

## I. PURPOSE

This chapter comprises major policy statements that apply to those members of the Pima County Sheriff's Department designated within each subsection.

## II. USE OF FORCE

Each use-of-force situation is unique and shall be evaluated on the circumstances faced by the member at the time force is applied. Members shall use only that amount of force reasonably necessary to make an arrest or gain control of a situation.

### A. Force Options

The following options provide various types of force or responses available to the member. This is not a comprehensive list. The nature of the situation will dictate the force necessary.

- Officer Presence
- Verbal Communications
- Soft Empty Hand Control
- Pain Compliance
- Chemical or Inflammatory Agents
- Taser
- Hard Empty Hand Control
- Impact Weapons
- Deadly Force

### B. Deadly Force

1. Definition: Deadly force is the execution of any calculated action that is likely to cause death to the person against whom the action is directed.

2. Deputies or on-duty Correction Officers, in the performance of their official duties, are authorized to use deadly force when it reasonably appears necessary to do the following:
  - a. Protect themselves or others from immediate threat of death
  - b. Prevent a crime in which the suspect's actions place persons in jeopardy of death
  - c. Apprehend a fleeing felon who has used deadly force in the commission of a crime and where there is substantial risk the fleeing felon will cause death, or injury likely to cause death, to others if apprehension is delayed
3. Under circumstances that permit the use of deadly force and prior to employing the use of deadly force, the officer employing that force must:
  - a. Establish personal recognition of the person against whom the deadly force will be used, or
  - b. Establish the knowledge that the person against whom the deadly force will be used is the one against whom the force is justified, and
  - c. Warn the suspect about the use of deadly force if circumstances allow.
4. Warning shots are prohibited unless deadly force is justified.

#### C. Carotid Control Hold

1. Use of the carotid control hold, or similar tactic causing the restricting of the carotid artery, is generally prohibited.
2. The use of such holds or tactics shall be considered deadly force and is authorized only under those circumstances designated under "Deadly Force," Section B above.

#### D. Review Process

The Sheriff's Department will review use of force incidents, involving:

- Pain Compliance
- Chemical or Inflammatory Agents
- Taser
- Hard Empty Hand Control
- Impact Weapons
- Deadly Force

With the exception of deadly force, the process is as follows:

1. Prior to the end of their shift, the deputy or corrections officer who used the force shall complete the Use of Force (UOF) Summary and submit it to their immediate supervisor.
2. The supervisor shall review the UOF Summary and comment appropriately.
3. The supervisor shall submit the UOF Summary to his/her commander when completed.
4. The Commander shall review the UOF Summary, make appropriate recommendations and comments, and forward to his/her Division Commander.
5. The Division Commander shall review the UOF Summary, and make a decision regarding action to be taken, i.e., no further action, new and/or additional training, further investigation required, or disciplinary action.
6. The Division Commander will forward the UOF Summary to the Special Operations Section office support staff who shall be responsible for the data entry of the incident into a Use of Force Database.

7. A Department Use of Force Committee will convene on a quarterly basis, or as needed, to review use of force data and make recommendations regarding training and policy issues.
  - a. The Use of Force Committee will be comprised of the Patrol Division Commander, who will chair the committee; the Support Operations Division Commander, who will co-chair; the Administrative Services Division Commander; the Corrections Security Operations Division Commander; one (1) Patrol Division Section/District Commander to be selected by the Patrol Division Commander; one (1) Support Operations Division Section Commander to be selected by the Support Operations Division Commander; the Training Section Commander; one (1) Corrections Bureau Section Commander selected by the Corrections Security Operations Division Commander; the Department's Training Section Supervisors and Lead Firearms Instructor; a certified defensive tactics instructor; and a certified Taser instructor when appropriate. Other Department members may be asked to participate on the committee due to subject matter and the member's expertise or certifications relevant to the subject matter.

### III. HIGH-RISK STOP

- A. The intent of this section is to offer a recommended guideline to assist an officer in making the appropriate decision for a high-risk stop. This section is not intended to limit the discretion or safety of the officer but to assist in making the appropriate decision.
- B. The stopping of a vehicle when the officer has advanced knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle contains a potentially dangerous suspect is considered a high-risk stop. Reasonable cause may be based on personal observation, knowledge of an outstanding felony warrant or want, information received via the police radio, or other means upon which the officer may reasonably rely.

Because judgment calls and decisions are made daily based on information obtained by the officer, this information must clearly justify the actions taken.

#### IV. PURSUITS

A. The purpose of this Section is to establish a policy that will enable commissioned members to safely and effectively pursue suspects.

