



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques

Office with Primary Responsibility:	PSC, PNC, TSC, FCD	Effective Date: Prior Revision Date:	February 16, 2023 July 11, 2018
Office(s) with Secondary Responsibilities:	CTA	Number of Pages:	13
Forms Referenced in Procedure:	SAPD Form #103 SAPD Form #103-NEN SAPD Form #166 AR	Related Procedures:	501, 504, 607, 609, 708

### .01 INTRODUCTION

This procedure establishes guidelines for officers in situations necessitating the use of emergency vehicles for vehicle pursuits and/or utilizing stop techniques.

### .02 POLICY

- A. The Department recognizes its responsibility to apprehend criminals. This is balanced by acknowledging that in the course of discharging their duties, officers must do so in a manner reasonable and commensurate to the circumstances of each situation.
- B. Officers shall attempt a traffic stop on all suspect vehicles fleeing the scene of or having involvement in a crime, absent exigent circumstances that require the officer's immediate attention.
- C. Officers engage in authorized vehicular pursuits and/or utilize stop techniques only when the benefit of apprehension outweighs the risk to the officer and/or the public.
- D. Officers involved in vehicle pursuits and/or utilizing stop techniques while operating emergency vehicles, exercise due regard for the safety of all persons, constantly aware no assignment is too important and no tasks are to be expedited with such emphasis that the basic principles of safety are jeopardized.
- E. Officers are held accountable for the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others and violations of this procedure.

### .03 DISCUSSION

- A. The San Antonio Police Department requires its officers to exhibit a sense of prudent judgment derived from departmental training, acquired knowledge, skills, and ability in the operation of all emergency vehicles.
- B. The sanctity of human life and individual liberties are immeasurable elements of modern society which vests police officers with the responsibility for the preservation and protection of its paramount values. In the vehicle pursuit of this responsibility, officers maintain the understanding that protection of property and apprehension of criminal offenders is subservient to the protection of life, including their own.

### .04 TERMINOLOGY *(For specific use within this procedure, see Glossary)*

Abandon Pursuit	Authorization to Continue Pursuit
Boxing-In	Caravan
City Vehicle	Code-One Call
Code-Three Emergency Call	Code-Two Emergency Call
Command Response Vehicle	Emergency Operation
Emergency Vehicle	Follow(ing)
Managing Supervisor	Marked Police Vehicle
Paralleling	Police Vehicle
Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT)	Primary Vehicle
Pursuit	Ramming
Roadblock	Secondary Vehicle



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

Tactical Vehicle Intervention Techniques (TVI)  
Tire Deflation Device

Terminate Pursuit

### **New Terminology**

**Emergency Vehicle:** Means a marked police vehicle or a marked police motorcycle equipped with emergency warning devices (warning lights and sirens), or a command response vehicle.

**Follow(ing):** Means to drive behind a subject vehicle without using emergency warning devices or any other method of instruction to stop by the officer. The police vehicle must adhere to traffic laws and traffic control devices.

**Vehicle Pursuit:** Means an attempt by an officer, while driving an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens activated, to apprehend the occupant(s) of a vehicle who are evading arrest by maintaining or increasing the speed of a vehicle and by ignoring the officer's instruction to stop or are taking evasive actions. Evasive actions may consist of increasing speed making aggressive driving maneuvers (i.e., going off-road, disregarding traffic controls, turning off vehicle lights, and/or weaving in/out of traffic), or similar actions.

**Tactical Vehicle Intervention (TVI):** Techniques that are used by properly trained personnel to terminate a pursuit of a suspect vehicle in an attempt to reduce the danger that exists to the public due to a prolonged pursuit.

**Boxing-In:** Means the intentional movement of authorized vehicles in front of and behind the suspect vehicle when the vehicle is at or near a complete stop to prevent the suspect vehicle from fleeing. Incidental contact of the vehicles may occur if the suspect vehicle attempts to flee and should not be considered a chargeable accident.

**Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT):** Means the intentional contact between the front quarter panel of a moving police vehicle and the rear quarter panel of a moving suspect vehicle. The intention is to cause a controlled spin of the suspect vehicle away from its forward direction, thus safely curtailing the flight of the vehicle. This is not to be considered a chargeable accident.

