

Vehicle Pursuits

307.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for vehicle pursuits in order to protect the safety of involved officers, the public and fleeing suspects.

307.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Blocking or vehicle intercept - A slow-speed coordinated maneuver where two or more pursuing vehicles simultaneously intercept and block the movement of a suspect vehicle, the driver of which may be unaware of the impending enforcement stop. The goal is containment and preventing a pursuit. Blocking is not a moving or stationary road block.

Boxing-in - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then slowing all vehicles to a stop.

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) - A low-speed maneuver designed to cause the suspect vehicle to spin out, stall and come to a stop.

Ramming - The deliberate act of contacting a suspect's vehicle with another law enforcement vehicle to functionally damage or otherwise force the suspect's vehicle to stop.

Roadblocks - A tactic designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by intentionally placing a law enforcement vehicle or other immovable object in the path of the suspect's vehicle.

Terminate - To discontinue a pursuit or stop chasing fleeing vehicles.

Tire deflation device - A device designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle.

Trail - Following the path of the pursuit at a safe speed while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow rate of speed, the trailing vehicle will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit vehicles so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

Vehicle pursuit - A motor vehicle pursuit is an active attempt by a uniformed police officer in an emergency vehicle to apprehend an occupant of a vehicle who exhibits a clear intention to avoid apprehension while operating a vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, running red lights or stop signs or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's emergency signal to stop.

307.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to weigh the importance of apprehending suspects who unlawfully flee from law enforcement against the risks associated with vehicle pursuits.

Officers are authorized to pursue suspects who are wanted for a felony, particularly those suspects whose identities are unknown, or when the officer has reason to believe the person may have committed a felony, to make an arrest.

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

Officers are prohibited from pursuing suspects who have only committed a traffic violation, unless the violation(s) observed prior to the pursuit are so flagrant and reckless it poses an immediate risk and danger to themselves and others on the roadway if not immediately apprehended. Examples of such flagrantly reckless driving include, but are not limited to, major collisions, forcing other vehicles to take evasive action to avoid collision, failure to stop at controlled intersections without slowing, or driving on the wrong side of the road.

Officers are prohibited from the pursuit of an individual operating a motorcycle, all terrain vehicles (ATV), or dirt bikes, unless exigent circumstances are present and a supervisor approves the pursuit.

307.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Vehicle pursuits shall only be conducted using authorized police department emergency vehicles that are equipped with, and operating emergency lighting and sirens, as required by law (Md. Code TR § 21-106.)

Officers shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property. However, officers may, when in pursuit of a suspect and provided there is no unreasonable risk to persons and property:

- (a) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- (b) Exceed the speed limit.
- (c) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

Officers who initiate a pursuit must do so based upon the facts, or what the officer reasonably believes to be the facts at the time. Facts or circumstances that become known at a later time, no matter how compelling will not be considered in justifying a vehicular pursuit.

Many factors affect the decision to initiate and continue pursuit. Each officer must carefully exercise discretion in determining whether or not to commence pursuit and must continually weigh the hazards presented by the pursuit against those created by the violator, bearing in mind the factors outlined in this policy. *Good judgment in weighing these risks is essential.* The seriousness of an offense does not lessen the liability of officers and/or their duty to all persons, including a fellow law enforcement officers, and themselves to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

As a general rule, pursuit is not recommended or favored when the potential danger to the officer and the public outweigh the potential advantage of apprehending a fleeing vehicle by such means.

307.3.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Factors that shall be considered, both individually and collectively, when deciding to initiate or continue a pursuit include, but are not limited to:

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (a) The seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime or driving behavior and its relationship to community safety.
- (b) The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to officers, innocent motorists and others.
- (c) The safety of the public in the area of the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (e.g., school zones) and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.
- (d) The pursuing officers' familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing vehicles and dispatcher/supervisor, and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (e) The weather, traffic and road conditions that unreasonably increase the danger of the pursuit when weighed against the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.
- (f) The identity of the suspect has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect to be apprehended at a later time.
- (g) The performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speed and other conditions of the pursuit.
- (h) Emergency lighting and siren limitations on unmarked police department vehicles that may reduce visibility of the vehicle, such as visor or dash-mounted lights, concealable or temporary emergency lighting equipment and concealed or obstructed siren positioning.
- (i) Vehicle speeds.
- (j) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders and hostages.)
- (k) The availability of other resources such as air support assistance.
- (l) The pursuing vehicle is carrying passengers other than on-duty police officers. Pursuits shall not be undertaken with an arrestee in the pursuit vehicle.
- (m) Pursuits are not allowed when the police vehicle is occupied by any civilian or a law enforcement officer(s) not having concurrent jurisdiction.

