

 <p style="text-align: center;">YALE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS <i>Serving with Integrity, Trust, Commitment and Courage Since 1894</i></p>	ORDER TYPE: NEED TO KNOW	
	402 PURSUIT AND EMERGENCY DRIVING	
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 05 MAR 2019	REVIEW DATE: ANNUAL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedures for the operation of police vehicles under emergency conditions.

POLICY

The policy of the Yale University Police Department is that all emergency vehicle operations will be conducted in accordance with existing law and this policy. Department personnel will be held accountable for their failure to drive with due regard for the safety of others and for violations of law and this policy.

The authority of a law enforcement officer to engage in pursuit stems from the duty to apprehend law violators. The freedom to pursue violators must be available to police departments since it plays a vital role in deterrent and crime control responsibilities. It would not be in the best interest of public safety to encourage the dangerous fleeing criminal to proceed without the imminent possibility of police intervention.

Police officers should make every reasonable effort to apprehend a fleeing violator, but pursuit should not be carried to such an extent as to appreciably endanger the lives of innocent users of our streets and highways, or officers themselves.

As a general rule, pursuit is not recommended or favored when the potential danger to the officer or the general public outweighs the potential advantage of apprehending a fleeing vehicle by these means. Stated simply, pursuit is clearly inappropriate when the pursuit itself endangers life more than the escape of the person pursued. Delay may also be the wiser choice when the person is known and poses no immediate threat to the community.

No motor vehicle pursuit will be undertaken except to apprehend persons who the officer reasonably believes have committed or are engaged in the commission of a violent felony, and then only when the officer reasonably believes (s)he cannot apprehend the person by other readily available means.

For the purpose of this order, *violent felonies* are defined as felonies in which the offender engages in aggressive and violent acts of physical force or felonies involving the threat of physical harm.

DEFINITIONS

Pursuit	Means an attempt by a police officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend any occupant of another moving motor vehicle, when the driver of the fleeing vehicle is attempting to avoid apprehension by maintaining or increasing the speed of such vehicle or by ignoring the police officer's attempt to stop the vehicle.
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Authorized Emergency Vehicle	Means a police vehicle equipped with operable emergency equipment including an audible siren and red/blue flashing lights, while such vehicle is being operated by a police officer.
Primary Unit	Means the police unit that initiates pursuit or any unit that assumes control of the pursuit.
Secondary Unit	Means any police vehicle that becomes involved as a backup to the primary unit and follows the primary unit at a safe distance.
Supervisor	Means any sworn employee of the Yale University Police Department holding the rank of Sergeant or above.
Communications	Means the communications unit of the Yale University Police Department.

INITIATION OF PURSUIT CTLEA 1.3.1b

No motor vehicle pursuit will be undertaken except to apprehend persons engaged in the commission of a violent felony and then only when the officer reasonably believes the person cannot be apprehended by other readily available means.

Pursuit will not be undertaken when the potential danger to the officer and others outweighs the potential advantage of apprehending a fleeing suspect.

A police officer may initiate a pursuit of a person who committed or is engaged in the commission of a violent felony when that person exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so. A pursuit may also be justified when the officer: reasonably believes that the occupants of the pursued vehicle, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

In deciding whether to initiate or continue a pursuit, the police officer will take the following factors into consideration:

- Road, weather and environmental conditions
- Population density and vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Whether the identity of the occupants is known and immediate apprehension is not necessary to protect the public or police officers and apprehension at a later time is feasible
- The relative performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle and the fleeing vehicle.
- The seriousness of the offense, and
- The presence of other people in the police vehicle. **CTLEA 1.3.1a**

If pursuit is deemed necessary and is initiated, then a continuing reconsideration of the above factors should be made by the pursuing officer. Once made, the decision to pursue is not irrevocable. An officer will never be disciplined for deciding not to pursue or discontinuing pursuit. The experience and common sense of each officer should guide them in their decisions.

FOLLOW AND STOP

Prior to engaging in pursuit, an officer should, when feasible first follow and direct other officers or resources into the area before attempting to stop the vehicle carrying the law violator. When additional officers other resources are in place the officer should attempt to signal the intention to stop the suspect vehicle first by using overhead lights, horn and headlights. If these signals fail, the siren should be used.

Once the officer has reason to believe that the suspect is ignoring the signal to stop and is maintaining or increasing speed, a pursuit has started.

PURSUIT PROCEDURES

Any officer involved in pursuit will immediately activate both the vehicle siren and emergency lighting equipment. Both the siren and emergency lighting equipment will remain in use until the pursuit is terminated. The primary purpose of the lights and siren is to warn other motorists of unusual vehicle movements.

