



RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

NOTE: This directive is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or case in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

Chapter 6	Number 6	Effective Date 03/19/10	Review Date 2013
Subject VEHICLE PURSUIT PROCEDURE			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Order
References CALEA 41.2.2a, 41.2.2b, 41.2.2c, 41.2.2d, 41.2.2e, 41.2.2f, 41.2.2g, 41.2.2h, 41.2.2i, 41.2.2j VLEPSC OPR.01.10a, OPR.01.10b, OPR.01.10c, OPR.01.10d, OPR.01.10e, OPR.01.10f, OPR.01.10g, OPR.01.10h, OPR.01.10i, OPR.01.10j VA Code §46.2-920, 46.2-844, 46.2-859, 46.2-1022 and 46.2-1023 General Orders 1-5, 2-6, 6-7, 7-10 and 7-24 Sacramento v. Lewis, 523 U.S. 833 (1998)			<input type="checkbox"/> Replaces
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i></p> <hr/> Chief of Police or Designee			<p style="text-align: center;">03/19/10</p> <hr/> Date

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish the appropriate guidelines and procedures governing motor vehicular pursuits.

II. POLICY

The Richmond Police Department has specific guidelines for the pursuit of motor vehicles. The risks associated with pursuits mandates that officers exercise sound judgment and discretion throughout the pursuit. This General Order is intended to guide the decision-making process and applies to all sworn personnel operating Department vehicles equipped with lights and sirens; vehicles not equipped with these safety measures **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to engage in vehicular pursuits.

This Pursuit Policy specifies when an officer and/or a supervisor should initiate or terminate a vehicle pursuit along with the responsibilities of the initiating officer, monitoring supervisor, the Communications Officer and any other involved police vehicles. These guidelines are intended to guide officers in the safe and reasonable performance of their duties. There are exceptions to certain traffic laws granted to police officers who are engaged in emergency vehicle operations to assist them to save lives.

It is also the policy of the Department that its officers will:

- A. Make every effort to ensure the safety of the public and Department members at all times, and authorize emergency use of police vehicles when the necessity of immediate response or apprehension of offenders outweighs the level of inherent danger.

- B. Recognize the objective of a motor vehicle pursuit is to maintain police contact with a fleeing driver, without unnecessary endangerment to life and property, until the individual can be apprehended, if possible. Officers and the pursuit supervisor will continually evaluate the nature of the pursuit with respect to its danger and whenever necessary, make the decision to terminate the pursuit.
- C. Will not become actively involved in a regional pursuit that enters this jurisdiction unless the factors that lead the outside agency to initiate the pursuit meets the criteria set forth by this General Order. For pursuits that enter this jurisdiction that do not meet this criteria Richmond Officers will participate in a support capacity.

III. ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

All employees are expected to fully comply with the guidelines and timelines set forth in this General Order. Failure to comply will result in appropriate corrective action. Responsibility rests with the Division Commander to ensure that any violations of policy are investigated and appropriate training, counseling and/or disciplinary action is initiated.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. **PURSUIT** – An active attempt by a law enforcement officer, in a police vehicle equipped with siren and emergency lights, to apprehend the occupants of another moving vehicle, who are aware of the attempt but resisting apprehension by increasing speed or clearly taking evasive measures. Continuing the pursuit requires justification based on the potential threat to public safety and personal safety of the officer, and/or the seriousness of the criminal activity.
- B. **PURSUIT SUPERVISOR** – Upon initiation of a pursuit, a supervisor will acknowledge by radio and be designated as the pursuit supervisor. However, if that supervisor is the operator of a primary, support or backup unit that is involved in a pursuit, he/she shall not act as the pursuit supervisor. The next immediate ranking supervisor in that Precinct, if available, shall serve as the pursuit supervisor for the duration of the pursuit. If that ranking supervisor is not available, one shall be summoned from another Precinct to become the pursuit supervisor. DEC shall terminate the pursuit if these efforts to contact a supervisor fail.
- C. **PRIMARY UNIT** – The marked police unit closest to a fleeing vehicle and in direct pursuit.
- D. **SECONDARY UNIT** – The second marked police unit directly involved in the pursuit and behind the primary unit.
- E. **REGIONAL PURSUIT CHANNEL (RPC)** – A regional talk group shared by the City of Richmond Police Department, Henrico County Division of Police (HPD), and the Chesterfield County Police Department (CPD). All incoming regional pursuits will be presumed not to meet our criteria until verification is confirmed and broadcast by DEC and authorized by a supervisor.
- F. **SUPPORT CAPACITY** – Tactical involvement that consists of officers assisting pursuing units by placing themselves in strategic positions to warn the public of the