Once made, the decision to pursue is **not** irrevocable, and it is the prudent officer who knows when to discontinue the pursuit. It is better to abandon the pursuit when the risk of danger to the officer or to the public is unacceptable or when weather or road conditions are poor. The experience and common sense of each officer and his knowledge of the area should also guide him in his decision.

Officers **cannot** be disciplined for terminating an unsafe pursuit.

307.3.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be terminated whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the officer or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

When a supervisor directs the pursuit to be terminated, officers will immediately terminate the pursuit.

The factors listed in this policy on when to initiate a pursuit will apply equally to the decision to terminate a pursuit. Officers and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists, themselves and the public when electing to continue a pursuit.

In addition to the factors that govern when to initiate a pursuit, other factors should be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit, including:

- (a) The distance between the pursuing vehicle and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time or distance.
- (b) The pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- (c) The pursuing vehicle sustains damage or a mechanical failure that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) The pursuing vehicle's emergency lighting equipment or siren becomes partially or completely inoperable.
- (e) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (f) The danger that the continued pursuit poses to the public, the officers or the suspect, balanced against the risk of allowing the suspect to remain at large.
- (g) When the identity of the suspect is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit.

No command officer, supervisor, or fellow member shall infer cowardice, nor make any other disparaging remark, act, or deed to any officer or supervisor who terminates a pursuit. Such a decision by an officer or supervisor shall never adversely impact any evaluation or recommendation, nor shall it be considered cause for discipline.

307.4 PURSUIT VEHICLES

When involved in a pursuit, unmarked police department emergency vehicles should be replaced by marked emergency vehicles whenever practicable (Md. Code TR § 11-118.)

Vehicle pursuits should be limited to three police department emergency vehicles (two pursuit vehicles and the supervisor vehicle.) However, the number of vehicles involved will vary with the circumstances.

An officer or supervisor may request additional vehicles join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of officers involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the number of suspects. All other officers shall stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

its progress and location. Any officer who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the pursuit termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

307.4.1 MOTORCYCLES/SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

Motorcycles and other special function vehicles shall not be used in any vehicular pursuit.

307.4.2 VEHICLES WITHOUT EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Officers operating vehicles not equipped with emergency lights and siren are prohibited from initiating or joining in any pursuit. Officers in such vehicles may provide support to pursuing vehicles as long as the vehicle is operated in compliance with all traffic laws. Those officers should discontinue such support immediately upon arrival of a sufficient number of authorized emergency police department vehicles or any air support.

307.4.3 PRIMARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial pursuing officer will be designated as the primary pursuit vehicle and will be responsible for the conduct of the pursuit unless he/she is unable to remain reasonably close to the suspect's vehicle. The primary responsibility of the officer initiating the pursuit is the apprehension of the suspect without unreasonable danger to him/herself or others.

The primary pursuing officer should notify the dispatcher, commencing with a request for priority radio traffic, that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated, and as soon as practicable provide information including, but not limited to:

- (a) The location, direction of travel and estimated speed of the suspect's vehicle.
- (b) The description of the suspect's vehicle including the license plate number, if known.
- (c) The reason for the pursuit.
- (d) The use of firearms, threat of force, violence, injuries, hostages or other unusual hazards.
- (e) The number of occupants and identity or description.
- (f) The weather, road and traffic conditions.
- (g) The need for any additional resources or equipment.
- (h) The identity of other law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit.

Unless relieved by a supervisor or a secondary pursuing officer, the officer in the primary pursuit vehicle shall be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit. Unless circumstances reasonably indicate otherwise, the primary pursuing officer should relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to an officer in a secondary pursuit vehicle or to air support joining the pursuit to minimize distractions and allow the primary pursuing officer to concentrate foremost on safe pursuit tactics.

307.4.4 SECONDARY PURSUIT VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The second officer in the pursuit will be designated as the secondary pursuit vehicle and is responsible for:

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (a) Immediately notifying the dispatcher of his/her entry into the pursuit.
- (b) Remaining a safe distance behind the primary pursuit vehicle unless directed to assume the role of primary pursuit vehicle or if the primary pursuit vehicle is unable to continue the pursuit.
- (c) Broadcasting information that the primary pursuing officer is unable to provide.
- (d) Broadcasting the progress of the pursuit, updating known or critical information and providing changes in the pursuit, unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (e) Identifying the need for additional resources or equipment as appropriate.
- (f) Serving as backup to the primary pursuing officer once the suspect has been stopped.

