

Vehicle Pursuits

307.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Vehicle pursuits 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 deputies 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 minimize the potential for pursuit-related collisions. Vehicular pursuits require deputies to exhibit a high degree of common sense and sound judgment. Deputies must not forget that the immediate apprehension of a suspect is not more important than the safety of the public and pursuing deputies.

Deciding whether to pursue a motor vehicle is a critical decision that must be made quickly and under difficult and unpredictable circumstances. In recognizing the potential risk to public safety created by vehicular pursuits, no deputy or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a vehicular pursuit because of the risk involved. This includes circumstances where Sheriff's Office policy would permit the initiation or continuation of the pursuit. It is recognized that vehicular pursuit situations are not always predictable and decisions made pursuant to this policy will be evaluated according to the totality of the circumstances reasonably available at the time of the pursuit.

Deputies must remember that the most important factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment. Deputies' conduct during the course of a pursuit must be objectively reasonable; that is, what a reasonable deputy would do under the circumstances. An unreasonable individual's desire to apprehend a fleeing suspect at all costs has no place in professional law enforcement.

307.1.1 VEHICLE PURSUIT DEFINED

An active attempt by a peace officer in an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend an actual or suspected law violator, who is attempting to avoid apprehension through evasive tactics.

307.2 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the policy of the Sheriff's Office that a vehicle pursuit shall be conducted only with emergency lights and siren. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, exceed the maximum speed limits, and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions provided the driver slows as may be required and necessary for safe operation and does not endanger life or property (625 ILCS 5/11-205).

The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is not relieved from the duty of driving with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor do such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others (625 ILCS 5/11-205(e)).

Vehicle Pursuits

To reduce the likelihood of a pursuit occurring, a deputy intending to stop a vehicle for any violation of the law, should, whenever possible and without creating a threat to public safety or deputies, close the distance between the two vehicles. In situations where appropriate and prudent, awaiting the arrival of assisting officers, prior to activating emergency lights, an audible device, or otherwise signaling the suspect to stop may be warranted.

Upon approaching an intersection controlled by traffic signals or signs, or any other location at which there is an increased likelihood of a collision, the driver of any pursuit vehicle shall reduce the vehicle's speed so as to avoid a collision with another vehicle or pedestrian.

Deputies should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the way is clear before proceeding through an intersection or otherwise increasing speed. Pursuing deputies are expected to maintain complete control of their vehicles at all times. Throughout the course of a pursuit, pursuing deputies should not attempt to overtake, pull alongside, or pass the suspect's moving vehicle without the specific authorization of a supervisor, if feasible. Deputies are discouraged from passing other units involved in a pursuit unless the passing deputy receives specific permission from the Primary Unit.

307.2.1 WHEN TO INITIATE A PURSUIT

Deputies are authorized to initiate a pursuit when it is reasonable to believe that a suspect is attempting to evade arrest or detention by fleeing in a vehicle.

The following factors individually and collectively shall be considered in deciding whether to initiate a pursuit:

- (a) The seriousness of the known or reasonably suspected crime and its relationship to community safety.
- (b) 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 deputies, innocent motorists and others.
- (c) Apparent nature of the fleeing suspect(s) (e.g., whether the suspect(s) represent a serious threat to public safety).
- (d) The identity of the suspect(s) has been verified and there is a comparatively minimal risk in allowing the suspect(s) to be apprehended at a later time.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Pursuing deputy(s) familiarity with the area of the pursuit, the quality of radio communications between the pursuing units and the telecommunicator/supervisor and the driving capabilities of the pursuing deputies under the conditions of the pursuit.
- (g) Weather, traffic and road conditions that substantially increase the danger of the pursuit beyond the worth of apprehending the suspect.

Vehicle Pursuits

- (h) Performance capabilities of the vehicles used in the pursuit in relation to the speeds and other conditions of the pursuit.
- (i) Vehicle speeds.
- (j) Other persons in or on the pursued vehicle (e.g., passengers, co-offenders and hostages).
- (k) Availability of other resources such as helicopter assistance.
- (l) The sheriff's unit is carrying passengers other than sheriff's deputies. Pursuits should not be undertaken with a prisoner(s) in the sheriff's vehicle.