### ***.05 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS***

Officers operating emergency vehicles must exercise sound judgment, carefully consider the facts, and weigh the seriousness of the offense against the consequences of jeopardizing the safety of others by continually evaluating the following existing environmental factors when deciding to pursue:

1. Time of day and day of week;
2. Lighting conditions;
3. Volume of traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular;
4. Type of roadway;
5. Condition of the roadway (i.e., dry, wet, paved, or gravel);
6. Weather conditions (i.e., clear, overcast, rain, or fog);
7. Condition of the emergency vehicle and fleeing vehicle;
8. Speeds of the emergency vehicle and fleeing vehicle;
9. Length and duration of the vehicle pursuit;
10. Types of traffic control signals or devices; and



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

11. School zones or areas where large crowds gather.

### **.06 EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGEMENT**

- A. General Rules: When necessary, officers should take appropriate actions to minimize opportunities for flight by a driver to include sound tactics (car placement), coordination with other units/officers in the area, and remain in constant communication with dispatch to ensure the availability of resources and oversight.
1. Only emergency vehicles will be utilized for vehicle pursuits and/or stop techniques. Use of Tactical Vehicle Intervention techniques by other than emergency vehicles, must be authorized by specific unit standard operating procedures (SOP).
  2. Officers will not drive emergency vehicles the wrong way on an expressway, an expressway exit or entrance ramp, a divided highway, or any other street or highway designated for one-way traffic; however, officers may be momentarily facing the wrong way at the completion of a PIT or while performing a non-traditional high risk stop; and
  3. Officers will not transport prisoners, witnesses, suspects, complainants, or any person who is not a member of the Department who has not signed SAPD Form #166-AR, *Civilian Observer Authorization and Release*, when driving emergency vehicles in emergency operations.

### **.07 FOLLOWING**

- A. The Department recognizes its responsibility to apprehend criminals and stop fleeing suspects in an effort to preserve public safety. However, apprehension and stopping of fleeing suspects must be done **only** when the benefit of apprehension or stopping fleeing suspects outweighs the risks to the officer and/or the public:
1. Situations where an officer follows a subject vehicle, but does not or has not engaged in apprehension efforts, do not constitute vehicle pursuits. The police vehicle must adhere to traffic laws and traffic control devices;
  2. Following a subject vehicle for more than fifteen (15) minutes requires supervisory approval. However, once a subject vehicle speeds away or takes any evasive action in an effort to distance itself from police, regardless of whether emergency warning device have been activated, the officer shall immediately discontinue following the vehicle unless it meets the criteria for a vehicle pursuit as described in this policy;
  3. This technique is ideal for establishing reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause when dealing with DWI suspects.

### **.08 VEHICLE PURSUITS**

- A. Officers authorized to engage in vehicle pursuits may utilize emergency vehicles for emergency operations, provided:
1. The emergency lights and siren are activated;
  2. Officers will reduce speed at all traffic control devices which require a stop under normal driving conditions and in consideration to vehicular and pedestrian traffic (i.e., stop signs, red lights, and flashing red lights) and proceed when it can be done safely;
  3. Officers will reduce speed for vehicles and pedestrians at intersections marked by yield signs or yellow flashing lights and proceed when it can be done safely;
  4. Officers will reduce speed and proceed when it can be done safely when driving emergency vehicles in vehicle pursuits through or into school zones during normal school hours or into areas where large crowds are known to



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

congregate, such as city parks and outdoor public events; and

5. Officers will exercise due regard for the safety of all persons.

### B. Vehicle Pursuit Management:

1. A managing supervisor will determine the number of emergency vehicles engaged in a vehicle pursuit to a maximum of four (4), inclusive of the primary and secondary vehicle.
2. Vehicles not normally used for patrol and/or traffic enforcement (prisoner transport wagons, etc.) shall not engage in vehicle pursuits.
3. Officers will not continue a vehicle pursuit or assist in a vehicle pursuit unless immediate authorization to continue the vehicle pursuit or assist is received from the managing supervisor.
4. Officers will not engage in paralleling, ramming, caravanning, or driving alongside a pursued vehicle.
5. Officers will not set up roadblocks.
6. Emergency vehicles without roof-mounted emergency lights and two (2) wheeled motorcycles must abandon a vehicle pursuit when an emergency vehicle with roof-mounted emergency lights enters the vehicle pursuit.
7. If a vehicle pursuit is terminated by the officer in the primary vehicle, the managing supervisor, or the direction of a dispatcher, all officers shall discontinue the vehicle pursuit.
8. When any officer, supervisor, or dispatcher announces that a vehicle pursuit is terminated, all assigned officers shall turn off all emergency warning lights and siren, slow down and adhere to all traffic laws and traffic control devices. The officers in the vehicle pursuit shall notify the dispatcher of their location.
9. Once a vehicle pursuit is terminated, officers must receive authorization from a supervisor to continue to follow the vehicle, and if authorization is granted, the vehicle may only be followed as a Code-One response, while adhering to all traffic laws and traffic control devices.

