



# Edina Police Operations Manual

Policy Number  
615.00

Subject:

## VEHICLE PURSUITS

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### PURPOSE:

To establish Department policies and procedures for vehicle pursuits by police personnel.

#### **615.01      GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- Subd. 1** The policy of the Edina Police Department is to avoid the hazards of pursuits whenever possible. However, law violators may attempt to avoid arrest by attempting evasion in a vehicle. Officers involved in these potential circumstances should take action to avoid pursuits by preplanning traffic stops, initiating stops in close proximity to the violator and removing the temptation of the violator to avoid arrest.
- Subd. 2** Officers should operate police vehicles within the limits prescribed by State Statutes governing emergency vehicles (MN SS [169.17](#)), particularly with regard to the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the street. At the point at which the hazards or the safety of the pursuit exceed the value of the arrest, officers should take action to terminate the pursuit or reduce their efforts to an appropriate level.

#### **615.02      PURSUIT CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **Subd. 1      Pursuit is justified:**

- a) When a vehicle operator fails to stop after being given a visual or audible signal to stop by a peace officer; and
- b) When there is reasonable expectation of a successful apprehension of the suspect.

##### **Subd. 2      Other factors to be considered:**

- a) The initial decision to engage in a pursuit shall lie primarily with the officer who has initiated the vehicular stop, after considering the elements of this policy.
- b) These elements shall include, but are not limited to, the crime for which the suspect is wanted, the need to apprehend immediately, and the risk to the community created by the pursuit (traffic, area of pursuit, environmental factors, and weather conditions).
- c) The officer must continually consider the risks created by the pursuit, as those risks may change during a pursuit.

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- d) Terminating a pursuit shall be considered a decision made in the interest of public safety.
- e) The officer's decision to continue a pursuit may be overridden by the on-duty supervisor at any time.

**Subd. 3** Standards applied to the evaluation of a pursuit, as well as the decision to continue a pursuit shall include the following:

- a) Is the need to immediately apprehend the suspect more important than the risk created by the pursuit?
- b) Do the dangers created by the pursuit exceed the danger posed by allowing the perpetrator to escape?

**615.03**     **PROCEDURES**

**Subd. 1**     **Initiating Officer**

When an officer becomes involved in a vehicular pursuit the officer shall immediately notify the communication specialist. The officer should also:

- a) State the cause for the pursuit and the level of violation.
- b) Give the location, direction of travel, and speeds of vehicles involved.
- c) License number of the vehicle.
- d) Description of the vehicle being pursued, i.e., make, model, year, and color.
- e) Number and description of occupants in vehicle, i.e., age, sex and race.
- f) Any other pertinent information.

**Subd. 2**     **Communications Center Personnel**

In the event of a pursuit situation the 911 Police/Fire dispatcher shall:

- a) Receive and record all incoming information on the pursuit and the pursued vehicle.
- b) Immediately notify the on-duty supervisor, if available, when a pursuit is initiated.

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- c) Clear the radio channel of any unnecessary traffic and advise all other units that a pursuit is in progress and provide them with all relevant information.
- d) Perform relevant record and motor vehicle checks.
- e) Control all radio communications during the pursuit, including frequency selection.
- f) Coordinate assistance under the direction of the on-duty supervisor, if available.
- g) Continue to monitor the pursuit until termination.
- h) Attempt to notify outside, allied agencies if the pursuit is heading outside of the City of Edina. Specify that the call is either a request for assistance or is an informational notification.

**Subd. 3 Other Assisting Units**

Unless specifically assigned by the on-duty supervisor, no more than three Edina squad cars, that is, the initiating unit plus two assisting squad cars will directly pursue the suspect vehicle. All other units should monitor progress of the pursuit and place themselves in a position to assist. Unless specifically directed by the on-duty supervisor, only the three units assigned to the pursuit will operate with red lights and siren activated. Only those units assigned to the pursuit will leave the City during the pursuit. Units not so assigned should remain in the city, available for call.

**Subd. 4 Air Support**

Once contact is made with air support and air support has the suspect vehicle in sight, the primary pursuit unit shall reduce the level of pursuit to that of support or other backup unit.

**Subd. 5 Supervisory Responsibilities**

- a) Upon being notified of the pursuit, the on-duty supervisor should attempt to, verify the following:
  - The reason for the pursuit.
  - The number and identity of units involved with the pursuit.
  - The radio frequency being used.

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- Whether affected allied agencies are being notified.