approaching pursuit and assist in apprehensions of suspects at the termination of the pursuit.

V. PROCEDURE

A. General Rules during a Pursuit:

1. Exceptions to Certain Specific Traffic Regulations:

When engaged in a pursuit with full emergency equipment in operation, officers are permitted to disregard certain specific traffic regulations. VA Code §46.2-920 mandates that the drivers of any emergency vehicles, when such vehicles are being used in the performance of public services, and are operated under emergency conditions, may, without subjecting themselves to criminal prosecution:

- a. Disregard speed limits, while having due regard for safety of persons and property;

NOTE: When pursuing vehicles on city streets (non-highway roads) officers are not to exceed the maximum speed of 70 mph unless there are extreme and extenuating circumstances and the roadways permit. Please note that while some city streets, when circumstances warrant such, may allow for a maximum speed of up to 70 mph (i.e. streets such as Chamberlayne, Jeff Davis Hwy., and Midlothian Tpke.) there remains a large majority of city streets which do not allow for a maximum speed beyond 50 mph (i.e. the fan area, VCU area, etc.) and officers are expected to know the difference. Officers are reminded at all times when pursuing vehicles to take into consideration the totality of circumstances, including offense type, time of day, speed, weather, road way conditions, etc.

- b. Proceed past any steady or flashing red signal traffic light, stop sign, or device indicating moving traffic shall stop, if the speed of the vehicle is sufficiently reduced to enable it to pass with due regard to the safety of persons and property;
- c. Park or stop, notwithstanding the other provisions of Chapter 46.2 of the Code of Virginia;
- d. Disregard regulations governing a direction of movement of vehicles turning in specified directions so long as the operator does not endanger life or property;
- e. Pass or overtake, with due regard to the safety of persons or property; another vehicle at any intersection;
- f. Pass or overtake with due regard to the safety of persons and property, while en route to an emergency, stopped or slow-moving vehicles, by going to the left of the stopped or slow-moving vehicle in a no-passing zone or by crossing the highway centerline; and,

- g. Pass or overtake with due regard to the safety of persons and property, while en route to an emergency, stopped or slow-moving vehicles, by going off the paved or main traveled portion of the roadway on the right. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, vehicles exempted in this instance will not be required to sound a siren or any device to give automatically intermittent signals.
2. The exceptions granted to emergency vehicles under this section shall apply only when the operators of such vehicle displays a flashing, blinking, or altering emergency light, or lights and sounds a siren, exhaust whistle, or air horn as provided in VA Code §46.2-1022 – §46.2-1023.

3. Officers who disregard traffic regulations other than those specifically cited above are not operating under the authority of State Code or Police Department policy and are responsible for their actions.

NOTE: There are no exemptions for emergency vehicles to pass school buses while loading or unloading with lights on. VA Code §46.2-844, §46.2-859