- C. The use of firearms to affect the apprehension of a fleeing suspect constitutes the use of deadly force, and will only be done in accordance with GM Procedure 501, *Use of Force*.

## **.09 OPERATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES IN VEHICLE PURSUITS**

- A. Vehicle pursuits involve hazardous circumstances and environmental factors which create a high risk for the officers involved, as well as citizens within the vicinity of the vehicle pursuit. Officers must weigh the hazardous circumstances and environmental factors associated with a vehicle pursuit against the possibilities of serious bodily injury or death to other motorists, pedestrians, the pursuing officers, and the offender. Officers must understand there is a point at which the risks outweigh the benefits of apprehending a suspect.
- B. The following situations determine when a vehicle pursuit will not be initiated and when a vehicle pursuit may be continued.
  1. Situations where officers will not engage in a vehicle pursuit:
    - a. Vehicle pursuits are not authorized for traffic infractions, ordinance violations, non-violent misdemeanors (not involving the use of firearms), and non-violent felonies.
    - b. For the purpose of this procedure, fleeing from an officer is not considered a violent felony; therefore, vehicle pursuits are NOT authorized based on the fact that the vehicle is fleeing; and



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

- c. The individuals fleeing are suspects only and the actual crime has not been determined.
2. Situations where vehicle pursuits, if initiated, may be continued, depending on the hazardous circumstances and environmental factors:
  - a. The occupant(s) has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violent felony offense (i.e. Aggravated Robbery or Aggravated Assault, and/or other crimes against a person in which violence is an element to the **felony** offense);
  - b. The occupant(s) has committed or is committing a violent misdemeanor offense involving the use of a firearm; or
  - c. The occupant(s) is known to be wanted under an active warrant for a violent felony offense.

### **.10 VEHICLE PURSUIT RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### A. Primary Vehicle Driver Responsibilities:

1. Activates the vehicle emergency warning devices from the point at which the officer engages in the vehicle pursuit until its termination;
2. Immediately notifies the dispatcher of the location, direction of travel, speed, reason for the vehicle pursuit, the presence of other law enforcement agencies, the description of the vehicle being pursued, and the number of occupants;
3. Provides updated information regarding the direction of travel, speed, and other pertinent details. Radio transmissions are kept as short as possible to allow communication between the dispatcher, managing supervisor, and assisting officers;
4. Terminates the vehicle pursuit if authorization is not immediately received from the managing supervisor;
5. Terminates the vehicle pursuit if radio contact with the dispatcher is lost;
6. Terminates the vehicle pursuit if the hazardous circumstances or environmental factors present an unreasonable risk to public safety; and
7. Abandons the vehicle pursuit if any mechanical problems develop in the primary vehicle.

#### B. Secondary Vehicle Driver Responsibilities:

1. The first officer arriving to assist the primary vehicle driver notifies the dispatcher and becomes the secondary vehicle driver;
2. The officer must receive immediate authorization from the managing supervisor or dispatch supervisor to assist in the vehicle pursuit;
3. Activates the secondary vehicle's emergency warning devices from the point at which the secondary vehicle enters the vehicle pursuit until its termination. The secondary vehicle's siren may be deactivated if it interferes with radio communications;
4. Follows the primary vehicle at a safe distance and assumes the radio communication responsibilities for the primary vehicle driver;
5. Becomes the primary vehicle if the primary vehicle abandons the vehicle pursuit; and



