leave their assigned districts unless specifically ordered to do so by a supervisor.



May 24, 2002

- 8. In order to have a used stop stick replaced, the used stop stick must be taken to Fleet Maintenance where a new stop stick will be provided after receiving the used stop stick.
- H. Supervisory Responsibility
 - 1. The field supervisor assigned to the pursuit by Communications will be responsible for the thorough and accurate completion of the Pursuit Supervisory Special Report, IPD Form 6-6-7.
 - a. The supervisor will provide a written evaluation of the pursuing officer(s) actions in the "Supervisor's Opinion" section of the pursuit supervisory special report.
 - b. The supervisor must indicate whether or not the officer's actions in the pursuit were "In Compliance" or "Not in Compliance" with department policy.
 - c. The supervisor must outline any necessary counseling, corrective actions, or other recommendations relative to any involved officers' performance and decision making throughout the pursuit.
 - d. The supervisor will complete the section titled "Supervisory Actions" and explain why the pursuit was either allowed to continue or ordered to be terminated.
 - 2. The field supervisor originally assigned to the pursuit by Communications will also be responsible for any additional special reports that are necessary (Damage to City Vehicle, Resisting Arrest, etc.).
 - 3. The Pursuit Supervisory Special Report, will be reviewed by all of the involved officers' supervisors and forwarded to the respective Deputy Chief.
 - 4. The Deputy Chief will review the pursuit supervisory special report and all other relative reports.
 - 5. Upon review, the Deputy Chief will forward all available information regarding the pursuit to the Vehicle Operations Review Board with one of the following recommendations:
 - a. The Vehicle Operations Review Board will administratively review the pursuit; or
 - b. The Vehicle Operations Review Board will conduct a hearing to formally evaluate the actions of the officer(s) and supervisor(s) involved.
 - 6. Results of the Vehicle Operations Review Board findings will be forwarded to the officers' Deputy Chief.
 - 7. The Deputy Chief will be responsible for reviewing the board's findings and taking any necessary corrective actions (driver's training, disciplinary action, etc.) relative to the performance and actions of the officer(s) or supervisor(s).
 - 8. A copy of the Pursuit Supervisory special report must be forwarded within 72 hours of the incident to the Planning and Research Office for statistical purposes.
- I. Investigative Responsibility
 - 1. The appropriate district detective section will be responsible for the investigation of all incidents in which a person is intentionally injured by the pursued suspect's vehicle. The Homicide Branch will be responsible for all incidents in which a person is intentionally injured with critical or fatal results.
 - 2. If the pursued vehicle is involved in an accident, the procedures stated in General Order 9.03, Traffic Accident Investigation, must be followed.



May 24, 2002

3. The Critical Incident Response Team will investigate circumstances surrounding pursuits that result in serious injury or fatality, pursuant to General Order 29.01. The accident will continue to be investigated as outlined in General Order 9.03, Traffic Accident investigations.

J. Inter-jurisdictional Pursuits

1. When a pursuit initiated on I/PD jurisdiction crosses into the jurisdiction of another agency and is joined by members of that agency, the initiating officer will retain responsibility of the pursuit unless relieved by a supervisor.

2. When a pursuit initiated by an outside agency crosses into I/PD jurisdiction, I/PD officers must terminate their involvement when the pursuit leaves I/PD jurisdiction unless specifically directed by a field supervisor to continue (see II, D., 2.).

K. Escorts

1. District units must mark out of service on all escorts.

2. Officers may provide escorts for license branches, banks, and other financial institutions moving large amounts of money or other valuables.

a. The request must be made through the officer's field supervisor.

b. The officer may either follow the individual with the valuables or transport the person in a police vehicle. This decision will be left to the officer's discretion. If the officer transports the person requesting the escort, a waiver must be signed and forwarded to the officer's commander. A general waiver, that must be renewed annually, may be signed by the owner of the business, branch manager, etc., and filed at the appropriate district.

c. Officers are prohibited from transporting valuables or money without an employee accompanying the officer.

3. Escorts will not be furnished for private enterprises, persons, or parties without prior written permission from the Chief of Police.

Exceptions: Deputy Chiefs, Commander of the Traffic Branch, and in extreme situations field supervisors, have the authority to grant permission for escorts for the following:

- Community events
- Funerals
- Extreme emergencies
- Military convoys
- Explosive convoys

