

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURE**

DATE: MARCH 12, 2020
NUMBER: 1.03 – TRAFFIC
SUBJECT: PURSUIT PROCEDURES
RELATED POLICY: 1.03
ORIGINATING DIVISION: TRAFFIC
NEW PROCEDURE:
PROCEDURAL CHANGE: **MINOR CHANGES**
SUPERSEDES: DP 1.03 – MAY 28, 2019

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines to enhance the effectiveness of a pursuit and reduce the likelihood of incidents that could lead to potential liability.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all sworn and Communications Division members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

- A. A police vehicle pursuit exposes the officers, fleeing violators, pedestrians, and occupants of other motor vehicles to the potential risk of death, serious injury, or damage to personal property. Officers may be subject to administrative action for negligent emergency vehicle operation and the City may be found liable in civil actions. Should improper emergency vehicle operations rise to the level of criminal negligence, officers could be subject to criminal prosecution.
- B. During a pursuit, the violator frequently refuses to give up and the officer feels an obligation to succeed in the pursuit. This psychological phenomenon can cloud one's judgment and may cause the officer to continue the chase beyond the point where common sense and good judgment would require the pursuit to be terminated.

- C. When engaged in a pursuit, officers must balance the seriousness of the violator's suspected crime against the inherent risks of engaging in a pursuit, including potential for death or injury, and the potential for damage to personal or City property if the chase is continued. Officers should not assume that all persons who flee from the police and refuse to yield are serious criminal suspects. Frequently, termination of a pursuit in the interest of safety is most appropriate.

IV. **DEFINITION**

- A. Vehicle Pursuit – an event involving one or more law enforcement officers, who are operating an authorized emergency vehicle, attempting to apprehend a suspected or actual violator of the law in a motor vehicle while the driver is using evasive tactics to avoid arrest, such as high speed driving, driving off a highway, turning suddenly, or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to the officer's signal to stop (emergency lights and siren).

V. **PROCEDURES**

- A. Initiating a Pursuit
 - 1. An officer may initiate a pursuit when a vehicle fails to yield to a police vehicle operating with emergency lights and siren activated. The officer must have probable cause to believe the driver, or occupants of the vehicle have committed an infraction or misdemeanor in his/her presence, or have probable cause to believe a felony has been, or is being, committed.
 - 2. The decision to initiate a pursuit should take into account the need to protect the public, and balance the known or suspected offense and the apparent need to immediately capture the suspect against the risks to peace officers, innocent motorists, and others. Factors to consider include: pedestrian and vehicular traffic patterns and volume; location/familiarity of pursuing officers with the area of the pursuit; time of day; speed of fleeing suspect; capabilities and condition of the vehicles involved; quality of radio communication; safety of occupant(s) of pursued vehicle; capabilities/conditions of involved personnel; weather and visibility; road conditions; and whether the identity of the suspect is known and can be apprehended at a later time.
 - 3. When a motorcycle unit initiates a pursuit, it shall be relieved when the first marked four-wheel police vehicle can assume the pursuit.

B. Participating in a Pursuit

1. A police vehicle shall not be used in a pursuit unless the vehicle is equipped with emergency lights that are activated to position three, and has a siren sounding as reasonably necessary (21055 CVC).
2. Officers engaged in a pursuit have a duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway (21056 CVC).
3. Only two units shall be actively involved in a pursuit unless a field supervisor, Field Lieutenant, or the Watch Commander approves additional units.
4. Uninvolved units shall remain alert to the location of the pursuit, but shall not join the pursuit unless requested by the primary pursuit unit, or if authorized by a field supervisor.
5. Officers driving vans, trucks and non-pursuit-rated sport utility vehicles should be aware that the vehicles may not handle as well as pursuit-rated vehicles. They should consider turning over the pursuit to the first available unit driving a pursuit-rated vehicle, or terminating the pursuit.
6. Officers with prisoners or non-law enforcement passengers should not engage in a pursuit unless the offender poses an immediate life threatening risk to public safety.