- b) The on-duty supervisor should attempt to monitor the pursuit, ensure that proper procedures are being followed, provide assistance and coordination, and direct termination should that become appropriate.
- c) At the conclusion of a pursuit ending in a death, injury, or significant property damage, the on-duty supervisor shall notify the Lieutenant in charge of the patrol division.

**615.04      RESTRICTIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN VEHICLE PURSUITS****Subd. 1      Unmarked Vehicles**

- a) Drivers of unmarked vehicles, even if equipped with red lights and siren, must realize the inherent problems of public identification of the vehicle as a police unit and will operate the vehicle in accordance with those limitations.
- b) Officers driving unmarked units that initiate the pursuit should turn over the pursuit to the first available marked unit.
- c) The unmarked unit should then discontinue direct pursuit, but may proceed to the termination point of the pursuit for suspect identification and provide assistance as required.

**Subd. 2      Police Motorcycles**

- a) Keeping in mind the vulnerabilities of the police motorcycle, when a vehicle flees, the motorcycle officer should not pursue, but may safely keep the fleeing vehicle in view until marked patrol units take over.
- b) In the event that the motorcycle officer knows or has reason to believe the fleeing individual is an imminent threat, the officer may pursue until patrol units take over. The motorcycle officer should then discontinue direct pursuit.
- c) A motorcycle officer may assist officers if an individual flees on foot. Police motorcycles are highly maneuverable and are capable of driving through areas or around obstacles a patrol car cannot maneuver through, which makes them an excellent tool during foot pursuits.

**Subd. 3      Reserve Units**

Reserve units will not participate in any pursuit unless specifically directed to do so by the on-duty supervisor.

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Officers who are transporting passengers for whatever reasons will not take part in any aspect of a pursuit. The only exceptions are if the passenger is a:

- a) Edina Police Reserve.
- b) Edina Police Explorer.
- c) Other Edina Police Department Employee.
- d) Licensed police officer from another jurisdiction.

**615.05 PURSUIT INTERVENTION TACTICS**

**Subd. 1** In an effort to terminate pursuits as safely and as soon as practical, police personnel that have been trained in the Pursuit Intervention Tactic (PIT) may deploy PIT during a pursuit if the opportunity arises. Before deployment, officers should rely on their training and take into consideration the pursuit location in relationship to obstructions on or alongside the roadway, other traffic, pedestrians, speeds, and the type of vehicles involved in the pursuit. Generally, it is appropriate to use PIT at any time in a pursuit when it can successfully shorten the pursuit, reduce risk to the public, and when it does not cause unreasonable risk to the public.

- a) Only officers who have been trained in this technique may deploy it.
- b) Officers shall not deploy PIT on a motorcycle, except as authorized under MN SS [609.066](#) Authorized Use of Deadly Force.

**Subd. 2 Stationary Roadblocks**

The use of a stationary roadblock can create hazards and a high probability of injury to the officer, suspect, or other persons. Therefore, the use of a stationary roadblock is limited to those situations for which MN SS [609.066](#) authorizes the use of deadly force.

- a) The use of a roadblock should be approved by the on-duty supervisor prior to use.
- b) Roadblocks should be set in locations that will minimize danger to innocent persons.
- c) Under no circumstances should an occupied vehicle be used to establish a roadblock.

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Tire deflating devices may be used to prevent or assist in concluding pursuits. Officers should use the device to stop a pursuit, which is creating unnecessary risks or to stop a dangerous felon.

**Subd. 1      Deployment**

- a) Officers do not need prior supervisory approval to deploy the tire-deflating device.
- b) The deployment of the device will be in compliance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- c) Prior to deploying the tire deflation device in a pursuit situation, the deploying officer shall announce over the radio channel being used for the pursuit that the device is being placed and the location.
- d) Criteria for deployment of the tire deflation devices in vehicle pursuit situations shall include but are not limited to:
  - Logistics of the area.
  - Road conditions and the terrain.
  - Visual and physical obstructions.
  - Position of other vehicles and people.
  - Types of vehicles involved in the pursuit.
- e) Law enforcement vehicles used at the deployment location should not be occupied.
- f) Officers directly behind the pursued vehicle shall use due caution and control traffic until the tire deflation device is cleared.
- g) Tire deflation devices shall not be used to stop motorcycles, mopeds, or similar two-wheeled vehicles unless use of deadly force is justified.
- h) Appropriate care and caution should be used for the following special purpose vehicles:
  - Any vehicle transporting hazardous materials.

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- Any passenger bus transporting passengers.