COMMUNICATIONS

Upon commencing pursuit, officers will immediately notify the dispatcher of:

- The officer's unit number
- Description of the fleeing vehicle and/or occupants
- Location and direction of travel
- Reason for the pursuit
- Any other relevant information such as the fleeing vehicle's speed and manner of operation.

Officers must maintain communication at all times with the dispatcher giving the location and direction of travel of the vehicle.

When engaged in pursuit, police officers will drive with due regard for the safety of persons and property.

Generally, no more than two police vehicles should maintain pursuit. The shift commander, shift supervisor or dispatcher may order additional units deployed to the area, not directly in pursuit, to obtain a tactical advantage.

The primary pursuing unit will become a secondary pursuing unit when the fleeing vehicle comes under police air surveillance or when another unit has been assigned primary responsibility.

UNITS OCCUPIED BY CIVILIANS NOT TO ENGAGE IN PURSUIT

Police vehicles occupied by prisoners, witnesses, suspects or any other non-sworn or non-police personnel will not become involved in pursuits.

JOINING PURSUIT IN PROGRESS INITIATED BY OTHER AGENCIES CTLEA 1.3.1j

- Officers are not obligated to join pursuits from another jurisdiction.
- Officers will not engage in or continue pursuits initiated by other agencies that are not authorized or in conformance with this policy.
- Officers will not continue pursuits initiated by another agency unless authorized by a supervisor.
- When an officer discovers that a pursuit in progress has entered their patrol area, they will immediately notify communications.
- Officers will monitor the progress of the pursuit and will position themselves to be available to assist pursuing officers should the pursuit be terminated.
- Officers may continue to assist in pursuits outside normal YPD patrol beat boundaries with the permission of a supervisor.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES CTLEA 1.3.1f

Any on-duty supervisor has the responsibility to direct police operations in the event of a pursuit. Generally, primary responsibility for direction of pursuits will be with the Shift Commander or Patrol Supervisor.

When becoming aware of a pursuit, the supervisor will:

- Evaluate the conditions that caused the pursuit to be initiated.
- Evaluate the need to continue pursuit and order the pursuit to be discontinued, when appropriate.
- Monitor incoming information.
- Coordinate and direct activities, as needed, to ensure that proper procedures are used.
- Respond to the location where a vehicle has been stopped after pursuit.

When a supervisor orders discontinuation of a pursuit, all police vehicles will turn off warning devices and cease the pursuit.

The supervisor directing pursuit operations will be responsible to assign an officer to complete the primary incident report on the pursuit, review the report and forward copies of all reports to the Captain of Operations. The supervisor will complete the standardized POST Pursuit form and forward a copy to the Office of Professional Standards and the Captain of Operations.

The Professional Standards Supervisor will compile the data from each standardized POST Pursuit form into an Annual POST Pursuit Report. The Professional Standards Supervisor will forward that report to the Captain of Support Services and POST.

PURSUIT TACTICS

Police officers not engaged in pursuit, as a primary or secondary unit, will not normally follow the pursuit on adjacent streets unless authorized by a supervisor or when it is possible to conduct such an operation without creating unreasonable hazards to other vehicular or pedestrian traffic. **CTLEA 1.3.1c**

Whenever possible, patrol units having the most prominent markings and emergency lights will be used to pursue, particularly as the primary unit. When an unmarked unit initiates a pursuit, the unmarked unit will disengage from pursuit when a marked unit becomes available. **CTLEA 1.3.1d**

Motorcycles may be used for pursuit in exigent circumstances when violent felonies have been committed, deadly force has been used by vehicle occupants or when necessary to preserve a life provided that weather and related conditions allow the pursuit to continue. Motorcycles will disengage from pursuit when support from marked patrol cars becomes available. **CTLEA 1.3.1d**

Firearms will not be discharged from pursuit vehicles while the vehicles are in motion, except to the extent necessary to protect a police officer or innocent person from the imminent use of deadly physical force. Roadblocks are prohibited unless specifically authorized by a supervisor after consideration of the necessity of applying deadly force to terminate the pursuit. **CTLEA 1.3.1g,h**

Once the pursued vehicle is stopped, police officers will utilize appropriate safety tactics and will use that amount of force the police officer believes reasonably necessary to take occupants into custody.

DISCONTINUATION OF PURSUIT CTLEA 1.3.1i

The police officer serving as the primary unit engaged in pursuit will continually re-evaluate and assess the pursuit situation, including all of the initiating factors, and discontinue pursuit whenever he/she reasonably believes that the risks associated with continued pursuit are greater than the public safety benefit of making an

immediate apprehension. **The pursuit may be discontinued by the primary unit at any time.**

A supervisor may order discontinuation of pursuit at any time and will order the discontinuation of pursuit when the potential danger to the public outweighs the need for immediate apprehension. This decision will be based on information known to the supervisor at the time of the pursuit.