4. All emergency equipment will remain activated during the pursuit. The primary and secondary units may consider using different siren signals to help the public identify multiple units approaching.
5. Officers will not ram, bump or collide with fleeing vehicles. They will not pull along side such vehicles in an attempt to force them off the road or into an obstacle. At no time will officers maneuver their vehicles in front of a fleeing vehicle in an attempt to slow it down. Forceful stopping or ramming is strictly prohibited.
6. Officers will only fire their weapons, in accordance with the provisions of General Order 1-5, Use of Force Policy.
7. Whenever the vehicle being pursued leaves the roadway or takes a path over rough terrain, the pursuing officer(s) must carefully consider whether or not the seriousness of the offense outweighs the risks of injury or potential damage to the police unit(s) or other property.
8. If a non-police occupant (i.e., prisoner, witness, complainant, citizen, ride-along, etc.) is in the vehicle, the officer will not engage in a pursuit, unless that passenger is discharged at a safe location.
9. There will be no attempt to pass other police units involved in a pursuit, unless the passed unit is aware of the maneuver and is handing over the pursuit to the passing police unit.
10. Whenever the vehicle being pursued drives against oncoming traffic along a divided highway or access/exit ramps, the pursuing officers shall continue the pursuit in the proper lanes of traffic and broadcast the situation immediately so that support units might consider any appropriate actions.

B. Initiating a Pursuit:

1. An officer may initiate a pursuit only after a suspect attempts to flee from or refuses to stop for the officer who has attempted to stop the suspect based on at least a reasonable suspicion that the suspect has committed or is attempting to commit an offense. In deciding whether to initiate a pursuit, officers must consider the following factors:
 - a. Traffic conditions, both pedestrian and vehicular;
 - b. Day or night visibility conditions;
 - c. Roadway conditions;
 - d. Time of day (rush hour, school traffic, etc.);
 - e. Location and proximity to residential neighborhoods;
 - f. Weather conditions; and,
 - g. Whether the seriousness of the offense and/or the immediate apprehension of the suspect, necessitate initiating the pursuit.
2. When the decision is made to initiate a pursuit, that officer will bear operational responsibility for the pursuit, unless relieved by a supervisor or another primary unit.
3. Any police unit may initiate a pursuit, but it is the intent of the Richmond Police Department that **ONLY MARKED POLICE CARS** initiate and maintain a pursuit. Accordingly, if it becomes necessary for unmarked police units, K-9 vehicles or other multi-purpose vehicles to initiate a pursuit, they will yield to a marked police vehicle, as soon as one comes into the pursuit.

C. Pursuit Tactics:

1. No more than the primary unit and the secondary unit will become involved in a pursuit, unless directed otherwise by the monitoring supervisor.
2. Additional units may be added, at the discretion of the monitoring supervisor, based on:
 - a. If the suspect(s) is armed;
 - b. Multiple suspects in the fleeing vehicle; or,
 - c. Other extenuating circumstances heightening safety concerns of the arresting officers.
3. "Paralleling" along adjacent streets is forbidden.
4. The best tactics used are patience, safe driving and utilizing the police radio and aircraft. Officers monitoring should plan for routes that enter their sectors. In the event of a foot pursuit, upon termination of the pursuit,

officers must create a perimeter, limit radio traffic and rely on K-9 units for tracking.

5. Pursuits should remain on the channel they originated.

D. Responsibilities of the Primary Pursuit Unit:

1. When a pursuit is initiated, the operator of the primary unit will immediately advise Division of Emergency Communications (DEC) of the following information:
 - a. Unit identification number;
 - b. That a pursuit has been initiated;
 - c. The unit's location (and the location of the fleeing vehicle, if different);
 - d. The unit's direction of travel;
 - e. The state registration and license number of the fleeing vehicle (if possible);
 - f. A description of the fleeing vehicle;
 - g. The number of occupants of the fleeing vehicle and their descriptions, if possible;
 - h. The violation justifying the pursuit and other appropriate information; and,
 - i. If the suspect(s) is armed.
2. The primary unit should attempt to maintain safe visual contact with the fleeing vehicle and relinquish radio operations to the secondary unit as soon as that unit joins the pursuit. If the primary unit is a Department vehicle other than a marked unit, it will relinquish the "primary unit" responsibility to the first marked unit joining the pursuit. Then that unit will become the secondary unit, until another marked unit can assume that responsibility.