307.5 PURSUIT DRIVING

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of the factors the officer considered when determining whether to initiate and/or terminate a pursuit. The following are tactics for officers who are involved in the pursuit:

- (a) Officers, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles such that they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to unusual maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- (b) Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Available officers not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.
 - 2. Pursuing officers should exercise due caution and slow down as may be necessary when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- (c) As a general rule, officers should not pursue a vehicle driving the wrong direction on a roadway, highway or freeway. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Request assistance from available air support.
 - 2. Maintain visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling the vehicle while driving on the correct side of the roadway.
 - 3. Request other officers to observe exits available to the suspect.
- (d) Notify the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police and/or other law enforcement agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter its jurisdiction.
- (e) Officers involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other pursuing vehicles unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the pursuing officer and with a clear understanding of the maneuver process between the involved officers.

307.5.1 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event that initial pursuing officers relinquish control of the pursuit to another agency, the initial officers may, with the permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide information and assistance for the arrest of the suspect and reporting the incident.

Vehicle Pursuits

307.5.2 AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

When available, air support assistance should be requested. Once the air support crew has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, they should assume communication control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground pursuit vehicles, or involved supervisor, will maintain operational control but should consider whether the participation of air support warrants their continued close proximity and/or involvement in the pursuit.

The air support crew should coordinate the activities of resources on the ground, report progress of the pursuit, and provide officers and supervisors with details of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards or other pertinent information to evaluate whether to continue the pursuit. If officers on the ground are not within visual contact of the pursued vehicle and the air support crew determines it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air support crew should recommend terminating the pursuit.

307.5.3 OFFICERS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

Officers who are not involved in the pursuit should remain in their assigned areas, should not parallel the pursuit route and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor. Uninvolved officers are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Those officers should attempt to place their vehicles in locations that provide some safety or an escape route in the event of an unintended collision or if the suspect intentionally tries to ram the police department vehicle.

Non-pursuing members needed at the pursuit termination point should respond in a nonemergency manner, observing the rules of the road.

The primary pursuit vehicle, secondary pursuit vehicle and supervisor vehicle should be the only vehicles operating under emergency conditions (emergency lights and siren) unless other officers are assigned to the pursuit.

307.6 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The patrol shift supervisor will direct, coordinate and continuously monitor all pursuits, constantly evaluating the circumstances of the pursuit, based on the above criteria and for adherence to policy/procedures.

The shift supervisor has the final responsibility for the coordination, control and termination of a vehicle pursuit and shall be in overall command. The supervisor will be responsible for:

- (a) Immediately notifying involved officers and the dispatcher of supervisory presence and ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit. This is to ensure t the pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.
- (b) Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- (c) Ensuring no more than the required law enforcement vehicles are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (d) Directing the pursuit be terminated if, in his/her judgment, it is not justified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.
- (e) Ensuring that assistance from air support, canines or additional resources are requested, if available and appropriate.
- (f) Ensuring the proper radio channel is being used.
- (g) Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this department.
- (h) Controlling and managing Easton Police Department officers when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- (i) The shift supervisor shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward them to the Patrol Commander. The supervisor shall prepare a post-pursuit review and documentation of the pursuit as required.

307.7 TALBOT CENTER

If the pursuit is confined within the Town limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or dispatcher. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of this department or such is imminent, involved officers should, whenever available, switch radio communications to a tactical or emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies.

307.7.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon notification or becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the dispatcher is responsible for:

- (a) Clearing the radio channel of nonemergency traffic
- (b) Coordinating pursuit communications of the involved officers.
- (c) Broadcasting pursuit updates as well as other pertinent information as necessary.
- (d) Ensuring the shift supervisor is notified of the pursuit.
- (e) Notifying and coordinating with other involved or affected agencies as practicable.
- (f) Assigning an incident number and logging all pursuit activities.

307.8 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

When the pursued vehicle is lost, the involved officers should broadcast pertinent information to assist other officers in locating the vehicle. The primary pursuing officer or supervisor will be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

307.9 INTERJURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction, the primary pursuing officer or supervisor, taking into consideration the distance traveled unfamiliarity with the area and other pertinent facts, should determine whether to request the other agency to assume the lead in the pursuit.