C. Communications Procedures and Responsibilities

When a pursuit begins, the following radio procedures will apply:

1. Communications Dispatch will announce “Emergency Traffic Only”, which will be repeated every 30-60 seconds (or as often as reasonably needed), and assign a field supervisor as the supervisor of record to assume control and monitor the pursuit. Any field supervisor may cancel unnecessary “Code 3” cover units or terminate the pursuit, when circumstances require it.
2. Communications Lead Dispatcher will notify the Field Lieutenant, and the Watch Commander; each will monitor every pursuit. The Field Lieutenant will monitor pursuits under most circumstances, when available. The Field Lieutenant and Watch Commander may order termination, if warranted.

3. The pursuing officer(s) shall remain on the original radio talk group unless directed otherwise. The second assisting unit behind the primary unit should “call the pursuit.” Whenever possible, passenger officers should operate the radio allowing the driver to concentrate on driving tactics and officer safety.
4. Once a pursued vehicle is overtaken by a law enforcement helicopter, the aircraft can assist by broadcasting ongoing radio updates along the route of travel. If a canine unit is involved in the pursuit, the radio dispatcher shall broadcast that information for officer safety purposes.
5. If an officer is requested to deploy spike strips or stop sticks, Communications must be advised of the deployment location. The dispatcher shall immediately rebroadcast this location to pursuing units accompanied by “Alert Tone 2.” This allows for pursuing units to tactically prepare for the apprehension of the suspect(s) while avoiding the tire deflation devices placed in the roadway. Communications will re-broadcast any spike strip/stop stick location updates accompanied by “Alert Tone 2.”
6. Officers not actively engaged in the pursuit should remain off the air, giving priority radio traffic to pursuing units.
7. If a field supervisor orders a pursuit to be terminated, it shall be terminated immediately. The Communications dispatcher will rebroadcast that the pursuit has been terminated.

VI. PURSUING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The initiating pursuit unit or ABLE shall state, on the radio, specific information identifying the location, direction, suspect(s), involved vehicle, what the vehicle is wanted for, the pursued vehicle’s speed, and a description of the area through which the pursued vehicle is traveling.
- B. Speed

Many pursuits begin after an officer observes a vehicle traveling at an excessive speed, while others stem from suspects attempting to evade capture for criminal activity. Pursuits frequently involve high-speed driving maneuvers as suspects attempt to evade officers. The majority of these pursuits involve one or more additional police vehicles, and result in several vehicles traveling at a speed near or greater than the speed the initiating officer identified as hazardous, or at a speed that becomes hazardous during the course of the pursuit.

Prior to pursuing a violator at high speeds, officers must evaluate the risks associated with operating the police vehicle(s), and the fleeing vehicle at high speeds. Officers must consider environmental factors when making their assessment as to whether to begin, continue, or terminate a high-speed pursuit. This assessment should include present, and potential surrounding and adjacent areas the pursuit might reach, and the hazards that multiple vehicles traveling at high speeds through the areas might pose. These areas may include, but are not limited to, nearby school zones, high pedestrian traffic areas, shopping center parking lots, public parks, street fairs, and sporting events. Officers must continually evaluate whether they should begin, continue, or terminate pursuits involving high speeds in these and all other areas in order to ensure public safety, officer safety, safety of occupants in the fleeing vehicle, and effective pursuit tactics. Officers responding to assist in a pursuit shall drive with due regard for public safety (21056 CVC).