307.2.2 WHEN TO TERMINATE A PURSUIT

Pursuits should be discontinued whenever the totality of objective circumstances known or which reasonably ought to be known to the [officer_deputy] or supervisor during the pursuit indicates that the present risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect(s)' escape.

The factors listed in the previous subsection are expressly included herein and will apply equally to the decision to discontinue as well as the decision to initiate a pursuit. [Officers_Deputies] and supervisors must objectively and continuously weigh the seriousness of the offense against the potential danger to innocent motorists and themselves when electing to continue a pursuit. In the context of this policy, the term "terminate" shall be construed to mean discontinue or to stop chasing the fleeing vehicle(s), return to the posted speed limit, turn off emergency equipment (lights and siren), discontinue following the vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit.

In addition to the factors listed in the previous subsection the following factors should also be considered in deciding whether to terminate a pursuit:

- (a) The distance between the pursuing [officers_deputies] and the fleeing vehicle(s) is so great that further pursuit would be futile or require the pursuit to continue for an unreasonable time and/or distance.
- (b) Pursued vehicle's location is no longer definitely known.
- (c) [Officer_Deputy]'s pursuit vehicle sustains any type of damage that renders it unsafe to drive.
- (d) Extended pursuits of violators for misdemeanors not involving violence or risk of serious harm (independent of the pursuit) are discouraged.
- (e) Hazards to uninvolved bystanders or motorists.
- (f) 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, deputies should discontinue the pursuit and apprehend the offender at a later time.
- (g) Directed by a supervisor.

Vehicle Pursuits

307.2.3 SPEED LIMITS

The speed of a pursuit is a factor that should be evaluated on a continuing basis by the deputy and supervisor. Evaluation of vehicle speeds shall take into consideration public safety, officer safety and the safety of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle.

Should high vehicle speeds be reached during a pursuit, deputies and supervisors shall also consider these factors when determining the reasonableness of the speed of the pursuit:

- (a) Pursuit speeds have become unreasonably unsafe for the surrounding conditions.
- (b) Pursuit speeds have exceeded the driving ability of the deputy.
- (c) Pursuit speeds are beyond the capabilities of the pursuit vehicle thus making its operation unsafe.

307.3 PURSUIT UNITS

Pursuit units should be limited to two vehicles; however, the number of units involved will vary with the circumstances. A deputy or supervisor may request additional units to join a pursuit if, after assessing the factors outlined above, it appears that the number of deputies involved would be insufficient to safely arrest the suspect(s). All other deputies should stay out of the pursuit but should remain alert to its progress and location. Any deputy who drops out of a pursuit may then, if necessary, proceed to the termination point at legal speeds, following the appropriate rules of the road.

307.3.1 MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS

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

307.3.2 SEMI-MARKED AND UNMARKED VEHICLES

Semi-marked units may initiate a pursuit providing the proper justification exists, but will relinquish Primary Unit status immediately upon the participation of a marked police car. Upon relinquishing Primary Unit status, semi-marked units shall terminate active involvement in a pursuit unless they are needed to fulfill Secondary Unit responsibilities or are otherwise directed by a supervisor. A semi-marked police vehicle is not identifiably marked by a distinctive color scheme; red and/or blue lights may be mounted within the vehicle, equipped with siren, and could have partial sheriff's marking.

Unmarked or other Sheriff's Office vehicles, except for marked, semi-marked and motorcycle units, may not initiate a pursuit without the authorization of a supervisor unless there is an imminent threat to life or great bodily harm represented by the continued freedom of the suspect. An unmarked sheriff's vehicle has no distinctive identifiable marking but may have portable emergency warning lights.

307.3.3 PRIMARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

The decision to initiate and/or continue a pursuit requires weighing the public safety need to immediately apprehend the suspect against the degree of risk to which peace officers and others

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office LE Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

are exposed as the result of a pursuit. Deputies are reminded that they are under no legal obligation to initiate a pursuit and that in many circumstances the safety of the public will dictate that no pursuit be initiated, and/or it be discontinued.

