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# ODNR DIRECTIVE

**TO:** AFFECTED DIVISIONS/OFFICES  
**FROM:** SAM SPECK, DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** MOTOR VEHICLE PURSUITS;  
 VESSEL PURSUITS; EMERGENCY  
 VEHICLE/VESSEL OPERATION

- **Effective** December 5, 1999

⌘ **Purpose** The Officers within the Department of Natural Resources have the responsibility to enforce the criminal laws with their respected jurisdiction and authority. The intent of this policy is to provide guidelines for motor vehicle and vessel pursuits.

& **Authority** [ORC 1501.01](#)

## Motor Vehicles

<a href="#">ORC 2935.031</a>	Policy for pursuit in motor vehicle
<a href="#">ORC 2935.03</a>	Officer's power to arrest without warrant; pursuit outside jurisdiction
<a href="#">ORC 4511.03</a>	Public Safety Vehicle to proceed cautiously past red or stop signal
<a href="#">ORC 4511.041</a>	Exceptions for emergency vehicles of public safety vehicles responding to emergency call
<a href="#">ORC 4511.24</a>	Public safety vehicle excepted from speed limits
<a href="#">ORC 4511.37</a>	Turning in roadway prohibited: exception
<a href="#">ORC 4511.45</a>	Right of way of public safety vehicle
<a href="#">ORC 4511.452</a>	Pedestrians to yield right of way
<a href="#">ORC 4513.21</a>	Horns, sirens and warning devices
<b>Vessels</b>	
<a href="#">ORC 1547.01</a>	Definitions
<a href="#">ORC 1547.03</a>	Flashing Lights Prohibited: Exceptions
<a href="#">ORC 1547.04</a>	Sirens Prohibited
<a href="#">ORC 1547.13</a>	Failure to comply with order of law

## Reference

	enforcement officer: Eluding or fleeing from law enforcement officer
<a href="#">ORC 1547.131</a>	Stopping for or yielding to law enforcement vessel
<a href="#">OAC 1501:47-02</a>	Navigation Rules/Lights

## ( Resource

ODNR Law Enforcement Administrator and/or Chief Legal Counsel; Divisional Law Enforcement Staff Officers

The Policy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources regarding motor vehicle pursuits and vessel pursuits is the following:

1. The Divisions of Forestry, Parks, Natural Areas, Watercraft and Wildlife shall adopt a written motor vehicle pursuit policy pursuant to this policy and the Ohio Revised Code.
2. Each Divisional policy shall consist of the following minimum categories.
  - A. Primary considerations in determining whether to pursue.
    - | Seriousness of the offense
    - | Possibility of apprehension
    - | Area of Pursuit
    - | Current traffic conditions
    - | Current road and weather conditions
    - | Condition of officers vehicle
    - | What if any assistance is available to the officer
    - | Knowledge of the identity of the drive and or occupants
  - B. Define primary officer
    - | Primary pursuing officer responsibilities
  - C. Pursuit Information for dispatch
    - | Number of pursuit vehicles
  - D. Responsibilities of officers involved
    - | Commissioned supervisor responsibility
    - | Back-up officers responsibility
  - E. Stopping methods
    - | Road Blocks
    - | Deadly Force
    - | Ramming
  - F. Response modes
  - G. Reporting requirements

- | Post Pursuit

3. Emergency Vehicle Operation Training: Each division shall ensure that every officer has received emergency vehicle operation training during their basic academy or after graduation. Each division shall provide a yearly divisional pursuit policy review. Adequate training shall be provided to all officers based upon the standards and recommendations of the Ohio Peace Officers Academy.
4. Reporting – Each officer involved in a pursuit will submit a use of Force report and any supplemental reports to document the incident.
5. Debriefing review – Each division will review and debrief all officers involved in a pursuit. Recommendation changes will be submitted to the division’s law enforcement staff in Columbus.
6. Records – Each division shall centrally maintain a training record of each officer’s training in motor vehicle pursuits.
7. Divisions that utilize patrol vessels shall adopt a written vessel pursuit policy pursuant to these guidelines consisting of the following minimum categories.

- A. Primary considerations in determining whether to pursue.

- | Seriousness of the offense
- | Possibility of apprehension
- | Area of pursuit
- | Current traffic conditions
- | Current sea and weather conditions
- | Condition of officer’s vessel
- | What if any assistance is available to the officer
- | Knowledge of the identity of the driver and or occupants

- B. Define primary officer

- | Primary pursuing officer’s responsibilities

- C. Pursuit information for dispatch

- | Number of pursuit vessels

- D. Responsibilities of officers involved

- | Commissioned supervisor responsibility
- | Back-up officers responsibility

- E. Stopping methods

- | Ramming
- | Other
- | Deadly Force

- G. Response modes

- H. Reporting requirements

#### Post Pursuit

8. Emergency Vessel Operations: Each division using patrol vessels shall insure that every officer assigned to vessel operations has received emergency vessel operation training. Each division shall provide a yearly divisional vessel pursuit policy review. Adequate training shall be provided to all officers based upon the standards and recommendations of the Division of Watercraft.
9. Reporting – Each officer involved in a pursuit will submit a use of Force report and any supplemental reports to document the incident.
10. Debriefing review – Each division will review and debrief all officers involved in a pursuit. Recommendation changes will be submitted to the division's law enforcement staff in Columbus.
11. Records – Each division shall centrally maintain a training record of each officer's training in vessel pursuits.