|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Policy #  **Foot Pursuit** | Related Policies: | |
| *This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third-party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis for internal discipline and/or criminal charges.* | | |
| Applicable State Statutes: | | |
| KACP Accreditation Standard: 30.9 | | |
| Date Implemented: | | Revision Date: May 1, 2025 |

1. **Purpose:** To provide for the safety of law enforcement personnel while at the same time facilitating the safe apprehension of suspects.
2. **Policy:** Whenever an officer decides to engage or continue a foot pursuit, a quick and continuous risk assessment should take place. The officer should evaluate the risk involved to themselves, the suspect, and the community versus the benefit of continuing the foot pursuit.
3. **Definitions:**
   1. **Foot Pursuit**: A situation in which an officer on foot chases a suspect in an effort to detain or arrest that individual the officer has a reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime and who is resisting apprehension by fleeing from the officer.
   2. **Suspect**: Any individual an officer has a reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed an offense or poses an imminent threat to the safety of the public, other officers, or themselves.
   3. **Contact/Cover**: A tactical practice of having two or more officers working together during a foot pursuit. The officers work as a team utilizing direct or indirect communication methods to coordinate their efforts, remain aware of the locations of officers and suspects, and keep abreast of the status of the pursuit.
4. **Procedure**:
   1. **Alternatives to Foot Pursuit**: To the extent that resources are available, officers should consider the following alternatives to a foot pursuit:
      1. Area containment
      2. Additional officers
      3. Surveillance until additional resources become available
   2. **Factors to Consider in Conducting the Risk Assessment**:
      1. Whether the suspect is armed
      2. How serious is the suspect’s offense, i.e., does he or she pose a serious threat to the community if allowed to escape
      3. Officer acting alone
      4. Backup is not available in a timely manner
      5. Officer pursuing more than one suspect
      6. Officer not in physical condition to pursue a subject on foot
      7. Location:
         1. Nature of area (i.e., residential, commercial, freeway) which impacts the safety of all those who may be affected by the foot pursuit
         2. Conditions of structures: abandoned and condemned
         3. Environmental factors: weather conditions or darkness
         4. Area of pursuit is hostile to law enforcement personnel
      8. Ability to apprehend the subject later, i.e., identity is known
      9. Communications Issues:
         1. Officer familiarity with location - able to identify subject’s location with accuracy during pursuit
         2. Radio frequency and coverage - Is the officer in area where radio coverage may fail?
   3. **Pursuing Officer Responsibilities:**
      1. The decision to initiate or continue a foot pursuit requires weighing the need to apprehend the suspect against the degree of risk to which the officer and others are exposed as a result of the pursuit.
      2. Once an officer decides to engage in a foot pursuit, the officer, as soon as practical, should relay the following information to communications:
         1. Officer identifier (car number)
         2. Location (continuing responsibility)
         3. Direction of travel
         4. Description of suspect
         5. Whether the suspect is armed
         6. Reason for foot pursuit
         7. Coordinating with other officers to establish a perimeter for containment.
      3. The primary officer should maintain a sufficient tactical gap between himself or herself and the suspect to allow time for maintaining cover and allow for the arrival of backup officers before engagement.
      4. An officer should not enter a building, structure, or area of limited or no cover without a backup officer present.
      5. An officer should not continue a foot pursuit if the officer has lost their firearm.
      6. Officers should note that residents may mistake pursuing officers as prowlers. To the extent possible, efforts should be made to notify area residents of the police presence. Officers or supervisors might consider notification to area residents:
         1. Reverse 911
         2. Backup officers use of vehicle’s P.A.
         3. Use of vehicle siren
         4. Law enforcement helicopter P.A.
   4. **Supervisor’s responsibility:** If a supervisor is available, the supervisor should:
      1. Monitor the pursuit and direct available resources to provide for the swift and safe apprehension of the suspect.
      2. Terminate any foot pursuit where the risk to the officer, the public, or suspects outweighs the need for the foot pursuit.
      3. Consider the use of specialized units/personnel to aid in the apprehension, i.e., canine, SWAT following containment, etc. In the absence of a supervisor, this consideration should be undertaken by involved officers.
   5. **Communications Responsibility**:
      1. Maintain open communications with involved officers.
      2. Notify a supervisor and provide relevant information (without compromising the ability of involved officers to communicate ongoing information).
   6. **Termination of Foot Pursuits:** Officers shall terminate a foot pursuit:
      1. If ordered by a supervisor.
      2. If the officer believes the danger to the pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for the immediate apprehension of the suspect.
   7. Officers should consider terminating a foot pursuit:
      1. If the suspect’s identity is known and he or she is not an imminent threat to the safety of the public or other officers, consider terminating the pursuit and apprehend at a later date.
      2. After termination of a foot pursuit, the involved officer will notify communications of the last known location of the suspect, or in cases of apprehension, the location of apprehension.
   8. **Review of Foot Pursuits:** At the conclusion of a foot pursuit as defined by this policy, officers shall compile a foot pursuit review form. The pursuit shall be reviewed by a supervisor.