A pursuit may be discontinued if the identity of the occupants has been determined; immediate apprehension is not necessary to protect the public or police officers and apprehension at a later time is feasible or when police officers are prevented from communicating with their supervisors, dispatchers or other police officers.

DUTIES OF COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL CTLEA 1.3.1e

- Communications personnel will notify the Shift Commander/Patrol Supervisor when a pursuit is initiated.
- All radio transmissions will be suspended for units not involved in the pursuit except for emergency radio transmissions.
- Communications personnel will immediately notify the New Haven Police Department that a pursuit has been initiated.
- Communications personnel will also notify any other jurisdiction that a pursuit is in progress if it appears likely that the pursuit will enter that jurisdiction. (Notification to the Connecticut State Police will be made whenever a pursuit enters or is likely to enter a limited access highway under their jurisdiction.)

INTERAGENCY PURSUITS CTLEA 1.3.1j

- The primary unit will notify communications whenever it is likely that a pursuit will continue into a neighboring police agency's area of responsibility.
- Supervisors of the respective police agencies will communicate with each other to determine the respective responsibilities of each agency and to determine which agency will assume operational control of the pursuit.
- The supervisors will also communicate with each other regarding any external conditions pertinent to the conduct of the pursuit.
- Communications between supervisors may be accomplished by radio, if possible, or by telephone.

AFTER INCIDENT REPORTING CTLEA 1.3.1k

Whenever a police officer engages in pursuit, the police officer will file a written report describing the circumstances. The officer's immediate supervisor as well as the Assistant Chief of Patrol will determine if policy has been complied with and will analyze reports of pursuits to detect and correct any training deficiencies.

The Captain of Operations will assign an uninvolved supervisor to conduct an administrative review of each motor vehicle pursuit to determine compliance with this policy. **CTLEA 1.3.1l**

The Chief of Police or his designee will conduct an annual review of pursuit activity and identify any additions, deletions or modifications warranted in pursuit procedures. **CTLEA 1.3.1m**

TRAINING

Police officers who drive police vehicles will be given initial and periodic update training in the Department's pursuit policy and in safe driving tactics. The provisions of Sections 14-283a-1 to 14-283a- 4, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies will be a part of the curriculum for all police basic recruit training and re-certification programs in Connecticut.

EMERGENCY OPERATION CTLEA 1.3.66

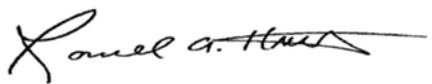
Emergency operation of police vehicles is authorized under the following circumstances:

- Assistance to an officer in danger.
- Active criminal offense involving danger to persons or serious damage to property.
- Emergency medical assistance or rescue
- Personal injury motor vehicle accident.
- Disaster or fire requiring immediate response.
- Felonies requiring immediate response to assist victim or obtain information necessary for prompt apprehension of suspects.
- When directed by a dispatcher or supervisor
- To signal the operator or a motor vehicle to pull over
- When an officer believes the use of emergency lights and/or siren is necessary to expedite response

SILENT RESPONSE

Some calls, such as robberies and burglaries in progress, may require officers to respond, when near the scene of the crime, without lights and siren. When responding in such a manner, officers must proceed with extreme caution since they are not considered to be operating as emergency vehicles as defined in 14-283 (C.G.S.).

PER ORDER OF



RONNELL A. HIGGINS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CHIEF OF POLICE

THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES GENERAL ORDER 402 PURSUIT AND EMERGENCY DRIVING, ISSUED ON 1/25/2012.

Reference: Uniform Statewide Pursuit Policy

Sec. 14-283. Rights of emergency vehicles. Obstruction of.

- (a) "Emergency vehicle", as used in this section, means any ambulance or vehicle operated by a member of an emergency medical service organization responding to an emergency call, any vehicle used by a fire department or by any officer of a fire department while on the way to a fire or while responding to an emergency call but not while returning from a fire or emergency call, any state or local police vehicle operated by a police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles answering an emergency call or in the pursuit of fleeing law violators or any Department of Correction vehicle operated by a Department of Correction officer while in the course of such officer's employment and while responding to an emergency call.
- (b) The operator of any emergency vehicle may (1) park or stand such vehicle, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter, (2) proceed past any red light or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of such vehicle, (3) exceed the posted speed limits or other speed limits imposed by or pursuant to section 14- 218a or 14-219 as long as such operator does not endanger life or property by so doing, and (4) disregard statutes, ordinances or regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specific directions.
- (c) The exemptions herein granted shall apply only when an emergency vehicle is making use of an audible warning signal device, including but not limited to a siren, whistle or bell which meets the requirements of subsection (f) of section 14-80, and visible flashing or revolving lights which meet the requirements of sections 14-96p and 14-96q, and to any state or local police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible warning signal device on.
- (d) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the operator of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property.