

Vehicle Pursuits

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Goals

- **Identify** statistics involving vehicle pursuits
- **Discuss** pursuit driving tactics
- **Review** vehicle pursuit policy

Why are we here?

“A cop is a servant who **protects the public** from evils (guardian) while also having the skill and courage to fight in battles (warrior).”

Restrictive vs. Discretionary

- **Restrictive** policies may state that an office may “only pursue given the existence of certain well-defined criteria”.
- **Discretionary** policies state that an “Officer may decide whether or not to pursue based upon certain factors.”

Restrictive Policies Nationwide

- 71% Police Departments
- 63% Sheriff's Departments
- 53% State Agencies

Policies that restricted pursuits based on specific criteria, such as speed, type of offense and surrounding conditions.

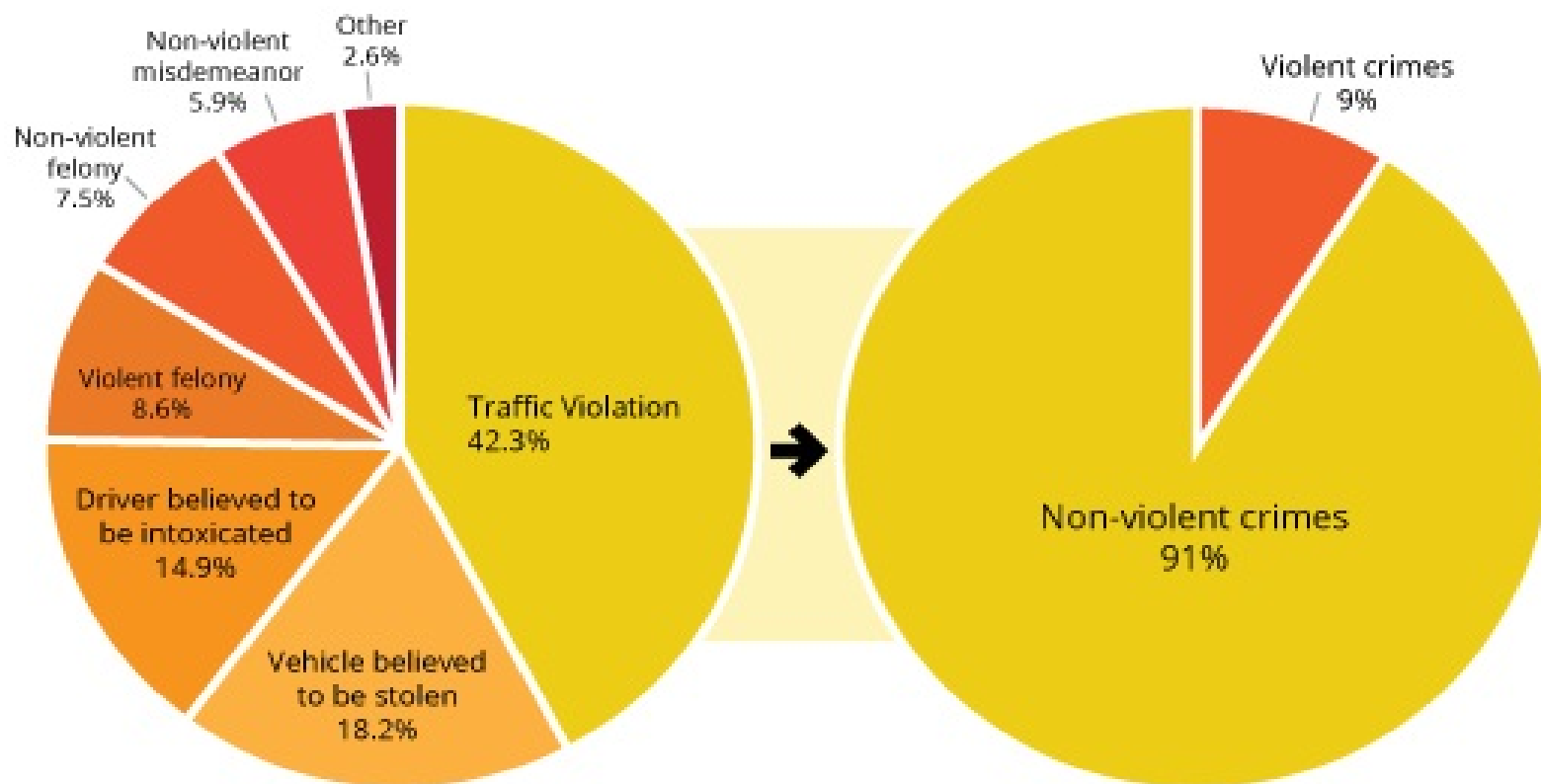
Why has law enforcement made the change to a restrictive policy?