VII. TACTICS

- A. Driving on the wrong side of a divided roadway is generally prohibited, except in the most grievous circumstances when imminent danger to life exists. Driving the wrong way on freeways is strictly prohibited. Officers shall not pursue in opposing lanes of traffic on any freeway or divided highway separated by a raised island and/or center divider. Emergency vehicle operators may not be immune from prosecution if involved in a wrong-way collision that results in injury or death (21651 CVC).
- B. Due to the extreme hazards and potential risks for serious injury, police vehicles, generally, may not be used to “box in”, “ram” or “bump” suspect vehicles in any pursuit situation. A supervisor's approval shall be obtained prior to implementing any such action.
- C. Officers shall not use a police vehicle to perform a Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) Maneuver under any circumstances.
- D. Only one cover unit may follow the primary pursuing unit unless additional cover units are authorized by a supervisor. The cover unit(s) shall use emergency lights and siren in compliance with 21055 CVC and 21056 CVC.
- E. When appropriate, a better-positioned unit may become the cover (second) unit. When the primary pursuit and cover unit(s) are in position, all others shall drop out of the pursuit and cease “Code 3” operation, unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

- F. Additional units should be prepared to:
 - 1. Provide adequate cover for a pursuing unit for purposes of officer safety, keeping radio traffic to a minimum;
 - 2. Become the primary unit if the original pursuing unit loses the suspect vehicle or becomes disabled, notifying Communications that they are the primary pursuit unit; and,
 - 3. Attempt to station themselves at strategic points when the suspect is stopped.
- G. The pursuit unit(s) shall not be passed by other units unless the supervisor authorizes the maneuver. The primary pursuit unit should remain in position until the status is relinquished to another unit, either by the primary pursuit unit or as directed by a supervisor.
- H. Pursuit Conclusion and Tactics
 - 1. Pursuits are inherently dangerous for officers and the public. In order to ensure officer safety and public safety and help ensure an appropriate outcome, high-risk vehicle stop tactics (as outlined by P.O.S.T. guidelines and taught by law enforcement academies and agency-specific training) should be utilized at the end of most vehicle pursuits.
 - 2. Having sufficient personnel for a high-risk vehicle stop involved in the pursuit will allow for a safe and smooth transition from the actual pursuit into the high-risk vehicle stop tactic in an effort to safely arrest or detain the occupants of the pursued vehicle, while also maximizing officer and public safety. Depending on the circumstances, supervisors or officers at the scene should determine who will be the contact, cover, and coordinating officers when engaging in a high-risk vehicle stop.

VIII. TERMINATING THE PURSUIT

- A. Officers involved in a pursuit have the responsibility to terminate the pursuit when the benefits of immediate apprehension are outweighed by the hazards of continuing the pursuit.
- B. Officers must continually evaluate whether the seriousness of the offense and the benefits of immediate apprehension are outweighed by the risk to pursuing officers and public safety in continuing the pursuit. In determining when to terminate or discontinue a pursuit, factors to consider include:
 - 1. The seriousness of the offense for which the suspect is wanted;

2. Vehicular or pedestrian traffic safety and volume, weather conditions, traffic conditions, roadway limitations, environmental conditions, time of day, and speed;
 3. Suspect is known to be a juvenile;
 4. Suspect whose identity is known and apprehension can be accomplished at a later time, or when location of the pursuit vehicle is no longer known;
 5. Availability of air support;
 6. Results of ongoing evaluation of risk to the public or pursuing officer(s); and,
 7. The protection of the public, given the known or reasonably suspected offense and apparent need for immediate capture against the risks to the public and peace officers.
- C. Officers ordered to terminate the pursuit shall immediately discontinue “Code 3” operation and fully abandon the pursuit. Officers shall not “trail” or follow the suspect after being ordered to terminate the pursuit. Officers will return to their assigned service area while obeying all traffic laws (21052 CVC). The Communications dispatcher will rebroadcast that the pursuit has been terminated.
- D. Officers are prohibited from pursuing vehicles across the International Border into Mexico under any circumstances. Pursuits shall be terminated before reaching the Border. In order to terminate the pursuit safely before crossing the Border, the pursuit should be terminated before the last U.S. exit, (Siempre Viva for I-905 or Camino de la Plaza for I-5). Southern Division and the appropriate Border agencies will be notified by Communications of any approaching pursuits.