Upon the initiation of a pursuit, the pursuing deputy shall immediately activate the vehicle's emergency warning lights, an audible device, and headlights if not already activated.

The Primary Unit will notify [comCenter] that a vehicle pursuit has been initiated and as soon as practicable provide information including, but not limited to:

- (a) Reason for the pursuit.
- (b) Location and direction of travel.
- (c) The speed of the fleeing vehicle.
- (d) Description of the fleeing vehicle and license number, if known.
- (e) The number of known occupants.
- (f) The identity or description of the known occupants.
- (g) Information concerning the use of firearms, the threat of force, injuries, hostages, or other unusual hazards.

Unless relieved by a supervisor or secondary unit, the deputy in the primary unit shall be responsible for the broadcasting of the progress of the pursuit. Unless practical circumstances indicate otherwise, and in order to concentrate on pursuit driving, the primary deputy should relinquish the responsibility of broadcasting the progress of the pursuit to a secondary unit or aircraft joining the pursuit.

307.3.4 SECONDARY UNIT(S) RESPONSIBILITIES

The second deputy in the pursuit is responsible for the following:

- (a) The deputy in the secondary unit should immediately notify the telecommunicator and supervisor, if feasible, of entry into the pursuit. Until such time that a supervisor assumes responsibility, only one Secondary Unit shall become involved in an ongoing pursuit.
- (b) Remain a safe distance behind the primary unit unless directed to assume the role of primary deputy, or if the primary unit is unable to continue the pursuit.
- (c) The secondary deputy should be responsible for broadcasting the progress of the pursuit unless the situation indicates otherwise.
- (d) Upon joining the pursuit or being assigned Secondary Unit responsibilities, the vehicle's emergency warning lights, an audible device, and headlights shall be activated.

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office LE Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (e) If so requested by the Primary Unit or if directed by a supervisor to do so, the Secondary Unit may assume Primary Unit responsibilities. Otherwise, the Secondary Unit may not attempt to overtake or pull alongside the Primary Unit.
- (f) Secondary Unit personnel are responsible for serving as a backup to the Primary Unit. As such, they will respond to directions from the Primary Unit personnel unless otherwise directed by a supervisor or circumstances do not allow.

307.3.5 PURSUIT DRIVING TACTICS

The decision to use specific driving tactics requires the same assessment of considerations outlined in the factors to be considered concerning pursuit initiation and termination. The following are tactics for units involved in the pursuit:

- (a) Deputies, considering their driving skills and vehicle performance capabilities, will space themselves from other involved vehicles so they are able to see and avoid hazards or react safely to maneuvers by the fleeing vehicle.
- (b) Because intersections can present increased risks, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Available units not directly involved in the pursuit may proceed safely to controlled intersections ahead of the pursuit in an effort to warn cross traffic.
 - 2. Pursuing units should exercise due caution when proceeding through controlled intersections.
- (c) Sheriff's deputies involved in a pursuit shall not proceed in a direction opposite to the flow of traffic on a divided highway without the specific authorization of a supervisor, if feasible. In the event the pursued vehicle does so, the following tactics should be considered:
 - 1. Requesting assistance from an air unit.
 - 2. Maintaining visual contact with the pursued vehicle by paralleling it on the correct side of the roadway.
 - 3. Requesting other units to observe exits available to the suspect(s).
- (d) Notifying the Illinois State Police and/or other agency if it appears that the pursuit may enter their jurisdiction.
- (e) Deputies involved in a pursuit should not attempt to pass other units unless the situation indicates otherwise or they are requested to do so by the primary unit.

307.3.6 TACTICS/PROCEDURES FOR UNITS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PURSUIT

There should be no paralleling of the pursuit route above the posted speed limit. Deputies are authorized to use emergency equipment at intersections along the pursuit path to clear intersections of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to protect the public. Deputies should remain in

Vehicle Pursuits

their assigned area and should not become involved with the pursuit unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

Non-pursuing personnel needed at the termination of the pursuit should respond in a non-emergency manner, observing the rules of the road.