Are they worth it?

The liabilities of vehicle pursuits

WHAT CRIMES INITIATE POLICE PURSUITS?

91% of all police chases are precipitated by non-violent crimes



NHTSA's Stats

- 7,090 deaths
- 4,637 were in the vehicle being chased
- 2,088 in vehicle not involved
- 355 per year
- 277 innocent bystanders

CHP Stats In 2016

- 8554 pursuits reported to CHP
- 2140 ended in a collision
- 762 were injury collisions
- 24 fatalities
- 2 of fatals were uninvolved third parties

Officer Down Memorial Page

- In the last 20 years, **103 officers** have **died** while involved in a vehicle pursuit.

Jermaine Gibson EOW 3/18/2011



Pursuit Driving Tactics

Mental

- Acute stress recognition
- Breathing control
- Positive Self Talk
- Visualization/ Mental Rehearsal

Physical

- Ensure your seatbelt is on
- Driver compartment cleanliness
- Maintain distance between violator and the primary officer
- Steering wheel hand position
- Do not pass primary officer unless he or she relinquishes role as primary

Safety vs. Apprehension

- Following Distance
- Tactical Intervention
- Emergency Equipment
- Emotions
- Attitude

Am I chasing them because they are
dangerous?

Or are they dangerous because I'm
chasing them?

Take 10. Real time 10. Not Law
Enforcement 10.

Define Vehicle Pursuit

- A vehicle pursuit is an event involving one or more law enforcement officers attempting to apprehend a suspect, who is attempting to avoid arrest while operating a motor vehicle by using high-speed driving or other evasive tactics, such as driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop.

When are officers **AUTHORIZED**
to initiate a pursuit?

1. Reasonable suspicion to believe the suspect committed a violent forcible crime,
2. OR a crime involving the use of a firearm,
3. OR probable cause that the suspect is in possession of a firearm, and the suspect is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle.

Factors that SHALL be considered in
deciding whether to initiate a
pursuit.

- Seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety.
- The importance of protecting the public and balancing the known or reasonably suspected offense and the apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to officers, innocent motorists and others.
- Apparent nature of the fleeing suspects (e.g., whether the suspects represent a serious threat to public safety).
- The identity of the suspects has been verified and there is comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspects to be apprehended at a later time.
- Safety of the public in the area of the pursuit, including the type of area, time of day, the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the speed of the pursuit relative to these factors.
- Pursuing officers familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing units and the dispatcher/supervisor and the driving capabilities of the pursuing officers under the conditions of the pursuit.

- Weather, traffic and road conditions that substantially increase the danger of the pursuit beyond the worth of apprehending the suspect.
- Performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speeds and other conditions of the pursuit.
- Vehicle speeds.
- Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders and hostages).
- Availability of other resources such as helicopter assistance.
- The police unit is carrying passengers other than police officers. Pursuits should not be undertaken with a prisoner in the police vehicle.

When should pursuits be discontinued?

- When the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.

According to our policy, what does “terminate” means?

- “Terminate” shall be construed to mean discontinue or to stop chasing the fleeing vehicle.

What additional factors should also be considered in deciding when to terminate a pursuit?

- Distance between the pursuing officers and the fleeing vehicle is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time and/or distance.
- Pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- Officer's pursuit vehicle sustains any type of damage that renders it unsafe to drive.