IX. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Upon notification of a pursuit in progress, the field supervisor, Field Lieutenant, or Watch Commander shall verify the following:
1. Upon initiation of a pursuit, a supervisor shall proceed to the vicinity of the pursuit without becoming actively involved in it. That supervisor will assume responsibility as supervisor of record. The supervisor of record will periodically request specific information necessary to evaluate the pursuit.

2. Supervisors should respond to the location at the end of the pursuit to ensure compliance with post-pursuit reporting requirements. Supervisors should debrief officers and ensure injuries, vehicle and property damage, and any use of force are properly documented.
3. Verify the speed of the pursuit, and make a determination as to whether it is safe to continue the pursuit given the same factors used to initiate the pursuit, and any other changing factors necessary to ensure public safety, officer safety, safety of the fleeing violator(s), and effective pursuit tactics.
4. Verify that no more units than necessary are involved. The primary pursuit unit and a cover unit are usually sufficient for the actual pursuit. Additional units may be added to the pursuit only upon the supervisor's authorization. The supervisor of record must state on the air that he or she is authorizing additional units to become involved in the pursuit, and the specific number authorized. Supervisors should cancel any units operating Code 3 that have not been authorized. The additional authorized units shall identify themselves over the radio.
5. Factors to be considered by the supervisor in deciding whether to add units include the number and type of vehicles being pursued, the seriousness of the offense, the number of occupants in the vehicle being pursued and the danger occupants of the vehicle(s) being pursued continue to pose to others.
6. When more than two units are permitted to participate in a pursuit, the supervisor shall direct the additional units to discontinue the pursuit as soon as possible, based upon tactical requirements and safety aspects.
7. All field supervisors, the Field Lieutenant, the Watch Commander and the initiating/pursuing officers have the authority to terminate a pursuit when the potential safety risks outweigh the need for apprehension. If a situation arises where supervisors do not agree over whether to terminate a pursuit, the Field Lieutenant or Watch Commander shall make the final determination on whether to terminate the pursuit. Lacking a response from the Field Lieutenant or Watch Commander, the supervisor of record shall make the final determination on whether to continue or terminate the pursuit.

X. JOINT AGENCY AND INTER-JURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS

- A. County-wide pursuit protocols have been established for inter-agency pursuits within the County of San Diego (See DP 2.01 Communications, Assignment of Talkgroups and Proper Radio Procedures.) The initiating agency should generally retain jurisdiction and responsibility for a pursuit in progress, in the event the pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction.
- B. San Diego Police Department (SDPD) units shall not join in an active pursuit initiated by another agency unless specifically requested and then only with the approval of a field supervisor, Field Lieutenant, or Watch Commander.
- C. The Communication Centers of the other agencies shall be promptly notified of any pursuit approaching their jurisdiction by the SDPD Communications Lead Dispatcher, but such notification shall not constitute a request for assistance. The primary unit or the field supervisor shall be responsible for determining if assistance is needed from another agency and shall specify what is needed to accomplish the task.
- D. The SDPD Communications Lead Dispatcher shall promptly direct pursuit assistance requests to the respective agency. Pursuing units and supervisors shall consider relinquishing the pursuit to that agency when their units are in position to assume control.
 - 1. If the primary pursuit unit wishes to relinquish the pursuit to another agency, that agency must be willing to accept it. Such acknowledgment shall be announced on the radio talkgroup in use.
 - 2. If the pursuit is actually turned over to another agency, the initiating officer shall abandon the pursuit totally, but must remain available to coordinate with the arresting units if the suspect is arrested.
- E. Except when the Canine Unit's assistance is specifically requested by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), when a pursuit enters another law enforcement jurisdiction (including military facilities), personnel of this Department shall immediately abandon the pursuit when a supervisor of that agency orders termination of the pursuit. Officers shall cease Code 3 operation and return to their service area. This includes pursuits on the freeway assumed by the CHP.
- F. In joint agency pursuits, there shall be no more than two pursuing units directly involved, including vehicles from other agencies.
 - 1. A field supervisor of this Department shall assume command of such pursuits to assess safety considerations, ensure compliance with Department policy, and coordinate with supervisors of other involved agencies.

