

Vehicle Pursuits

513.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Vehicle pursuits of suspected or known violators of the law expose innocent citizens, law enforcement officers and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. The primary purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidance in balancing the safety of the public and themselves against law enforcement's duty to apprehend violators of the law. Another purpose of this policy is to reduce the potential for pursuit-related collisions. Vehicular pursuits require officers to exhibit a high degree of common sense and sound judgment. Officers must not forget that the immediate apprehension of a probationer is generally not more important than the safety of the public and pursuing deputies.

513.1.1 VEHICLE PURSUIT DEFINED

A vehicle pursuit is an event involving one or more officers attempting to apprehend a probationer, 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.

513.2 OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Whereas officers are not trained in vehicle pursuits and lack the necessary safety equipment, it is the policy of this department that officers should not engage in vehicle pursuits. No policy violation exists if an officer is a passenger in an allied law enforcement agency vehicle that is undertaking a vehicle pursuit.