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

Unless entry into another jurisdiction is expected to be brief, it is generally recommended that the primary pursuing officer or supervisor ensure notification is provided to each outside jurisdiction into which the pursuit is reasonably expected to enter, regardless of whether the jurisdiction is expected to assist.

Pursuits into another State are prohibited.

307.9.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Officers will relinquish control of the pursuit when another agency has assumed the lead in the pursuit, unless the continued assistance of the Easton Police Department is requested by the agency assuming the pursuit. Upon relinquishing control of the pursuit, the involved officers may proceed, with supervisory approval, to the termination point of the pursuit to assist in the investigation. The supervisor should coordinate such assistance with the assuming agency and obtain any information necessary for any reports.

The roles and responsibilities of officers at the termination point of a pursuit initiated by this department shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the needs of the agency assuming the pursuit.

Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific. Because of communication limitations between local law enforcement agencies, a request for another agency's assistance will mean that its personnel will assume responsibility for the pursuit. For the same reasons, when a pursuit leaves another jurisdiction and a request for assistance is made to this department, the other agency should relinquish control.

307.9.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

Pursuits by other agencies that come into Town limits will not be joined by EPD officers unless the reason for the pursuit fits our criteria for initiating a pursuit.

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Officers from this department should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the pursuing agency and with approval from a supervisor. The exception to this is when a single vehicle from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, an officer from this department may, with supervisor approval, immediately join the pursuit until sufficient vehicles from the initiating agency join the pursuit or until additional information is provided allowing withdrawal from the pursuit.

When a request is made for this department to assist or take over a pursuit that has entered the jurisdiction of the Easton Police Department, the supervisor should consider:

- (a) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (b) The safety of the pursuing officers.
- (c) Whether the circumstances are serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (d) Whether there is adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (e) The ability to maintain the pursuit.

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

As soon as practicable, the Shift Supervisor should review a request for assistance from another agency. The Shift Supervisor, after considering the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing agency by officers of this department will conclude at the Town limits, provided the pursuing agency has sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that the termination point of a pursuit from another agency is within this jurisdiction, officers shall provide appropriate assistance including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

307.10 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

Pursuit intervention is an attempt to stop the suspect's ability to continue to flee in a vehicle through tactical application of technology, tire deflation devices, blocking or vehicle intercept, boxing-in, ramming or roadblock procedures.

307.10.1 WHEN USE IS AUTHORIZED

Whenever practicable, an officer shall seek approval from a supervisor before employing any intervention to stop the pursued vehicle. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, officers/supervisors should balance the risk of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the officers and persons in or on the pursued vehicle. With this in mind, the decision to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances apparent to the officer at the time of the decision.

307.10.2 USE OF FIREARMS

The rules affecting the use of deadly force apply to all vehicular pursuits.

The use of a firearm requires that the safety of innocent bystanders be considered of paramount importance. The probability of delivering a service round discharged from a firearm into a suspect operating a vehicle at high speed, by an officer operating or riding in a vehicle at equally high speed, is exceeded by the probability that the round will stray or strike an unintended target. Therefore, firearms shall not be discharged by an officer while driving or occupying a vehicle engaged in pursuit except as a last resort to defend himself or others when being fired upon. The officer returning fire must be constantly mindful of those objects behind their intended target.

Officers who are under fire from a moving vehicle, should open the distance between themselves and the suspect vehicle or break off pursuit of that vehicle.

Firing for the purpose of disabling a vehicle is specifically prohibited, as is the use of warning shots.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any officer from using a firearm to stop a suspect from using a vehicle as a deadly weapon.

Vehicle Pursuits

307.10.3 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to the officers, the public or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued.

Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to policies guiding such use. Officers shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