The primary and secondary units should be the only units operating under emergency conditions (red light and siren) unless other units are assigned to the pursuit.

307.3.7 PURSUIT TRAILING

In the event, the initiating unit from this agency either relinquishes control of the pursuit to another unit or jurisdiction, that initiating unit may, with permission of a supervisor, trail the pursuit to the termination point in order to provide necessary information and assistance for the arrest of the suspect(s).

The term trail means to follow the path of the pursuit at a speed at or below the posted speed limit while obeying all traffic laws and without activating emergency equipment. If the pursuit is at a slow rate of speed, the trailing unit will maintain sufficient distance from the pursuit units so as to clearly indicate an absence of participation in the pursuit.

307.3.8 AIRCRAFT ASSISTANCE

When available, aircraft assistance should be requested. Once the air unit has established visual contact with the pursued vehicle, it should assume control over the pursuit. The primary and secondary ground units should consider the participation of aircraft assistance when determining whether to continue the pursuit.

The air unit should coordinate the activities of resources on the ground, report progress of the pursuit and provide deputies and supervisors with details of upcoming traffic congestion, road hazards, or other pertinent information to evaluate whether or not to continue the pursuit. If ground units are not within visual contact and the air unit determines that it is unsafe to continue the pursuit, the air unit has the authority to terminate the pursuit.

307.4 SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY

It is the policy of the Sheriff's Office that available supervisory and management control will be exercised over every vehicle pursuit involving deputies from the Sheriff's Office.

The field supervisor of the deputy initiating the pursuit, or if unavailable, the nearest field supervisor will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Upon notification that a pursuit is in progress, the supervisor shall assume responsibility for the monitoring and control of the pursuit as it progresses.
- (b) The supervisor shall immediately determine whether the pursuit was initiated in accordance with the provisions of this guideline and shall permit the pursuit to be continued only if said guideline has been fully complied with to the best of the supervisor's knowledge.

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office LE Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (c) Upon being notified of a pursuit, the supervisor shall verify the following:
 - 1. That no more than the required or necessary number of units are involved in the pursuit.
 - 2. That the proper radio frequency is being used.
 - 3. That other agencies are notified as necessary and appropriate.
- (d) The supervisor shall continuously review the incoming information to determine whether the pursuit should be continued or terminated.
- (e) The supervisor shall order a pursuit terminated after concluding danger to the pursuing peace officers or the public outweighs the need for the immediate apprehension of the suspect.
- (f) The supervisor should order a pursuit terminated if the suspect's identity is established to the point where later apprehension is likely and there is no immediate threat to public safety.
- (g) The supervisor should order a pursuit terminated whenever the weather, road, or traffic conditions substantially increase the danger to the public posed by the pursuit beyond the need for immediate apprehension.
- (h) The supervisor should order a pursuit terminated whenever the distance between the pursuing and fleeing vehicles is so great that further pursuit is futile.
- (i) In controlling the pursuit, the supervisor shall be responsible for the coordination of the pursuit as follows:
 - 1. Directing pursuit or support units into or out of the pursuit.
 - 2. The assignment of a Secondary Unit to the pursuit.
 - 3. The re-designation of Primary, Secondary, or other support units as necessary.
 - 4. The approval, disapproval, and coordination of pursuit tactics.
 - 5. The approval or disapproval to cross jurisdictional boundaries in the continuation of the pursuit.
 - 6. Ensure compliance with inter-jurisdictional pursuit agreements.
- (j) The supervisor may approve and assign additional backup or support units to assist the Primary and Secondary Units based upon their analysis of:
 - 1. The nature of the offense for which the pursuit was initiated.
 - 2. The number of suspects and any known propensity for violence.
 - 3. The number of peace officers in the pursuit vehicles.
 - 4. Any damage or injuries to the assigned Primary or Secondary Units or peace officers.
 - 5. The number of peace officers necessary to safely make an arrest at the conclusion of the pursuit.

