



Foot Pursuit	Related Policies:
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable Arkansas Statutes:	
CALEA Standard:	
Date Implemented:	Review Date:

- I. **Purpose:** To provide for the safety of law enforcement personnel while at the same time facilitating the safe apprehension of suspects.
- II. **Policy:** It is the policy of this department that officers conduct a quick and continuous risk assessment whenever an officer decides to engage in or continue a foot pursuit. Officers must evaluate the risk involved to themselves, the suspect, and the community versus the benefit of continuing the pursuit.
- III. **Definitions**
 - A. **Foot Pursuit:** A situation in which an officer, on foot, chases a suspect in an effort to detain or arrest that individual who he has a reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime and who is resisting apprehension by fleeing from the officer(s).
 - B. **Suspect:** Includes any individual who a police officer reasonably believes is about to commit, is committing or has committed an offense, or poses an imminent threat to the safety of the public, other officers or themselves.
 - C. **Contact/Cover:** A tactical practice of having two or more officers working together during a foot pursuit. The officers work as a team utilizing direct or indirect communication methods to coordinate their efforts, remain aware of the locations of officers and suspects, and keep abreast of the status of the pursuit.
- IV. **Procedure**
 - A. **Alternatives to Foot Pursuit:** To the extent that resources are available, officers should consider the following alternatives to a foot pursuit:
 - i. Area Containment
 - ii. Additional officers
 - iii. Surveillance until additional resources become available
 - B. **Factors to Consider in Conducting the Risk Assessment:**

- i. Whether the suspect is armed.
- ii. How serious is the suspect's offense (i.e. does he or she pose a serious threat to the community if allowed to escape)
- iii. Officer acting alone
- iv. Backup is not available in a timely manner
- v. Officer pursuing more than one suspect
- vi. Officer not in physical condition to pursue a subject on foot
- vii. Location:
 - a. Nature of area- (i.e. residential, commercial, freeway) which impacts the safety of all those who may be affected by the foot pursuit.
 - b. Conditions of structures: abandoned, condemned, etc.
 - c. Environmental factors: weather conditions or darkness.
 - d. Area of pursuit is hostile to law enforcement personnel
- viii. Ability to apprehend the subject at a later time(i.e. identity is known)
- ix. Communications Issues:
 - a. Officer familiarity with location-able to identify subject's location with accuracy during pursuit.
 - b. Radio frequency and coverage- Is officer in area where radio coverage may fail?

C. Pursuing Officer Responsibilities:

- i. The decision to initiate or continue a foot pursuit requires weighing the need to apprehend the suspect against the degree of risk to which the officer, the suspect, and the community are exposed to as a result of the pursuit.
- ii. Once an officer decides to engage in a foot pursuit, the officer must immediately relay the following information to communications:
 - a. Officer identifier;
 - b. Location (continuing responsibility);
 - c. Direction of travel (continuing responsibility);
 - d. Description of suspect;
 - e. Whether suspect is armed;
 - f. Reason for foot pursuit; and
 - g. Coordinate with other officers to establish perimeter for containment.
- iii. The primary officer should maintain sufficient tactical gap between him/herself and the suspect to allow time for maintaining cover and allow for the arrival of backup officers before engagement.
- iv. An officer should not enter a building, structure, or area of limited or no cover without a backup officer present.

- v. An officer should not continue a foot pursuit if the officer has lost their firearm.
 - vi. Officers should note that residents might mistake pursuing officers as prowlers. To the extent possible, efforts should be made to notify area residents of the police presence.
- D. Supervisor's responsibility:** If a supervisor is on duty, the supervisor should:
- i. Monitor the pursuit and direct available resources to provide for the swift and safe apprehension of the suspect;
 - ii. Terminate any foot pursuit where the risk to the officer, the public, or the suspect outweighs the need for the foot pursuit; and
 - iii. Consider the use of specialized units/personnel to aid in the apprehension (i.e. canine, SWAT following containment, etc.). In the absence of a supervisor, this consideration should be undertaken by involved officers.
- E. Communications Responsibility**
- i. Maintain open communications with involved officer.
 - ii. Notify a supervisor and provide relevant information (without compromising ability of involved officer in communicating ongoing information).
- F. Termination of Foot Pursuits:** Officers shall terminate a foot pursuit:
- i. If ordered by a supervisor, or
 - ii. If the officer believes the danger to the pursuing officers, the public, or the suspect outweighs the necessity for the immediate apprehension of the suspect.
- G.** If the suspect's identity is known and he or she is not an imminent threat to the safety of the public or other officers, consider terminating the pursuit and apprehend later.
- H.** After termination of a foot pursuit, the involved officers will notify communications of the last known location of the suspect, or in cases of apprehension, the location of apprehension.