- There are hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- If the identity of the offender is known and it does not reasonably appear that the need for immediate capture outweighs the risks associated with continuing the pursuit, officers should strongly consider discontinuing the pursuit and apprehending the offender at a later time.
- Pursuit is terminated by a supervisor.

What factors should be considered
when vehicle pursuits reach high
speeds?

- Pursuit speeds have become unreasonably unsafe for the surrounding conditions.
- Pursuit speeds have exceeded the driving ability of the officer.
- Pursuit speeds are beyond the capabilities of the pursuit vehicle thus making its operation unsafe.

How many units SHOULD be limited
in a pursuit?

- Pursuit units should be limited to three vehicles (two units and a supervisor)**

When handing over a pursuit to
another agency...

- Units originally involved will discontinue the pursuit when advised that another agency has assumed the pursuit and assistance of the Central Marin Police Authority is no longer needed. Upon discontinuing the pursuit, the primary unit may proceed upon request, with or at the direction of a supervisor, to the termination point to assist in the investigation.

If the pursuit is handed over to CHP,
and CMPA does not exit the pursuit,
CHP will TERMINATE the pursuit per
their policy

What are the responsibilities of a marked patrol vehicle when a motorcycle officer is involved in a pursuit?

- A distinctively marked patrol vehicle equipped with emergency overhead lighting should replace a police motorcycle as primary and/or secondary pursuit unit as soon as practical.

The primary officer will notify Dispatch that they are in a “vehicle pursuit” and as soon as practicable provide information including but limited to:

- Reason for the pursuit.
- Location and direction of travel.
- Speed of the fleeing vehicle.
- Description of the fleeing vehicle and license number, if known.
- Number of known occupants.
- The identity or description of the known occupants.
- Information concerning the use of firearms, threat of force, injuries, hostages or other unusual hazards.

What are the responsibilities of the secondary unit?

- The officer in the secondary unit should immediately notify the dispatcher of entry into the pursuit.
- Remain a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary officer, or if the primary unit is unable to continue the pursuit.
- The secondary officer should be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit unless the situation indicates otherwise.

What are the responsibilities of the supervisor during a pursuit?

- Upon becoming aware of a pursuit, immediately ascertaining all reasonably available information to continuously assess the situation and risk factors associated with the pursuit in order to ensure that the pursuit is conducted within established department guidelines.
- Engaging in the pursuit, when appropriate, to provide on-scene supervision.
- Exercising management and control of the pursuit even if not engaged in it.
- Ensuring that no more than the number of required police units needed are involved in the pursuit under the guidelines set forth in this policy.
- Directing that the pursuit be terminated if, in his/her judgment, it is unjustified to continue the pursuit under the guidelines of this policy.

- Ensuring that aircraft are requested if available.
- Ensuring that the proper radio channel is being used.
- Ensuring the notification and/or coordination of outside agencies if the pursuit either leaves or is likely to leave the jurisdiction of this agency.
- Controlling and managing CMPA units when a pursuit enters another jurisdiction.
- Preparing post-pursuit critique and analysis of the pursuit for training purposes.

What are the 13 violent forcible crimes listed in our policy?

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Mayhem
- Kidnapping
- Robbery
- Carjacking
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a felony
- Assault with a deadly weapon, firearm
- Arson to an inhabited structure, inhabited property or that causes GBI
- Explode or ignite a destructive device or any explosive causing GBI or death
- Use or possession of a weapon of mass destruction

- Assault with a deadly weapon, other than a firearm*, causing SBI/GBI (The use of a motor vehicle to solely flee a scene or enforcement action does not meet the criteria for this unless there is clearly an articulable intentional act by the driver to use the motor vehicle as a weapon)
- Aggravated Battery with SBI/GBI Any of the following sexual assaults committed against a person's will by means of force, violence, duress, menace, fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the person or another, or in concert: Rape, Sodomy, Oral Copulation, Lewd Act on a Child under 14, Sexual Penetration.

Any Questions?

Test