2. The field supervisor shall direct operations for all officers involved, or transfer that responsibility to the supervisor of the agency taking over responsibility for the pursuit.
3. Whenever possible, communication between different agencies should be established car-to-car. The appropriate talkgroup will be determined by SDPD Communications. Pursuits initiated by SDPD will primarily remain on the radio talkgroup of the unit who initiated the pursuit, or any available frequency as directed by the Communications Dispatcher.
4. Pursuits initiated by other agencies, utilizing a non-SDPD dispatcher, will remain under the jurisdiction of that agency even upon entering San Diego City limits. Upon notification, the Lead Dispatcher shall select and patch an appropriate SDPD tactical talkgroup with the controlling dispatcher's agency.
5. Field supervisors, the Field Lieutenant, and the Watch Commander may order a pursuit entering San Diego City limits terminated if they recognize a condition that constitutes an immediate and life-threatening danger to the officers or public. The Lead Dispatcher shall communicate any such directive to the dispatcher of the other agency.
6. The Lead Dispatcher will format an incident for the nearest area command for which the pursuit is approaching. The incident will initially be aired on the SDPD primary talkgroup for informational purposes only. Once aired, field personnel shall monitor the appropriate SDPD tactical frequency for any and all updates, keeping the primary talkgroup and dispatcher clear for normal operations.
7. The assigned SDPD talkgroup for inter-agency incidents, when SDPD is the assisting and not the controlling agency, will be PATCH. PATCH is located in the new Standard Supervisor, Investigation, and Patrol Fleet Map Primary Zone in Mode 14.

XI. AIR SUPPORT UNIT ASSISTANCE

- A. When units become involved in pursuits, Communications shall request aerial assistance from ABLE. If ABLE cannot respond, a request should be made via radio on the LAWAIR frequency or intercom for Sheriff's ASTREA. The Communications dispatcher is responsible for notifying the Air Support Unit of all vehicle pursuits.

- B. ABLE aircrews provide valuable information to ground units concerning direction of travel, suspect actions, suspect descriptions and apprehension strategies. Aircrews should alert responding units to upcoming traffic congestion, hazards, or other factors which might endanger the safety of ground officer(s) or the public. Overall control of the pursuit shall remain with the primary ground unit and field supervisor.
- C. ABLE crews shall assist in coordinating ground resources, report on the progress of the pursuit, and provide information to assist in determining whether or not to continue the pursuit, etc. In some cases, it may be prudent to discontinue the pursuit by ground units and allow the aircraft to continue in a “tracking mode” until the suspect can be taken into custody under more favorable conditions. The aircrew shall never assume the role of the primary pursuit unit, as it is not considered an authorized emergency vehicle as defined by Section 165 CVC.
- D. The aircrew shall videotape all pursuits while on scene unless prohibited by other operations and/or safety procedures. If the pursuit supervisor determines there is a need, he or she may make arrangements with an Air Support Unit sergeant to obtain a DVD video copy of the pursuit for training, evidentiary, and/or administrative review purposes. These DVDs remain the property of the San Diego Police Department and shall not be copied or released to members of the public or media without the approval of the Chief of Police. Original video tapes of incidents recorded by ABLE are impounded at ABLE Base for evidentiary purposes.

XII. SHOOTING AT VEHICLES

Shooting at or from moving vehicles is prohibited, except when reasonably necessary to protect persons from death or serious bodily injury (DP 1.05, Firearms Procedure).

XIII. TIRE DEFLATION DEVICES/SPIKE STRIPS

- A. Any officer or supervisor actively involved in a pursuit may request a spike strip/ stop stick deployment. The Communications dispatcher will simulcast for “any available spike strip unit.” Any officer trained in the deployment of tire deflation devices should switch to the pursuit frequency and coordinate with the field supervisor in charge of the pursuit. Once the deployment location is selected, the dispatcher will advise all pursuing units of this location, accompanied by “Alert Tone 2.” Pursuing units should prepare for apprehension of suspects after the suspect vehicle has been disabled. A high-risk traffic stop should then be completed.