E. Responsibilities of the Secondary Unit:

1. Any secondary marked unit joining a pursuit shall immediately notify DEC that there are two marked police vehicles in the pursuit. The secondary unit will assume the radio communication responsibilities.
2. The secondary unit will have the responsibility of trailing the primary unit at a safe distance and reporting the progress and direction of the pursuit over the radio.
3. If possible, the secondary unit will make sure that all windows are in the up position to improve clarity of transmissions.

F. Responsibilities of Other Police Units during a Pursuit:

1. No other police units will join the active pursuit, unless directed by supervision or one of the pursuit units becomes disabled. Any assisting officer shall not join the pursuit, unless directed by a supervisor.
2. Police units adjacent to the actual pursuit or those most likely in the pursuit path should consider positioning themselves within their assigned areas, so as to locate the violator, should the pursuing unit(s) lose sight of the vehicle. They should move into a position to assist with the apprehension, if it takes place within their assigned area.
3. Assisting officers in the pursuit area should assist by placing themselves in a strategic position to warn the public of the approaching pursuit.

G. Responsibilities of DEC:

1. DEC will contact the Precinct supervisor where the pursuit began. The Precinct supervisor shall acknowledge and begin to monitor the pursuit. If the designated Precinct supervisor does not acknowledge DEC, one shall be summoned from another precinct. If this fails, DEC shall terminate the pursuit.
2. Following initial contact with the primary unit, DEC shall perform the following:
 - a. Record all pursuit transmissions;
 - b. Keep the air clear. Restate the status of the pursuit to clarify location only when necessary;
 - c. DEC will use one ALERT tone to notify all uninvolved Precincts that a pursuit is underway and to minimize air traffic;
 - d. As soon as possible, each police channel operator will give some details with respect to the type and color of the pursued vehicle, especially if an armed party is involved. Priority calls received on the channel involved in the pursuit may be dispatched on other channels until the pursuit is over;
 - e. Once the vehicle's license number and direction of travel are obtained, DEC will run relevant record checks and provide the results to the primary unit and the pursuit supervisor;
 - f. DEC will attempt to notify either the Metro Aviation Unit or the State Aviation Unit that a pursuit is in progress and provide all available information relative to the pursuit situation;
 - g. If appropriate, DEC will notify an available K-9 Unit (refer to General Order 7-10, Police Canine Utilization) to respond in the event that the suspect(s) flees on foot;

- h. When appropriate, DEC will notify neighboring jurisdictions and/or agencies that a pursuit is in progress and provide them with available information relative to the pursuit; and,
- i. DEC will continue to monitor the pursuit until it is discontinued or until the fleeing vehicle has been stopped and the situation is stable.

H. Responsibilities of the Pursuit Supervisor:

During a pursuit, the pursuit supervisor shall perform the following:

- 1. Be responsible for all units involved in the pursuit, regardless of their regular assignment. In that regard, the authority of the units involved in a pursuit shall be subordinate to the authority of the pursuit supervisor;
- 2. Immediately proceed in the direction of the pursuit;
- 3. Continuously monitor the pursuit to ensure compliance with the provisions of this policy; and,
- 4. Monitor the progress of the pursuit and issue orders as appropriate, including the termination of the pursuit if the circumstances warrant it.

I. Responsibilities of the Aviation Unit:

Upon notification by DEC that a pursuit is in progress, the pilot shall perform the following:

- 1. Immediately respond to the scene of the pursuit and announce its arrival by voice transmissions on the appropriate police radio channel;
- 2. Upon arrival at the scene of the pursuit, assume the responsibilities of the primary unit under the continued direction and control of the pursuit supervisor;
- 3. Relay pertinent information to the ground units such as the location of possible points of interception;
- 4. Once a fleeing vehicle comes to a complete stop, assist in establishing a perimeter, if needed, and maintain observation of the vehicle's occupant(s) until such occupant(s) has been apprehended; and,
- 5. Advise termination of the pursuit, if the pilot determines, in his/her best judgment that continued involvement in the pursuit is either unnecessary or dangerous.

- J. Regional Pursuits – The Richmond Police Department will not become actively involved in a regional pursuit that enters this jurisdiction unless the factors that lead the outside agency to initiate the pursuit meets the criteria set forth by this General Order. For pursuits that enter this jurisdiction that do not meet this criteria, Richmond Officers will participate in a support capacity. All incoming regional

pursuits will be presumed not to meet our criteria until verification is confirmed and broadcast by DEC and authorized by a supervisor.

1. In-Bound Pursuits:

- a. If DEC is notified of a pursuit coming into the City of Richmond, DEC will alert the appropriate Precinct(s) to acknowledge the pursuit. DEC will then ascertain the reason for the pursuit and advise the Precinct supervisor. If no response from the aforementioned supervisor, DEC shall then contact another Precinct supervisor. The responding Precinct supervisor shall proceed to deploy police units as appropriate. Without the authorization of a supervisor, there will be no pursuit. Units will proceed to respond in a support capacity unless advised otherwise by a supervisor.
- b. Supervisors will ensure officers assist pursuing units by placing themselves in strategic positions to warn the public of the approaching pursuit and assist in apprehensions of suspects at the termination of the pursuit.
- c. If HPD or CPD ARE involved in the pursuit, DEC will advise when the units are to move to the RPC. Both mobile and hand held radios can be instantly set to the RPC by depressing and holding down the "Home" key until "PURST" appears in the radio's LCD display.
- d. The Regional Pursuit Channel (RPC) is to be used ONLY for region-wide pursuits in which officers from at least one of the member jurisdictions are involved and the pursuit is expected to cross-jurisdictional boundaries. This channel is to be used for no other purpose. DEC and their counterparts in Henrico and Chesterfield Counties solely control the Regional Pursuit Channel. WHEN REGIONAL PURSUITS OCCUR, ALL Emergency Communication Centers (ECCs) will be notified prior to moving the pursuit to the RPC. Officers should ONLY move to the RPC when instructed to do so by DEC.

NOTE: If officers move to the RPC without DEC authorization, it could create a condition where they will be isolated from communicating with DEC and fellow officers, thereby, creating an extremely unsafe condition.

- e. As soon as practical, a city unit will assume the responsibility of primary unit in the pursuit. The outside agency units will assume secondary unit responsibilities.
- f. City units on the involved channel, NOT directly involved in the pursuit, may be instructed by DEC to move to another channel to receive calls and other services.
- g. If HPD or CPD units ARE NOT involved in the in-bound pursuit, the pursuit will remain on the Precinct channel where the pursuit entered

the city, as long as it remains within the city boundaries. (ONE PURSUIT – ONE CHANNEL) If the pursuit leaves the city, procedures outlined in “Out-Bound Pursuits” of this policy will apply.

- h. All information received by DEC regarding the description of the fleeing vehicle and its occupant(s), as well as the progress of the pursuit, must be passed along to the assigned city police units.
- i. The assigned police units shall take up a strategic position and be ready to move safely into the pursuit.

2. Out-Bound Pursuits:

Pursuits going out of the city will be “patched” to the Pursuit Channel by DEC. When the Precinct’s channel is patched to the pursuit channel, all radios (mobile and hand held) on the Precinct’s channel will automatically move to the pursuit channel.

- a. Whenever it seems apparent that a pursuit is going to leave the City’s boundaries, the ranking supervisor monitoring the pursuit will determine whether or not to continue the pursuit.
- b. If it appears that the pursuit will enter into another jurisdiction, the pursuing officer must immediately notify DEC and accurately advise of the vehicle’s description, direction of travel and the suspect offense, in order for the information to be directed to the adjoining jurisdiction(s).
- c. DEC will coordinate with the receiving police department and take appropriate actions for the proper exchange of information and, at the proper time, will patch the officer’s Precinct Channel to the Pursuit Channel. If an officer cannot understand radio transmissions, the officer will terminate the pursuit.
- d. If the surrounding jurisdiction (HPD or CPD) declines to become involved in a pursuit and if the city units continue the pursuit, it will remain on the city’s Precinct channel where it began. City units on the involved channel, NOT directly involved in the pursuit, may be instructed by DEC to move to another channel to receive calls and other services.
- e. As soon as the receiving police department joins in the pursuit, that police department will assume the responsibility of the primary unit and the Richmond Police Department’s primary unit will move back to assume responsibility of the secondary unit. The Department’s secondary unit will discontinue active pursuit. The pursuing unit and the pursuit supervisor must then consider factors such as radio range, driving in unfamiliar territory and the possibility of the pursuit extending even further away. The pursuit supervisor may discontinue the pursuit, if the circumstances warrant it.

- f. Any pursuit will be terminated if the suspect vehicle is not stopped prior to exiting the adjoining county and proceeding into another jurisdiction.

K. Pursuits on an Interstate Highway:

If a pursuit enters an Interstate Highway and the pursuit has the possibility of entering another jurisdiction, DEC will notify the State Police and the State Police Unit will become the primary pursuit vehicle.

L. Termination of a Pursuit:

The pursuing officer(s) shall notify DEC when terminating a pursuit for any reason. A pursuit may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

1. Whenever the risks to the officer's personal safety and/or the safety of others outweigh the consequences of the suspect's possible escape, the officer should terminate his/her involvement in the pursuit.
2. When the level of danger created by the pursuit outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension;
3. When the suspect's identity has been established to the point that later apprehension can be accomplished and there is no longer a compelling need for immediate apprehension;
4. When the pursuing officer believes that he/she no longer has control of the police vehicle;
5. When the pursued vehicle has outdistanced the officer. If the officer continues the pursuit, it would require speeds that could endanger the officer and/or the public. The pursuing officer(s) may continue to look for the suspect, but at the legal posted speed limit;
6. When the officer cannot understand the radio transmissions from both DEC and the pursuit supervisor. The pursuing officer(s) in such a case, shall immediately disengage from the pursuit;
7. When visibility, weather conditions and/or road conditions limit the probability of a safe and successful end to the pursuit;
8. When the pursuit supervisor orders termination of the pursuit; and,
9. When the offender is apprehended.

M. Crashes Related to Pursuits:

1. If a vehicle, while being pursued, becomes involved in a crash which involves personal injury or a fatality, a traffic accident investigator from Support Services shall be instructed to conduct an investigation of the crash.

2. If the pursuing officer or related units become involved in a crash while in a pursuit, that officer's supervisor shall be responsible for investigating the crash. However, in instances of significant injury or fatality, a traffic accident investigator from Support Services shall be instructed to conduct an investigation of the crash.
3. The Department's Internal Affairs Division must be notified in all cases of pursuit fatalities or injury that has a high likelihood of death.

N. Post-Pursuit Reports and Follow-up Requirements:

1. All pursuits must be reviewed. This includes any pursuit that is initiated or terminated in the City, as well as those that are initiated by other agencies in which RPD is involved. The pursuit-monitoring supervisor will submit a Supervisory Pursuit Report (PD-44) before the end of his/her tour of duty, through channels, to the Major of the affected Service. The report shall outline the specifics of the pursuit, regardless of whether or not an arrest was made.
2. If further action is necessary (such as disciplinary action needed because an officer violated policy during the pursuit), the pursuit-monitoring supervisor will initiate such action. The supervisor who initiates the PD-44 will also ensure that other required reports or investigations are completed.
3. After the affected Captain has reviewed the PD-44, the report shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Administration or Major of the affected Operation, along with appropriate comments and any recommendations for disciplinary action, counseling, additional training, policy review, etc.
4. After the affected Major or Executive Director has reviewed and signed off on the documentation noting a finding of in/out of policy, a copy of the PD-44 will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Review Officer (DRO) and the Risk Management Review Board for further review and/or recommendations. When applicable, the PD-44 will also be forwarded to the Use of Force Review Board.
5. A hard copy of the PD-44 and all related reports (i.e. FR 300P, IBR, Police Vehicle Accident Package, GPS data set, etc.) will be forwarded to the Office of General Counsel and the Department's Safety Officer.
6. A copy of the PD-44 will be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Division.
7. For necessary notifications following a pursuit, refer to General Order 7-24, Public Information Requests and 2-6, Night Supervisors and Notification.