- (a) Blocking or vehicle intercept should only be considered in cases involving felony suspects or impaired drivers who pose a threat to the public's safety, and when officers reasonably believe that attempting a conventional enforcement stop will likely result in the driver attempting to flee in the vehicle. Because of the potential risks involved, this intervention tactic should only be employed by properly trained officers and after giving consideration to the following:
 - 1. The need to immediately stop the suspect vehicle or prevent it from leaving substantially outweighs the risk of injury or death to occupants of the suspect vehicle, officers or others..
 - 2. All other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective..
 - 3. Employing the blocking or vehicle intercept maneuver does not unreasonably increase the risk of safety to those involved or the public..
 - 4. The suspect vehicle is stopped or traveling at a low speed..
 - 5. Only law enforcement vehicles should be used in this tactic.
- (b) The PIT is prohibited.
- (c) Ramming a fleeing vehicle should be done only after other reasonable tactical means at the officer's disposal have been exhausted or would not be effective, and immediate control is necessary. Ramming should be reserved for situations where there does not appear to be another reasonable alternative method and should only be attempted upon approval by a supervisor. If there does not reasonably appear to be a present or immediately foreseeable serious threat to the public, the use of ramming is not authorized. When ramming is used as a means to stop a fleeing vehicle, the following factors should be present:
 - 1. The suspect is an actual or suspected felon, who reasonably appears to represent a serious threat to the public if not apprehended.
 - 2. The suspect is driving with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of other persons or is driving in a reckless and life-endangering manner or using the vehicle as a weapon.
- (d) Boxing-in a suspect vehicle should only be attempted upon approval by a supervisor. The use of such a tactic must be carefully coordinated with all involved vehicles, taking into consideration the circumstances and conditions apparent at the time, as well as the potential risk of injury to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle. Officers and supervisors should weigh the potential consequences against the need to immediately stop the vehicle.

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (e) Tire deflation devices should be deployed only after notification of pursuing officers and the supervisor of the intent and location of the intended deployment, and in a manner that:
 - 1. Should reasonably only affect the pursued vehicle.
 - 2. Provides the deploying officer adequate cover and escape from intentional or unintentional exposure to the approaching vehicle.
 - 3. Has considered the limitations of such devices as well as the potential risk to officers, the public and occupants of the pursued vehicle.
 - 4. Has considered whether the pursued vehicle is a motorcycle, a vehicle transporting hazardous materials or a school bus transporting children.
- (f) Because roadblocks involve a potential for serious injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle if the suspect does not stop, the intentional placement of roadblocks in the direct path of a pursued vehicle is generally discouraged and should not be deployed without prior approval of a supervisor. If roadblocks are deployed, it should only be done under extraordinary conditions when all other reasonable intervention tactics have failed or reasonably appear ineffective and the need to immediately stop the pursued vehicle substantially outweighs the risks of injury or death to occupants of the pursued vehicle, officers or the public.

307.11 CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing officer should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect following the pursuit. Officers should consider the safety of the public and the involved officers when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspect.

307.12 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuits will be documented on an Incident Report, prepared by the initiating officer. A Supplemental Report will be submitted by each officer that actively participated in the pursuit.

All pursuits, without regard to their outcome or conclusion, shall be recorded on a Form 76, Vehicle Pursuit Report.

- (a) The Vehicle Pursuit Report is strictly an internal management document. The report shall not be attached to the Incident Report, or any other report regarding this incident, and shall not be released, in whole or in part, to any person or organization or entity outside the Easton Police Department, without specific permission from the Chief of Police.
- (b) Completed by the officer who initiates a motor vehicle pursuit.

Easton Police Department

Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (c) Completed by the first officer requested to assist in a motor vehicle pursuit initiated by another jurisdiction.
- (d) Shall be completed and forwarded to the shift supervisor prior to ending that tour of duty.

The supervisor shall review and approve all reports and forward them to their Division Commander prior to ending that tour of duty.

307.13 FORMAL REVIEW

The affected Division Commander shall review all post pursuit reports and:

- (a) Will review the radio transmissions associated with the incident.
- (b) Will review all available video of the incident.
- (c) May meet with the individuals involved in the incident as part of the formal review to discuss their role in the sequence of events. This review should include the PCO and any other personnel deemed necessary.
- (d) The review will include a report of the following areas:
 - (e) Synopsis of the pursuit to include the reason for the pursuit and terminating factor(s.)
 - (f) Supervision and accountability.
 - (g) Dispatch or deployment techniques.
 - (h) Violations of policy or rules and regulations.
 - (i) Problems Identified- to include officer safety issues and actions of personnel "after the stop."
 - (j) Training Issues/Recommendations.

The Division Commander will forward the report and his findings to the Deputy Chief who:

Will review the report submitted by the Commander and all post pursuit reports to determine if:

- (a) The pursuit was conducted within policy, or if it requires further investigation due to inadequate facts or conclusions or violations of policy and procedures.
 - 1. Training needs to be considered.
 - 2. Policy changes should be considered.
 - 3. Maintains files of all pursuits.
- (b) Ensures the final disposition recommendations approved by the Chief of Police are implemented.
- (c) Maintain a pursuit file for a period of five years involving all personnel within the Department.