- B. Tire deflation devices shall not be used to stop motorcycles, mopeds, or other similar types of vehicles. In addition, they should generally not be used on any vehicle transporting hazardous materials (2402.7 CVC), any passenger or school bus transporting passengers, or any vehicle that, by design, may pose an unusual hazard to innocent parties. However, in exceptional cases, spike strips/stop stick may be justified based upon the specific circumstances involved (i.e., hijackings, kidnapping, etc.). In such cases, tire deflation devices should be considered a last resort when all other reasonable pursuit termination tactics have been exhausted.

XIV. BARRICADING ROADWAYS

- A. Barricading a roadway must be considered a use of force likely to result in death or serious bodily injury. This method may be used only as a last resort to apprehend a dangerous known felon who poses an immediate serious threat to the safety of the public.
- B. Barricading a roadway is strictly prohibited unless approved by a field supervisor, Field Lieutenant, or the Watch Commander. In the case of joint agency pursuits, barricading a roadway is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the agency having jurisdiction over the pursuit.
- C. Under no circumstances may a roadway be barricaded by occupied vehicles or vehicles belonging to private citizens. If barricading is deemed necessary, police vehicles or more suitable equipment may be used. The Communications dispatcher must notify all officers by radio broadcast of the barricaded roadway location. "Alert Tone 2" shall be used during this broadcast to alert officers of the potential hazard.

XV. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- A. If a police vehicle "bottomed out" during a pursuit, the driver shall inspect it for possible damage and notify a supervisor. If damage occurred, the supervisor shall direct the preparation of the appropriate documentation (i.e., Vehicle Damage and/or Collision Report). The supervisor should consider having a damage and safety inspection conducted at the police garage prior to allowing the vehicle to return to the field. Any questions regarding such incidents and reporting requirements should be directed to the Fleet Safety Sergeant.

- B. Apprehension of Suspect(s)
 - 1. At the conclusion of a pursuit, officers should use caution when attempting to apprehend an offender or their passenger(s). Safety of the public and peace officers during the effort to capture an offender are important factors. Officers must exercise self-control, and adhere to existing Department Procedures regarding the Use of Force (DP 1.04), Handcuffing, Restraining, Searching and Transporting (DP 6.01), and Crime Scene Protection and Preliminary Investigation Reporting (DP 6.06).

XVI. PURSUIT REPORTING AND ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS

- A. Vehicle Code Section 14602.1 requires that all police pursuits, including non-collision pursuits, be reported on a California Highway Patrol Pursuit Report CHP-187A (12-05). An SDPD Pursuit Data Sheet must also be completed. A combined CHP-187A/SDPD Pursuit Data Sheet form is available on the LAN system at F:\Templates\Patrol Based Forms\Traffic Reports\CHP187 Pursuit Report.dot. A PDF version, entitled NewCHP187a.pdf. The CHP-187A/ SDPD Pursuit Data Sheet form, that can be printed and completed by hand, is available at the same location and shall be prepared on all pursuits initiated or assumed by officers of this Department.
 - 1. The driver of the unit who initiated the pursuit, or assumed the pursuit from another agency, is responsible for filling out the top half of form CHP-187A. This form shall be submitted to the driver's immediate supervisor for approval prior to the end of the officer's workday. The supervisor shall ensure the entire incident history number is entered in the box designated for "Vehicle Pursuit Number" at the top right of the form.
 - a. Identification numbers of San Diego Police Department drivers involved in the pursuit shall be included on the form (line "15"). Officers' names shall not be used. Information on officers of other law enforcement agencies shall not be listed, since other involved agencies will submit their own forms.
 - b. The reporting officer shall list up to five violations (section 25) for which the suspect/driver was arrested or cited, listing the most serious violation first. In multi-agency pursuits, this may require contacting the agency that made the actual apprehension to obtain the charge information.