1. Members shall comply with provisions of Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 28, when involved in pursuits.
2. During pursuits, the safety of bystanders, the violator, and the member shall be given a higher priority than the apprehension of the violator(s)/suspect(s).

#### B. Definitions

1. **AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE:** A departmental vehicle equipped with operable emergency lights and siren as authorized by law.
2. **FULLY MARKED UNIT:** A departmental patrol vehicle that is marked with Department insignias, safety striping, and equipped with a functioning overhead light bar and siren.
3. **PURSUIT:** An active attempt by law enforcement, in authorized emergency vehicles, to capture suspects who by means of speed or other evasive actions, are attempting to avoid apprehension.
4. **ROAD SPIKES SYSTEM:** A Department authorized device designed to be placed physically across a roadway directly in the path of a vehicle in order to deflate its tires and stop the vehicle in a controlled manner.

#### C. Initiation of Pursuit

1. Any commissioned member in an authorized emergency vehicle may initiate a pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by refusing to stop. Pursuit also may be justified if the member reasonably believes that the suspect – if allowed to avoid apprehension – would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

2. In deciding whether or not to initiate a pursuit, the member will take into consideration:
  - a. Road, weather, and environmental conditions;
  - b. Population density and vehicular and pedestrian traffic;
  - c. The relative performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle and the vehicle being pursued;
  - d. The seriousness of the offense; and,
  - e. The presence of other persons in the patrol vehicle.

#### D. Pursuit Strategies

##### 1. Number of Police Vehicles

Only two (2) ground units shall actively pursue a fleeing suspect vehicle unless the supervisor controlling the pursuit directs otherwise.

2. The police vehicles involved in the pursuit shall assume the following roles:
  - a. **Primary Unit:** Generally, this shall be the member who initiates the pursuit; however, in all cases, it shall be the patrol vehicle closest to the fleeing suspect.
  - b. **Back-Up Unit:** This unit shall follow the primary unit at a safe distance and be able to assist when the suspect is stopped. If the primary unit is unable to continue the pursuit, the back-up unit shall assume the role of the primary unit.
  - c. **Support Units:** When appropriate, units in the vicinity of the pursuit shall assume the role of support units and, as such, shall remain alert to the direction and progress of the pursuit. The support units shall position themselves at strategic sites along the probable pursuit route or on parallel roadways. They shall not be operated Code 3 unless authorized to do so by the supervisor directing the pursuit.
  - d. The primary unit, back-up unit(s), and any support unit(s) shall

operate traffic signal preemption in a manner that should cause the fleeing suspect vehicle to face green signal lights.

3. Use of Air Support for Pursuits

- a. When available, Air Support will be requested to support the pursuit.

Once air support is involved in the pursuit, if practical and authorized by the supervisor, it will act as the primary unit and take on primary unit responsibilities. In this instance, ground units become supporting units. The supervisor controlling the pursuit will direct all units appropriately.

- b. If air support is available to assist in a vehicle pursuit, the following guidelines shall be utilized:

(1) Air support personnel shall give estimated and updated times of arrival when appropriate. This information shall be incorporated into safety considerations by the initiating unit(s) or supervisor(s).

(2) If air support is able to acquire the pursuit, upon authorization by the supervisor controlling the pursuit, it shall assume primary communication and visual monitoring of the fleeing/violator vehicle.

(3) THIS SECTION HAS BEEN REDACTED.

- c. If air support is unable to maintain the pursuit, normal pursuit strategies shall be utilized.

#### 4. Unit Communications Responsibilities

- a. The primary unit and supervisor shall be the only units transmitting during the pursuit unless another emergency situation exists. Support units should refrain from communicating their locations or other information unless necessary for apprehension efforts.
- b. The primary unit should communicate as much of the following information as possible:
  - (1) The location, speed, and direction of travel
  - (2) The specific reason for the pursuit, including the violation, offense, or circumstance that precipitated the pursuit
  - (3) The vehicle description and license number, if known
  - (4) The number of occupants in the suspect vehicle

#### E. Safety Considerations

During pursuits, the following procedural guidelines shall be followed:

1. THIS SECTION HAS BEEN REDACTED.
2. Back-up units and secondary units shall not pass the primary unit unless directed to do so by the primary unit or supervisor.
3. Spacing: Units participating in a pursuit shall not follow each other or the suspect vehicle so closely that a collision cannot be avoided if any involved vehicle loses control or stops abruptly.