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

6. Abandons the vehicle pursuit if any mechanical problems develop in the secondary vehicle.

### C. Managing Supervisor Responsibilities:

1. If a Supervisor engages in a vehicle pursuit, then another supervisory officer (regardless of rank) must be identified as the managing supervisor and must approve and manage the vehicle pursuit;
2. Immediately authorizes continuation or orders termination of the vehicle pursuit depending on the hazardous circumstances and environmental factors present as stated by the primary vehicle driver;
3. Ensures not more than four (4) emergency vehicles are engaged in a vehicle pursuit;
4. Ensures the Helicopter Detail, if available, is notified. Once a police helicopter has a pursued vehicle in sight, the managing supervisor may authorize the continuation of the vehicle pursuit based on the following circumstances:
  - a. The severity of the offense;
  - b. The number of occupants in the suspect vehicle;
  - c. The likelihood of the suspects being armed;
  - d. The preservation of physical evidence; or
  - e. Other justifications which can be articulated.
5. Directs the tactics of the vehicle pursuit;
6. Constantly evaluates the vehicle pursuit;
7. Assigns additional officers to assist with traffic control, accident investigation, foot pursuit, and/or perimeter security if the termination ends with the apprehension of the vehicle or subjects; and
8. Orders the termination of a vehicle pursuit at any time hazardous circumstances or environmental factors present an unreasonable risk to public safety;
9. Supervisors will be held accountable for failing to respond when notified by the dispatcher and assuming the responsibilities of the managing supervisor. When notified by the dispatcher, supervisors shall take the responsibility of the managing supervisor regardless of the unit of assignment of the primary or secondary vehicle in the vehicle pursuit. Accountability extends for failing to terminate vehicle pursuits when hazardous circumstances or environmental factors would cause a reasonable and prudent person in the same circumstances to reasonably believe an unreasonable risk to public safety exists; and
10. Accountability for ensuring the procedural guidelines governing vehicle pursuits are complied with shall rest with the highest ranking officer monitoring or responding to the vehicle pursuit. While the highest ranking officer monitoring the vehicle pursuit oversees it, this does not relieve the managing supervisor of his/her assigned procedural tasks and responsibilities of the vehicle pursuit.

### D. Helicopter Detail Responsibilities:

1. The Helicopter Detail, when available and weather conditions permitting, responds to all vehicle pursuits.
2. The Helicopter Detail shall utilize its airborne video equipment to record all vehicle pursuits and entailing foot chases until officers secure the actor(s).



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

### E. Dispatcher and Communications Supervisor Responsibilities:

1. Ensures the handling dispatcher assigns a managing supervisor and secondary vehicle to the vehicle pursuit, and records the identity of other officers assigned to the vehicle pursuit;
2. Affirms the dispatchers on other affected communication channels provide their officers with information relative to the vehicle pursuit;
3. Assigns a radio frequency specifically for the use of the officers involved in a vehicle pursuit, if necessary;
4. Apprises the managing supervisor of any traffic problems relative to the vehicle pursuit; and
5. Announces the termination of a vehicle pursuit at the direction of the managing supervisor or in the absence of a managing supervisor.

### F. Vehicle Pursuit into another Jurisdiction:

1. The vehicle pursuit will terminate at the Bexar County line, except when continued vehicle pursuit is authorized by the managing supervisor;
2. When a vehicle pursuit enters into another jurisdiction, the secondary vehicle driver notifies the managing supervisor and dispatcher;
3. The dispatcher notifies the appropriate law enforcement agency of the vehicle description, circumstances of the vehicle pursuit, and if assistance is requested;
4. If the offender is apprehended, the arresting officer waits for the arrival of the managing supervisor and an officer from that jurisdiction;
5. In all vehicle pursuits which end in the apprehension of the offender outside of Bexar County, the offender is taken, without unnecessary delay, before a magistrate of the county in which the arrest is made; and
6. The ranking on duty officer is notified of all vehicle pursuits which continue out of Bexar County.