2. The pursuing officer's immediate supervisor shall complete the CHP-187A/SDPD Pursuit Data Sheet form and include a brief synopsis of the event and a factual evaluation concerning compliance with the Department's pursuit policy. Violations shall be identified and listed in the report narrative. The report should be forwarded to the Commanding Officer for his/her approval and signature within three days of the incident. The original report shall be forwarded to the Fleet Safety Sergeant, Traffic Division, MS 732, within five days. Commands are not required to retain a copy of the completed report. The reporting supervisor shall complete a Blue Team entry for the incident.
 3. The Fleet Safety Sergeant is the collection point for statistical data and the repository for Department-wide pursuit reports. The Fleet Safety Sergeant conducts a post-pursuit review and analysis of each Pursuit Report, and provides feedback to area station Captains when needed. The Fleet Safety Sergeant shall provide statistical pursuit data on a quarterly basis, and shall compare current data to the prior year's activity. The Fleet Safety Sergeant coordinates with each command on pursuit report discrepancies and directs the mailing of collected CHP-187A/SDPD Pursuit Data Sheet forms to: California Highway Patrol, Production Controls, P.O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001, within 30-days of the pursuit occurrence.
- B. The Communications Division shall electronically maintain a pursuit incident log (via the Computer Aided Dispatch [CAD] system).
- C. Pursuit Collision Reporting

An SDPD Traffic unit shall conduct the collision investigation of record on all injury, and non-injury traffic collisions resulting from pursuits that occur within the City of San Diego. This includes pursuits initiated by SDPD units, other law enforcement agencies, and pursuits resulting in collisions initiated by other law enforcement agencies that SDPD becomes involved in. If the collision involves serious injury or death, a Traffic Division supervisor will respond to the scene and notify the TIU Sergeant and the Fleet Safety Sergeant. The Traffic Supervisor will ensure proper resources are present for a thorough investigation and provide necessary information to the pursuit unit's supervisor for completion of a detailed Pursuit Report (CHP-187A/SDPD Pursuit Data Sheet). Traffic collisions occurring outside City of San Diego jurisdiction (freeway, other city) shall be investigated by the agency having jurisdiction unless they request SDPD to complete the official investigation.

The investigation of a traffic collision(s) in other jurisdictions resulting from a pursuit initiated by SDPD units shall be the responsibility of the agency within whose jurisdiction the collision occurs. If the other agency is unable to take the report, an SDPD Traffic Unit shall be dispatched to complete the report of record (within San Diego County only). In addition, if the collision involves an SDPD unit outside of our jurisdiction, a Traffic Unit and Traffic Supervisor will respond to complete an Administrative Investigation on a CHP-555 form.

The county-wide protocol for initiating pursuing units is for the initiating agency to handle arrests related to the pursuit, and the agency of jurisdiction to handle the collision investigation. The Commanding Officer of Traffic Division may assign Traffic Division personnel to conduct a concurrent investigation if jurisdictional issues hinder a thorough collision investigation.

XVII. MANDATORY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

NEW

- A. Section 17004.7(b) (1) of the California Vehicle Code mandates annual vehicle pursuit training for all sworn employees. The In-Service Training Division shall ensure that every sworn employee receives pursuit training annually. The training enables the Department to maintain immunity from liability for civil **damages due to the injury or death of any person, or the damage of any property** resulting from the collision of a vehicle being pursued by an officer of this agency.

NEW

- B. Pursuant to CVC 17004.7(b) (2), Officers of a public agency must certify in writing that they have received, read and understood the Department's vehicle pursuit policies and are required annually to complete an "SB 719 Pursuit Policy Training Attestation" form. The Training Attestation Form, attesting the Officer has completed the training, shall be scanned and emailed to the In-Service Training Division.