4. Police vehicles that are not fully marked shall not actively participate in pursuits unless the situation is extremely serious and mandates an immediate response. When a fully marked unit becomes available, the police vehicles that are not fully marked shall discontinue pursuit.
5. Motorcycles may be used in a pursuit when weather and related conditions allow. Motorcycles will disengage when support from fully marked units become available.
6. Police vehicles towing a trailer shall not actively participate in a pursuit.
7. Traffic Regulations: Members involved in pursuits shall strictly adhere to all State statutes and Pima County Sheriff's Department Rules and Regulations governing the operation of authorized emergency vehicles.

F. Termination of Pursuits

1. Members are expected to discontinue a pursuit when a reasonable law enforcement officer may conclude that continuing the pursuit could pose a serious risk to life or property and that risk outweighs the value of apprehending the suspect.
2. If any of the following conditions exist, the pursuit shall be terminated immediately:
  - a. A supervisor orders the pursuit terminated.
  - b. The pursuit was initiated because of a misdemeanor or non-violent felony and the suspect's identity is known.
  - c. The distance between the suspect and primary unit is so great that further pursuit is futile.
  - d. The primary unit loses visual contact with the suspect for an extended period of time.
  - e. A unit experiences equipment failure that would increase the risk of continuing the pursuit.
3. Members should consider terminating a pursuit if any of the

following conditions exist:

- a. Weather conditions such as rain or fog increase the danger of the pursuit.
- b. The member is in an unfamiliar area and cannot keep Communications apprised of the location and direction of travel.
- c. The risk to lives and property is increased by congested roads, pedestrian traffic, proximity to schools, or other hazardous conditions.
- d. THIS SECTION HAS BEEN REDACTED.
- e. The pursuing member believes the fleeing suspect is a juvenile who has committed a misdemeanor or non-violent felony and the suspect's manner of driving indicates he/she does not have the maturity to appreciate the danger involved.

#### G. Interjurisdictional Pursuits

1. If a pursuit enters into another agency's jurisdiction, the primary unit shall advise Communications to notify that agency and specify one of the following:
  - a. Our units need assistance.
  - b. The call is merely a notification and no assistance is needed.
2. Upon receiving a request for assistance from another agency, Communications shall immediately notify an on-duty Commander or supervisor, who shall evaluate the request and direct an appropriate response.

3. When Communications receives notification of an inter-jurisdictional pursuit, it shall immediately broadcast pertinent information to patrol units in the affected districts. However, members shall not become actively involved in the pursuit unless:
  - a. Authorized by a supervisor.
  - b. It is apparent that a single unit from the outside agency is involved in the pursuit and has not been able to request Pima County Sheriff's Department assistance.
  - c. An obvious emergency exists that mandates an immediate response.

#### H. Supervisory Responsibility

1. Supervisors shall monitor and direct all pursuits to ensure all actions comply with this policy.
2. The supervisor shall make certain that copies of all reports pertaining to the pursuit are forwarded to the appropriate District Commander within twenty-four (24) hours.

- I. Roadblocks or barricades shall not be used to stop suspects when the original offense is a misdemeanor but shall be used only as a last resort in felony cases where the violator is an immediate threat to public safety. Reckless driving alone shall not justify the use of a roadblock or barricade.

#### J. Use of Road Spikes Systems

1. Only commissioned members who have completed the Department approved road spikes training course may deploy road spikes systems.
2. Communications
  - a. Close coordination between ALL vehicles involved in the pursuit and deploying members is mandatory. The deploying member must be kept informed of the description, direction of travel, and location of the suspect vehicle.

- b. In multi-agency pursuits, supervisors should ensure that law enforcement personnel from other agencies are informed that road spikes will be used and informed of the location and any specific instructions necessary to ensure safety.

### 3. Safety

- a. The safety of the public, law enforcement personnel, and suspect will have the highest priority when determining where and when to deploy road spikes.
- b. Deploying members must wear safety glasses and gloves when deploying the road spike device.
- c. Road spikes will be deployed only on automobiles and trucks.
- d. Road spikes shall not be used on motorcycles, mopeds, or similar vehicles unless deadly physical force is justified.
- e. After Deployment
  - (1) The deploying member is responsible for removing the road spike device from the roadway immediately after its use to prevent pursuing units or other traffic from striking the device.
  - (2) After termination of the pursuit, the deploying member shall ensure that the device is properly recovered and stored and that any debris or loose spikes on the roadway have been cleared.

## V. National Incident Management System

In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 and the Pima County Board of Supervisors' resolution 2005-179, the Pima County Sheriff's Department will employ the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for all major incidents.