### G. Vehicle pursuit into San Antonio from Other Jurisdictions:

1. Communications:
  - a. Maintains liaison with other law enforcement agencies involved in vehicle pursuits which enter into the City of San Antonio; and
  - b. Assigns a managing supervisor to supervise the Department's officers in their assistance with the vehicle pursuit.
2. Managing Supervisor:
  - a. Determines the number of police vehicles from the outside agency involved in the vehicle pursuit;
  - b. Determines if assistance is specifically requested by the initiating jurisdiction;
  - c. Determines if assistance from the Department is required;
  - d. Notifies the Helicopter Detail, if available, to respond;



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

- e. Does not assign officers to engage in the vehicle pursuit if there are two (2) marked police vehicles from outside agencies already engaged in the vehicle pursuit;
- f. Assigns an officer as the secondary unit if there is only one (1) outside agency marked police vehicle involved in the vehicle pursuit;
- g. Assigns officers to assist with traffic control, accident investigation, foot pursuit, and/or perimeter security at the scene of termination;
- h. Terminates the SAPD officer's involvement if the actions of officers from another agency present an unreasonable risk to public safety; and
- i. Submits a written report within the Blue Team program, with SAPD case number, giving the details of the vehicle pursuit and the names of all SAPD officers involved in the vehicle pursuit.

### **.11 TACTICAL VEHICLE INTERVENTIONS (TVI)**

If a pursuit is allowed to continue given the criteria set forth in this policy, tactical vehicle intervention techniques should be considered by supervisors as early as possible. TVI techniques are methods used to physically terminate a pursuit, including those listed below. Only officers who have successfully completed the SAPD Precision Driving Unit training, in a technique listed below, shall be authorized to use them. **A supervisor must authorize the use of a TVI technique unless exigent circumstances dictate immediate action without prior approval. Officers employing such TVI techniques without supervisory approval shall be required to justify the exigency that led to their actions.**

- A. Traffic Stop:** A stop or an attempted stop by an officer, while driving an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens activated, to apprehend the occupant(s) of a vehicle who are not evading arrest or violating any traffic laws. (i.e., going off-road, disregarding traffic controls, turning off vehicle lights, and/or weaving in/out of traffic), or similar actions.
- B. Boxing-In:** Officers during their shift may encounter a vehicle that the driver is considered to be down and out (loss of mental and physical faculties) and may place their emergency vehicle in front of and or behind the suspect vehicle (if a cover officer is present) in an attempt to stop the suspect vehicle from fleeing, prior to the officer making contact with the driver. This placement of the officer's emergency or authorized vehicle may also be done when during a pursuit, the suspect vehicle comes to a stop and an opportunity presents itself to box-in the suspect vehicle from continuing its possible flight thus ending the pursuit. Officers shall be aware that this technique could put them in a potentially disadvantageous tactical position and shall adhere to sound tactics to seek cover and prevent crossfires. This intentional movement of authorized vehicles during this maneuver may incur incidental contact of the vehicles if the suspect vehicle attempts to flee and should not be considered a chargeable accident.
- C. Use of Tire Deflation Device:** Officers who have completed the SAPD Precision Driving Unit Tire Deflation Device (TDD) training, with approval from a supervisor, may deploy a Tire Deflation Device in accordance with appropriate SOP.
- D. Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT):** Officers who have successfully completed the SAPD Precision Driving Unit PIT training may deploy the PIT maneuver as per their training **with supervisor approval. An officer may employ the PIT maneuver without supervisory approval based on exigent circumstances. The officer shall be required to justify the exigency that led to their actions.** The use of the PIT maneuver shall be accomplished in accordance with the appropriate unit SOP.

### **.12 REQUIRED REPORTS**

- A. All officers who are engaged in a vehicle pursuit, who are assigned to assist in a vehicle pursuit, or who participate in a vehicle pursuit, including officers who are near the location of where the vehicle pursuit concluded, will submit written reports to the managing supervisor regardless of whether the vehicle pursuit was abandoned, terminated, or the offender was apprehended.



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

B. Primary vehicle driver's report will include:

1. The reason or probable cause for engaging in the vehicle pursuit;
2. A description of the pursued vehicle and occupants;
3. The location where the officer engaged in the vehicle pursuit;
4. The route of the vehicle pursuit;
5. An account of the violations committed by the offender during the vehicle pursuit;
6. A summary of the tactics employed to apprehend the offender;
7. The point of abandonment or termination of the vehicle pursuit; and
8. If the offender is apprehended, an account of his involvement in the arrest.

C. Secondary vehicle driver's report will include:

1. The location where the officer engaged in the vehicle pursuit;
2. A summary of the tactics employed to apprehend the offender;
3. The point of abandonment or termination of the vehicle pursuit; and
4. If the offender is apprehended, an account of his involvement in the arrest.