Case # Date of Pursuit / /

Pursuit Start Location \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Time of Pursuit\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pursuit Termination Location \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

! **Supervisor** is to complete this form in detail

! **COPY** of completed **Incident Report** is to be attached

! **original** (w/attachments) will be forwarded **to the Chief’s office**, via chain of command

|  |
| --- |
| **Foot Pursuit After-Action Report** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Primary Officer | Secondary Officer | Supervisor |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| reason for Foot pursuit | |
| Identify Criminal Activity Suspected: |  |
|  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Video/Audio Review |
| 🞎 Video Available 🞎 Dispatch Tapes Available |
| 🞎 Video Reviewed by: 🞎 Dispatch Tapes Reviewed By |
| 🞎 Video Preserved 🞎 Dispatch Tapes Preserved |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Environmental Factors | |
| **Notification** 🞎 PA officers 🞎 Reverse 911  🞎 Helicopter 🞎 Vehicle sirens | **Area Type**  🞎 Wooded  🞎 Business Zone 🞎 Residential 🞎 School Zone |
| **Weather** 🞎 Clear 🞎 Rain 🞎 Snow 🞎 Fog  🞎 Dry 🞎 Wet 🞎 Ice | **Lighting Condition** 🞎 Daylight🞎 Dusk 🞎 Night 🞎 Well-Lit  🞎 Night-No Lighting |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alternatives Considered | |
| **Area Containment** | **Performance:** |
| **Additional Officers** | **Performance:** |
| **Surveillance until Backup arrives** | **Performance:** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Termination | | | | | |
| 🞎 Terminated by Primary Officer  🞎 Terminated by Supervisor 🞎 Suspect Voluntarily Stopped  🞎 Suspect Stopped by Force | | | | | |
| Injuries | | | | | |
| Officer | Complaint 🞎 | Visible 🞎 | Medical Required 🞎 | Serious 🞎 | Fatal 🞎 |
| Officer 2 | Complaint 🞎 | Visible 🞎 | Medical Required 🞎 | Serious 🞎 | Fatal 🞎 |
| Suspect | Complaint 🞎 | Visible 🞎 | Medical Required 🞎 | Serious 🞎 | Fatal 🞎 |
| Third Party | Complaint 🞎 | Visible 🞎 | Medical Required 🞎 | Serious 🞎 | Fatal 🞎 |

|  |
| --- |
| Inter-Jurisdictional |
| 🞎 Agency (s) Pursuing Into this Jurisdiction: |
| 🞎 Pursuit initiated this jurisdiction goes into others: |

|  |
| --- |
| Reviewed By / Signature / Comments Date |
| **Supervisor:** |
| **On-Scene 🞎 Yes 🞎 No** |
| Comments |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| **Training Officer** |
| Comments |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
| **Chief of Police** |
| Comments |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |