



Policy #	Related Policies:
Foot Pursuit	
<i>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 of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable State Statutes:	
CALEA Standard:	
Date Implemented:	Review Date:

- I. **Purpose:** To provide for the safety of law enforcement personnel while at the same time facilitating the safe apprehension of suspects.
- II. **Policy:** Whenever an officer/deputy decides to engage, or continue a foot pursuit a quick and continuous risk assessment must take place. The officer/deputy must evaluate the risk involved to themselves, the suspect and the community versus the benefit of continuing the foot pursuit.
- III. **Definitions:**
 - A. **Foot Pursuit:** A situation in which an officer/deputy, on foot chases a suspect in an effort to detain or arrest that individual who the officer/deputy 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/deputy.
 - B. **Suspect:** Includes any individual who a officer/deputy 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/deputies or themselves.
 - C. **Contact/Cover:** A tactical practice of having two or more officers/deputies working together during a foot pursuit. The officers/deputies work as a team utilizing direct or indirect communication methods to coordinate their efforts, remain aware of the locations of officers/deputies and suspects, and keep abreast of the status of the pursuit.
- IV. **Procedure:**
 - A. **Alternatives to Foot Pursuit:** To the extent that resources are available, officers/deputies should consider the following alternatives to a foot pursuit:
 - a. Area Containment

- b. Additional officers/deputies
- c. Surveillance until additional resources become available

B. Factors to Consider in Conducting the Risk Assessment:

- a. Whether the suspect is armed;
- b. How serious is the suspect's offense i.e. does he or she pose a serious threat to the community if allowed to escape;
- c. Officer/Deputy acting alone
- d. Backup is not available in a timely manner
- e. Officer/Deputy pursuing more than one suspect
- f. Officer/Deputy not in physical condition to pursue a subject on foot
- g. 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
- h. Ability to apprehend the subject at a later time. i.e. identity is known
- i. Communications Issues:
 - 1) Officer/Deputy familiarity with location-able to identify subject's location with accuracy during pursuit.
 - 2) Radio frequency and coverage- Is officer/deputy in area where radio coverage may fail.

C. Pursuing Officer/Deputy Responsibilities:

- a. 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/deputy and others are exposed to as a result of the pursuit.
- b. Once an officer/deputy decides to engage in a foot pursuit, the officer/deputy must immediately relay the following information to communications:
 - 1) Officer/Deputy identifier (car number)
 - 2) Location (continuing responsibility)
 - 3) Direction of travel
 - 4) Description of suspect
 - 5) Whether suspect is armed
 - 6) Reason for foot pursuit
 - 7) Coordinating with other officers/deputies to establish perimeter for containment.

- c. The primary officer/deputy should maintain sufficient tactical gap between him or herself and the suspect to allow time for maintaining cover and allow for the arrival of backup officers/deputies before engagement.
 - d. An officer/deputy should not enter a building, structure or area of limited or no cover without a backup officer/deputy present.
 - e. An officer/deputy should not continue a foot pursuit if the officer/deputy has lost their firearm.
 - f. Officers/deputies should note that residents may mistake pursuing officers/deputies as prowlers; to the extent possible efforts should be made to notify area residents of the police presence. Officers/Deputies or supervisors might consider notification to area residents:
 - 1) Reverse 911
 - 2) Backup officers'/deputy's use of vehicle's P.A.
 - 3) Use of vehicle siren
 - 4) Law enforcement helicopter P.A.
- D. Supervisor's responsibility:** If a supervisor is on duty, the supervisor shall:
- a. Monitor the pursuit and direct available resources to provide for the swift and safe apprehension of the suspect.
 - b. Terminate any foot pursuit where the risk to the officer/deputy, the public, or suspects outweighs the need for the foot pursuit.
 - c. 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/deputies.
- E. Communications Responsibility:**
- a. Maintain open communications with involved officer/deputy.
 - b. Notify a supervisor and provide relevant information (without compromising ability of involved officer/deputy in communicating ongoing information)
- F. Termination of Foot Pursuits:** Officers/Deputies shall terminate a foot pursuit:
- a. If ordered by a supervisor
 - b. If the officer/deputy believes the danger to the pursuing officers/deputies or the public outweighs the necessity for the immediate apprehension of the suspect.
 - c. 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/deputies, consider terminating the pursuit and apprehend at a later date.
 - d. After termination of a foot pursuit, the involved officer/deputy will notify communications of the last known location of the suspect or in cases of apprehension, the location of apprehension.
- G. Review of Foot Pursuits:** At the conclusion of a foot pursuit as defined by this policy, officers/deputies shall compile a foot pursuit review form. The pursuit shall be reviewed by:

- a. First line supervisor
- b. Training officer/deputy
- c. The form shall then be forwarded up the chain of command to an executive officer/deputy designated by the chief/sheriff for final review.

Policy developed and written by:

Public Agency Training Council
Legal and Liability Risk Management Institute
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