

Use of Force Continuum and Forcible Stops

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STAFF**

Pursuits

- **50% of all pursuit collisions occur within the first 2 minutes**
- **70% of all pursuit collisions occur before the 5th minute**
- **83% of all pursuit collisions occur before the 6th minute**
- **400 people killed - 20,000 injured each year in country**

Pursuit Concept

- **We MUST regulate our behavior during pursuits within the parameters of the Law and State policy to ensure safety to all persons and property affected.....better training, better risk management, more options for officers = safe termination**

Objectives

- **Recognize our legal responsibilities and liabilities associated with the use of pursuit termination techniques**
- **Identify the critical components required to execute techniques**
- **Identify most common forms of pursuit termination techniques**

Vehicle Force Levels

- **4 Levels**

Lights and Sirens

Tire Deflating Devices

Vehicle Contact Maneuvers

Deadly Force

Forcible Stops

- **Rolling Roadblocks/Box-In**
- **Channeling**
- **Tire Deflating Devices**
- **Precision Immobilization Technique (P.I.T.)**
- **Ramming**
- **Road Blocks**
- **Use of Firearms**

Circumstances That Warrant Forcible Stops

- **Officer believes that:**
 - continuing movement of the pursued vehicle would place others in danger of bodily injury or death, or**
 - there is apparent risk of harm to others than the occupants of the pursued vehicle is so great as to outweigh the risk of harm, or**

Circumstances That Warrant Forcible Stops

- **Officer believes that:
ALL other reasonable means of
apprehension have been
considered, rejected as practical
or not practical, and have failed**

Pursuit Termination Techniques

- **Legal consequences can be expected**
- **Does the action fall under the “reasonable care” or “due regard” standard?**
- **Policy, training, understanding and practice of tactics must be completed**

Pursuit Responsibilities

- **The responsibility for the decision to pursue and the method to be employed rests with individual officer and agency policy. There is no exact method by which a suspect should be apprehended. However, prime consideration should be given to safety and legality - DO NOT break any state vehicle codes or willingly put citizens lives at stake**

Pursuit Responsibilities

- **THIS STANDARD ALSO APPLIES TO THE EXECUTION OF AND PURSUIT TERMINATION TECHNIQUE**

Constitutional Rights

- **Which amendment is the one most commonly cited in pursuit termination cases ?**
 - **4th Amendment - which states: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated and unreasonable - Brower vs. County of Inyo**

Forcible Stops - Roadblocks

- **The establishment of a roadblock/pursuit termination technique does not automatically mean the use of deadly force:**

Channelization

Stationary Roadblocks

Rolling Roadblocks

What is a roadblock ?

A deliberate obstruction of a roadway/traffic lane by physical means at one or more selected points, for the purpose of apprehending a person or vehicle or

a restriction/obstruction used or intended for the purpose of preventing free passage of motor vehicles on a roadway in order to effect the apprehension of a violator

Roadblock Elements

- **Consider:**

Seriousness of crime

Amount of information available on the suspect(s)

Nature of pursuit

Type of vehicle being pursued

Suspects driving ability - Would you have to drive past your 85%?

Types of Roadblocks

- **Stationary**

use of vehicle(s) or other devices as a barricade or obstacle to block one or more lanes of travel

- **MUST be:**

- **visible**
- **great distance to allow for a safe stop**
- **emergency lights (patrol vehicles) illuminating**
- **communication is a MUST and critical**
- **should only be initiated by a supervisor**

Roadblocks

- **Situations used:**
 - “Checkpoints”**
 - DUI/OWI checkpoints**
 - Drug checkpoints**
 - Prevention of entering (crime scene, disaster area)**
 - Prevention of leaving (crime scene)**
 - Termination of hazardous pursuit**

Stationary Roadblock

- **Pro's**

easy to set-up

and deploy

quick

visible

POLICY

- **Con's**

time

location

availability

traffic safety and

control

manpower/vehicle

availability

avoidance

POLICY

Rolling Roadblocks - Box-In

- **Designed to stop a suspect's vehicle by surrounding it with law enforcement vehicles and then simultaneously slowing ALL vehicles**
- **EXTREMELY dangerous**
- **Should NOT be attempted if there is ANY concern of weapons**

Rolling Roadblocks

- **Pro's**

- **Officers control stop**
- **More officers and resources available (3 - 4 vehicles)**
- **POLICY**

- **Con's**

- **Requires space**
- **Vulnerable positions**
- **Suspect unpredictable -react**
- **Injuries/damage**
- **Dangerous**
- **POLICY**

Tire Deflating Devices

- **Spike strips most common device for safe termination of police pursuits**

Tire Deflating Devices

- **Pro's**
- **Cost effective**
- **East to deploy - most of the time**
- **Minimal risk of injury or damage**
- **No loss of control**
- **Safe positioning**
- **POLICY**
- **Con's**
- **Availability/access**
- **Other traffic**
- **Avoidance**
- **Maintenance of spikes**
- **“Run Flat” tires**
- **Many departments don't use**
- **Training**

Ramming

- **Deliberate act of forcibly impacting a suspect's vehicle with another vehicle with the intent to immediately disable or, otherwise force the suspect vehicle to stop**
- **THIS MOVEMENT IS CONSIDERED DEADLY FORCE**

Ramming

- **Should not be used unless situation dictates, but generally only after less forcible methods have been tried and exhausted and....**
- **Potential serious injury to the officer on impact as well as deployment of airbag**

Firearms

- **DON'T DO ! Unless.....**
- **Justified. Shots may be directed at the driver, but considerations should be given to the possible uncontrolled path of the vehicle**

Goal

- **An exposure to and understanding of the various pursuit termination techniques may make the difference between a successful conclusion to a pursuit or a tragic ending resulting in loss of life, including the officer(s) involved**
- **Officer must practice techniques and become comfortable with execution prior to using**

Conclusion

- **No two pursuits or pursuit situations are the same. Having a clear pursuit termination techniques policy in place will ensure that officers have a thorough understanding of their skills provided through proper training... that will diminish the risk of personal injury and litigation**