D. Other officers' reports will include:

1. Assigned duties in relation to the vehicle pursuit;
2. A summary of the tactics he utilized relative to his assigned duties; and
3. If the offender is apprehended, an account of his involvement in the arrest.

E. Helicopter Detail officers' reports will include:

1. Assigned duties in relation to the vehicle pursuit;
2. A summary indicating if the vehicle pursuit was videotaped and the location of the videotape;
3. Evaluation of the vehicle pursuit to include procedural violations, recommendations for training, and other pertinent concerns in relation to the vehicle pursuit; and
4. The report is forwarded to his/her chain of command with a copy submitted to the appropriate Division Commander of the officer initiating the vehicle pursuit.

F. Dispatcher's report will include:

1. Time, date, duration, and route of the vehicle pursuit;
2. Units assigned to include the names and badge numbers of the officers involved;



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

3. Managing supervisor assigned;
  4. Vehicle pursuit details to include any difficulties encountered during the vehicle pursuit; and
  5. The report is forwarded to the Communications Supervisor.
- G. Managing supervisor's Blue Team report will include:
1. The identity of all officers involved and their assignments relative to the vehicle pursuit;
  2. A summary of any accidents or other incidents arising from or related to the vehicle pursuit;
  3. If he terminates the vehicle pursuit, the time and location the vehicle pursuit was ordered terminated;
  4. Recommendations for any needed corrective or disciplinary actions to include training recommendations. Pertinent AVL and/or video records to document the need for any corrective or disciplinary actions should be included;
  5. A summary of information obtained from reviewing all available in-car video and the GPS (AVL) records of all officers assigned to the vehicle pursuit, whether they were assigned as the Primary, Secondary, or other duties;
  6. Printouts of pertinent AVL records showing the speed, path and direction of the vehicle pursuit from the Primary, Secondary or any other officers authorized in the vehicle pursuit; and
  7. A summary of pertinent information gathered from reviewing the Audio records from dispatch concerning the vehicle pursuit.

### **.13 FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Managing Supervisor:
1. As soon as practical after the conclusion of the vehicle pursuit, prepares SAPD Form #103-NEN, *Newsworthy Event Notification*, and route the form through electronic mail to the following offices:
    - a. Office of the Chief;
    - b. Applicable Assistant Chief;
    - c. Applicable Division Commander:
      - (1) Patrol Division;
      - (2) Tactical Support Division; and
    - d. Police Media Services Detail.
  2. Collects copies of reports from all officers involved in the vehicle pursuit;
  3. Reviews each report to ensure the required information is in the report;
  4. Conducts an analysis of the vehicle pursuit using the AVL system, video evidence and audio recordings from dispatch as well as the reports submitted by all officers.
  5. Create a "Vehicle Pursuit" Blue Team entry and attach copies of the officers' reports, video, any pertinent AVL records, and a copy of SAPD Form #103-NEN, and forwards the Blue Team entry to his shift/unit director.



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

6. If any policy violations are noted during any process of the vehicle pursuit review, the Blue Team entry will be duplicated within the Blue Team program by the Managing Supervisor as a Formal/Line Complaint and forwarded through the chain of command according to GM Procedure 303 – Disciplinary Procedures

**B. Shift/Unit Director:**

1. Reviews all submitted reports;
2. Conducts an evaluation of the vehicle pursuit, directing any questions to the managing supervisor. This evaluation is directed towards identifying violations of policies and procedures and any needed corrective or disciplinary action; and
3. Makes a recommendation as to the disposition of the incident and forwards it, along with the attached reports, to his section commander.

**C. Communications Supervisor:**

1. Reviews the vehicle pursuit report submitted by the handling dispatcher;
2. Conducts an evaluation of the vehicle pursuit as it relates to dispatch procedures and directs any inquiries back to the dispatcher; and
3. Completes the appropriate portion of the vehicle pursuit report form noting any additional information on the vehicle pursuit to include procedural violations, training recommendations, and other pertinent information and faxes a copy of the report to the managing supervisor. The original copy of the report is forwarded to the Communications Director.

**D. Communications Director:**

1. Completes the appropriate portion of the dispatcher's vehicle pursuit report and directs any questions back to the Communications Supervisor; and
2. Forwards a copy of the report to the appropriate Division Commander of the officer initiating the vehicle pursuit.