- i) The officer deploying the tire deflation device is responsible for securing the device immediately after use. The officer will also submit a supplement report stating all the facts surrounding the deployment of the device.

**Subd. 2 Parked Vehicles**

- a) Deployment of the tire deflation device on parked vehicles is authorized to avoid the potential for a pursuit to start.
- b) It is the responsibility of the officer deploying the device to maintain security of the device and the safety of the public.
- c) The device should be removed immediately after the threat has diminished.

**Subd. 3** Only officers trained in these techniques may deploy them.**615.07 PURSUIT TERMINATION****Subd. 1** Officers and supervisors should continue to evaluate the existing conditions as the pursuit progresses to determine whether a pursuit should be terminated. The pursuit should be terminated when:

- a) In the judgment of the pursuing officer or the on-duty supervisor, the danger created by the pursuit outweighs the public interest in immediate apprehension.
- b) The on-duty supervisor orders it terminated.
- c) If information is communicated that indicates the pursuit is out of compliance with policy.
- d) When normal communication is broken.
- e) When visual contact is lost for a reasonable period of time or the direction of travel cannot be determined.
- f) When the suspect is known and could be apprehended later, and to delay apprehension does not create a substantial known risk of injury or death to another.

**Subd. 2** The termination of the pursuit does not prohibit the following of a vehicle at a safe speed or remaining in the area to re-initiate the pursuit if the if the opportunity and conditions permit.

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**Subd. 3** Officers will not be disciplined when a continuous pursuit creates an unreasonable risk to the safety of self or others and the officer chooses to terminate the pursuit without apprehension.

**615.08**      **INTERJURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS**

**Subd. 1**      **Edina Initiated Pursuits**

- a) In any pursuit that crosses jurisdictional boundaries, Edina officers shall continue to observe Edina Departmental policies governing pursuits.
- b) When a boundary is approached, the officer responsible for reporting the progress of the pursuit should notify the 911 Police/Fire dispatcher and indicate whether assistance from neighboring agencies should be requested.

**Subd. 2**      **Assists To Other Departments**

- a) When requested by another agency, Edina officers will assist with pursuits traveling to or through Edina. The 911 Police/Fire dispatcher should advise the on-duty supervisor of the situation and the radio frequency being used. The on-duty supervisor will assign assisting units. Assistance will be provided as long as it is needed by the requesting agency.
- b) The initiating agency shall be in charge of the pursuit unless that agency requests another to assume control. All assisting officers will follow the direction of that officer in charge unless it violates Edina policies or unless countermanded by the on-duty supervisor. The initiating agency will be in charge of any arrest. If an accident occurs, the agency that has jurisdiction of the accident scene shall determine who will investigate the accident.

**615.09**      **ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS INJURED IN A PURSUIT**

**Subd. 1** In the event that, during a pursuit, an accident occurs that involves persons and/or vehicles that are not involved in the pursuit:

- a) The Communications Center shall be notified immediately and appropriate emergency medical service providers shall be dispatched.
- b) If the pursuing officer or the first assisting officer becomes aware of a potentially significant injury to a third party resulting from the pursuit, the first assisting officer shall terminate the pursuit and provide medical assistance necessary.

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- c) If there is no assisting officer within sight of the pursuing officer, the pursuing officer shall terminate the pursuit and provide medical assistance as necessary.
- d) Any other assisting units may continue the pursuit if sufficient assistance to the accident victim is being provided.

**615.10      DAMAGE TO CITY EQUIPMENT**

- Subd. 1** Any officer whose vehicle or other issued police equipment is damaged as a result of the pursuit shall report the nature of the damage and cause to the on-duty supervisor as soon as possible following the conclusion of the pursuit.
- Subd. 2** Any squad related traffic accidents that result from a pursuit are subject to the guidelines set forth in Policy 700.00 of this manual.

**615.11      STATUTORY REQUIRED REPORTING**

- Subd. 1** To ensure compliance with MN Statute [626.5532](#), the chief law enforcement officer shall ensure the completion of the Minnesota Pursuit Report Form and forward it to the Commissioner of Public Safety within 30 days following the incident.
- Subd. 2** The primary officer is responsible for completing the Minnesota Pursuit Report Form and forwarding it to the on-duty supervisor along with any other relevant reports or supporting documentation.

**615.12      EVALUATION AND CRITIQUE**

After each pursuit, the on-duty supervisor and department members involved with the pursuit should evaluate the pursuit within a reasonable period of time. The on-duty supervisor may submit a summation of the pursuit evaluation with any recommendations to the Patrol Lieutenant.