O. Responsibilities of Training Academy:

The Training Academy personnel will provide recruit, in-service and remedial training, which includes emergency response, pursuit techniques, precision driving and crash avoidance methods.

P. Responsibilities of the Office of General Counsel:

The Office of General Counsel will annually compile and analyze data from Pursuit Reports documenting motor vehicle pursuits and incidents involving fleeing and/or eluding.

VI. ROLES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Officers in a Pursuit Situation shall:

1. Be able to justify their reasons for the pursuit, at all times;
2. Bear operational responsibility for the pursuit, unless relieved by a supervisor or another primary unit, when the decision is made to initiate a pursuit;
3. Be responsible for their actions including disregarding traffic regulations other than those specifically cited under the authority of State Code or Police Department policy;
4. Terminate a pursuit if the designated Precinct supervisor does not acknowledge DEC at the beginning of the pursuit;
5. Not pass school buses while loading or unloading with lights on;
6. Keep all emergency equipment activated during the pursuit. The primary and secondary units may consider using different siren signals to help the public identify multiple units approaching;
7. Not ram, bump or collide with fleeing vehicles or pull along side such vehicles in an attempt to force them off the road or into an obstacle;
8. Not maneuver their vehicles in front of a fleeing vehicle in an attempt to slow it down;
9. Carefully consider whether or not the seriousness of the offense outweighs the risks of injury or potential damage to the police unit(s) or other property;
10. Be advised by DEC when to move to a RPC if HPD or CPD become involved in the pursuit;
11. Notify DEC when terminating a pursuit for any reason; and,
12. Only fire their weapons in accordance with the provisions of General Order 1-5, Use of Force Policy.

B. Primary Unit shall:

1. Immediately advise DEC of the following:
 - a. Unit identification number;
 - b. That a pursuit has been initiated;

- c. The unit's location (and the location of the fleeing vehicle, if different);
 - d. The unit's direction of travel;
 - e. The state registration and license number of the fleeing vehicle (if possible);
 - f. A description of the fleeing vehicle;
 - g. The number of occupants of the fleeing vehicle and their descriptions (if possible);
 - h. The violation justifying the pursuit and other appropriate information; and,
 - i. If the suspect(s) is armed.
2. Attempt to maintain safe visual contact with the fleeing vehicle and relinquish radio operations to the secondary unit as soon as that unit joins the pursuit. If the primary unit is a Department vehicle other than a marked unit, it will relinquish the "primary unit" responsibility to the first marked unit joining the pursuit; that unit will become the secondary unit, until another marked unit can assume that responsibility; and,
 3. Terminate the pursuit, if he/she cannot understand radio transmissions.
- C. Secondary Unit shall:
1. Immediately notify DEC that there are two marked police vehicles in the pursuit and shall assume the radio communication responsibilities;
 2. Trail the primary unit at a safe distance and report the progress and direction of the pursuit over the radio; and,
 3. Ensure that all windows are in the up position to improve clarity of transmissions, if possible.
- D. Other Police Units during a Pursuit shall:
1. Not join the active pursuit, unless directed by supervision or one of the pursuit units becomes disabled;
 2. Consider positioning themselves within their assigned areas, so as to locate the violator, should the pursuing unit(s) lose sight of the vehicle and move into a position to assist with the apprehension, if it takes place within their assigned area; and,
 3. Assist by placing themselves in a strategic position to warn the public of the approaching pursuit.
- E. DEC shall:

1. Contact the Precinct supervisor where the pursuit began. If the designated Precinct supervisor does not acknowledge on the initial channel, DEC shall immediately notify a supervisor on another channel and that supervisor will become the pursuit supervisor. If no one acknowledges, DEC shall terminate the pursuit;
2. Perform the following initial contact with the primary unit:
 - a. Record all pursuit transmissions;
 - b. Keep the air clear; restate the status of the pursuit to clarify location only when necessary;
 - c. Use one ALERT tone to notify all uninvolved Precincts that a pursuit is underway and to minimize air traffic;
 - d. May dispatch priority calls on other channels until the pursuit is over;
 - e. Once the vehicle's license number and direction of travel are obtained, will run relevant record checks and provide the results to the primary unit and the pursuit supervisor;
 - f. Attempt to notify either the Metro Aviation Unit or the State Aviation Unit that a pursuit is in progress and provide all available information relative to the pursuit situation;
 - g. Notify an available K-9 to respond in the event that the suspect(s) flees on foot, if appropriate;
 - h. Notify neighboring jurisdictions and/or agencies that a pursuit is in progress and provide them with available information relative to the pursuit, when appropriate;
 - i. Continue to monitor the pursuit until it is discontinued or until the fleeing vehicle has been stopped and the situation is stable; and,
 - j. Advise officers when to move to RPC.
3. Alert the appropriate Precinct(s) to acknowledge the pursuit and will ascertain the reason for the pursuit and advise the Precinct supervisor, if notified of a pursuit coming into the City of Richmond;
4. Coordinate with the receiving police department and take appropriate actions for the proper exchange of information and, at the proper time, will patch the officer's Precinct Channel to the Pursuit Channel during out-bound pursuits; and,
5. Notify the State Police and the State Police Unit will become the primary pursuit vehicle if a pursuit enters an Interstate Highway and the pursuit has the possibility of entering another jurisdiction.

F. Pursuit Supervisor shall:

1. Be responsible for all units involved in the pursuit, regardless of their regular assignment;
2. Immediately proceed in the direction of the pursuit;
3. Continuously monitor the pursuit to ensure compliance with the provisions of this policy;
4. Monitor the progress of the pursuit and issue orders as appropriate, including the termination of the pursuit if the circumstances warrant it;
5. Not authorize participation in a regional pursuit until verification is confirmed and broadcast by DEC;
6. The ranking supervisor monitoring the pursuit shall determine whether or not to continue the pursuit whenever it seems apparent that a pursuit is going to leave the City's boundaries;
7. Have the option to terminate a pursuit at any time; and,
8. Initiate any necessary action, including disciplinary action, and ensure that other required reports or investigations are completed.

G. Aviation Unit shall:

Upon notification by DEC that a pursuit is in progress, the pilot shall perform the following:

1. Immediately respond to the scene of the pursuit and announce its arrival by voice transmissions on the appropriate police radio channel;
2. Upon arrival at the scene of the pursuit, assume the responsibilities of the primary unit under the continued direction and control of the pursuit supervisor;
3. Relay pertinent information to the ground units such as the location of possible points of interception;
4. Once a fleeing vehicle comes to a complete stop, assist in establishing a perimeter, if needed, and maintain observation of the vehicle's occupant(s) until such occupant(s) has been apprehended; and,
5. Advise termination of the pursuit, if the pilot determines, in his/her best judgment that continued involvement in the pursuit is either unnecessary or dangerous.

I. Training Academy Personnel shall:

Provide recruit, in-service and remedial training, which includes emergency response, pursuit techniques, precision driving and crash avoidance methods.

J. Office of General Counsel shall:

Annually compile and analyze data from Pursuit Reports documenting motor vehicle pursuits and incidents involving fleeing and/or eluding.

K. Support Services Traffic Accident Investigator shall:

Conduct an investigation of a crash if a vehicle, while being pursued, becomes involved in a crash which involves personal injury or a fatality.

L. Major of Affected Service or Executive Director of Administration shall:

Forward reports to the Office of General Counsel. A copy of the PD-44 will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Review Officer (DRO) and the Risk Management Review Board for further review and/or recommendations. When applicable, the PD-44 will also be forwarded to the Use of Force Review Board.

VII. FORMS

- A. PD-44, Supervisory Pursuit Report
- B. FR-300P
- C. IBR
- D. Police Vehicle Accident Package