**E. Section Commander:**

1. Reviews all submitted reports and shall also be responsible for reviewing all available data (including but not limited to vehicle GPS data, video evidence, and audio tapes maintained by Communications) for the noted vehicle pursuit prior to forwarding the Blue Team entry;
2. Conducts an evaluation of the vehicle pursuit, directing any questions to the shift/unit director. This evaluation is directed towards identifying violations of policies and procedures and any needed corrective or disciplinary action; and
3. Upon completion of the review of the vehicle pursuit, forwards Blue Team entry to his Division Commander.

**F. Division Commander:**

1. Reviews all submitted reports;
2. Shall be responsible for reviewing all available data, including but not limited to vehicle GPS data, video evidence, and audio tapes maintained by the Communications, for the noted vehicle pursuit prior to forwarding the Blue Team entry to Internal Affairs.



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

3. Conducts an evaluation of the vehicle pursuit, directing any questions to the Section Commander. This evaluation is directed towards identifying violations of policies and procedures and any needed corrective or disciplinary action;
5. Forwards a copy of the vehicle pursuit entry to the Internal Affairs Unit with a recommendation for disposition.

### **.14 VEHICLE PURSUITS ANNUAL EVALUATION-ANALYSIS**

The Patrol Division Commander responsible for maintaining the Pursuit Information Database will complete an annual written evaluation of all vehicle pursuits to determine their effectiveness and to recommend any training, or policy modifications needed. The annual evaluation will be presented to the Chief of Police, and will include at a minimum the following:

1. Reason for vehicle pursuit initiation
2. Number of vehicle pursuits initiated
3. Number of vehicle pursuits terminated
4. Number of vehicle pursuits abandoned
5. Miles covered
6. Time duration of vehicle pursuit
7. Speeds involved
8. Other jurisdictions involved
9. Arrests/Apprehensions
10. Hazardous circumstances
11. Environmental factors as per .05
12. Risks identified
13. Policy/Procedure violations
14. Training Issues identified
15. Technical difficulties
16. Crashes
17. Property damage
18. Injuries

### **.15 POST VEHICLE PURSUIT/FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. In all instances where a suspect evades police and/or a vehicle pursuit is terminated, all pertinent information will be entered into the Be On the Look Out (BOLO) System and a follow-up investigation will be conducted.



# SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANUAL



## *Procedure 620 – Vehicle Pursuits and Stop Techniques*

1. Suspect and Vehicle information will be entered as either:
    - a. vehicle Pursuit – SUSPECT; or
    - b. vehicle Pursuit – ARRESTED
  2. Vehicle Pursuit – SUSPECT entries will remain valid for two (2) calendar years and vehicle Pursuit – ARRESTED entries will remain valid for one (1) calendar year. After these respective time frames, the entries will no longer show up as return information when checking a license plate.
  3. The following pertinent incident data will be entered into the COMMENTS section of the BOLO notice:
    - a. Location;
    - b. Circumstances;
    - c. CFS number (with Case number, if applicable); and
    - d. Other data of investigative value.
- B. Any Officer involved in a vehicle pursuit where the suspect evades apprehension or where a vehicle pursuit is terminated will ensure the following is done as soon as possible:
1. The officer will contact the Communications Office and ensure that a BOLO is generated;
  2. The officer will generate a report for the offense of EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION (Penal Code 38.04); and
  3. The officer will forward a copy of the report to the Traffic Investigation Detail (TID).
- C. The Traffic Investigations Detail (TID) will be consulted and they will coordinate with Patrol and/or follow-up units handling the primary offense, to ensure timely and accurate handling of any evidence collection and execution of warrants that may be generated.
1. The follow-up unit assigned to investigate the case is the unit assigned the primary offense of offense that initiated the case, in accordance with Procedure 708, *Follow-Up Units*.
  2. Vehicles may be impounded as evidence of Evading Arrest or for some other charge, in accordance with Procedure 607, *Impounding Vehicles* and Procedure 504, *Execution of Search Warrants*.
  3. TID or the follow-up unit assigned to investigate the case will ensure that the BOLO system is updated, via the Communications Office, when changes to the status of the vehicle pursuit category (Suspect or Arrested) are needed.