

Distribution: All Sworn Members

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Foot Pursuits Training Bulletin

DEFINITION

A **foot pursuit** is an event in which a Department member, on foot, chases a suspect who is resisting apprehension by fleeing on foot. While it may be the Department member's decision to initiate the stop, it is the subject's decision to flee and cause a foot pursuit.

Department members will engage in a foot pursuit only when they have reasonable articulable suspicion to conduct an investigatory stop or probable cause to arrest.

Department members are reminded that a subject's action in fleeing from the police, by itself, does not automatically amount to reasonable articulable suspicion to conduct an investigatory stop or probable cause to arrest. However, a subject fleeing upon sight of a clearly identifiable police officer can be a factor in the totality of the circumstances to establish reasonable articulable suspicion.

RISKS TO BE CONSIDERED

Foot pursuits present potential risks of physical injury to members of the public and Department members. **When engaging in a foot pursuit, Department members will consider the safety of the public, as well as their own safety, in relation to law enforcement's duty to enforce the law and apprehend the subject.** Department members should be mindful that they may become separated from their partners and should use caution when going over obstacles/barriers, rounding corners, or at the end of fences, especially when following the same path as the subject.

USING SOUND TACTICS

Due to the rapidly evolving and individualistic nature of foot pursuits, whenever a Department member engages in a foot pursuit, they will continuously assess the circumstances of the pursuit and determine the appropriate response to effectively apprehend the subject and safely conclude the pursuit. Other potential response options may include obtaining backup from other members, establishing a perimeter to contain the suspect, or requesting assistance from specialized units.

IF A PURSUIT IS INITIATED

Officers should:

- Immediately notify the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) and attempt to broadcast his or her location, description of the subject, direction of travel, and the reason for the foot pursuit.
- Make reasonable efforts to update his or her location and direction of flight during the pursuit.
- To the extent possible, avoid unnecessary continuous radio transmissions, so as not to impede communications from assist units.
- Coordinate with responding officers to establish a perimeter to contain the suspect.
- Request outside unit support if appropriate (saturation teams, canine units, helicopter unit, etc.).
- As soon as practical, ensure body camera and/or in-car video system is activated throughout the entire foot pursuit.
- When engaging in a foot pursuit, continuously assess the circumstances of the pursuit and determine the appropriate response to effectively apprehend the subject and safely conduct the pursuit.
- Monitor radio communications for additional information from OEMC, the location of the responding units, or guidance and direction from supervisors.
- Notify OEMC of any discontinuation of a pursuit or apprehension of the subject.

Other officers should minimize radio traffic/communications to allow the pursuing officer(s) to communicate effectively. When assisting in a foot pursuit, responding officers should take a tactically safe and strategic approach, and coordinate with initiating/pursuing officer(s) to establish a perimeter.

Supervisors should monitor foot pursuits to appropriately coordinate the situation. Based on a reasonable understanding of the circumstances, supervisors monitoring a foot pursuit will ensure the coordination of Department resources during the pursuit, including the actions of assisting member(s) and support units(s), in order to safely apprehend the subject. If available, supervisors who are monitoring the foot pursuit should respond to the scene (1) to develop and coordinate a plan for subject apprehension when a perimeter is established, or (2) when a pursuit results in an arrest.

When engaging in a foot pursuit, Department members will consider their own safety, as well as the safety of the public, in relation to law enforcement's duty to enforce the law and apprehend the subject.

RESOURCES

G03-01-01 Radio Communications
Illinois v. Wardlow 528 U.S. 119 (2000)
Terry v. Ohio 392 U.S. 1 (1968)