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office LE Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

6. Any other clear and articulable facts that would justify the increased hazards caused by adding more than the Primary and Secondary Units to a pursuit.
- (k) When the pursuit is terminated, the supervisor shall require that all participating agencies are notified, and identify an on-scene supervisor or designee to monitor the arrest and transportation procedures.
- (l) The supervisor shall require throughout the duration of the pursuit that this guideline is followed by all peace officers.

307.4.1 SHIFT SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITY

Upon becoming aware that a pursuit has been initiated, the Shift Sergeant should monitor and continually assess the situation and ensure the pursuit is conducted within the guidelines and requirements of this policy. The Shift Sergeant has the final responsibility for the coordination, control, and termination of a vehicle pursuit and shall be in overall command.

The Shift Sergeant shall review all pertinent reports for content and forward to the Patrol Lieutenant.

307.5 COMMUNICATIONS

If the pursuit is confined within the County limits, radio communications will be conducted on the primary channel unless instructed otherwise by a supervisor or telecommunicator. If the pursuit leaves the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office or such is imminent, involved units should, whenever available, switch radio communications to an emergency channel most accessible by participating agencies and units.

307.5.1 COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Upon notification that a pursuit has been initiated, Communications will:
 1. Give priority to the Primary Unit.
 2. Notify other units of pursuit, including location, the direction of travel, and vehicle description.
 3. Keep the channel clear.
 4. Notify the Patrol Lieutenant and/or patrol supervisor if feasible.
 5. Receive and record all incoming information on the pursuit.
 6. Keep the Patrol Lieutenant and/or the patrol supervisor apprised of the progress of pursuit.
 7. Request status when the pursuing peace officer fails to make frequent contact.
 8. Notify neighboring jurisdictions of the pursuit approaching their boundaries.
 9. Perform relevant records and motor vehicle checks.
 10. Coordinate and dispatch backup assistance and air support units under the direction of the supervisor.
- (b) Radio frequency management:

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office LE Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

1. Pursuit communication will be handled on the frequency designated by the pursuing agency unless one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - (a) The pursuit has or may extend into other jurisdictions.
 - (b) The supervisor directs a switch to ISPERN.
2. Upon using the ISPERN frequency, the Primary Unit shall conform to ISPERN guidelines.

307.5.2 LOSS OF PURSUED VEHICLE

When the pursued vehicle is lost, the primary unit should broadcast pertinent information to assist other units in locating the suspect(s). The primary unit will be responsible for coordinating any further search for either the pursued vehicle or suspects fleeing on foot.

307.6 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS

Deputies involved in inter-jurisdictional pursuits are required to comply with the Sheriff's Office guidelines and inter-jurisdictional agreements. Only pursuit tactics permitted by this policy may be utilized by DeKalb County Sheriff's Office deputies, irrespective of what is requested by the other agency.

When a pursuit enters another agency's jurisdiction:

- (a) The primary unit will advise Communications Division that the pursuit is leaving this jurisdiction.
- (b) The controlling supervisor will decide whether to continue the pursuit based upon the totality of circumstances known.
- (c) As soon as practicable Communications Division will notify the involved jurisdiction.
- (d) If two units from the other agency are actively involved in the pursuit, DeKalb County deputies will not engage in the pursuit unless directed to do so by a supervisor.

307.6.1 ASSUMPTION OF PURSUIT BY ANOTHER AGENCY

Units originally involved will discontinue the pursuit when advised that another agency has assumed the pursuit and assistance of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office 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.

The role and responsibilities of deputies at the termination of a pursuit initiated by the Sheriff's Office shall be coordinated with appropriate consideration of the units from the agency assuming the pursuit.

Notification of a pursuit in progress should not be construed as a request to join the pursuit. Requests to or from another agency to assume a pursuit should be specific. Because of communication limitations between local agencies and ISP units, a request for ISP assistance will mean that they will assume responsibilities for the pursuit. For the same reasons, a request for assistance from the ISP should include confirmation that the ISP will relinquish control.

Vehicle Pursuits

307.6.2 PURSUITS EXTENDING INTO THIS JURISDICTION

The agency that initiates a pursuit shall be responsible for conducting the pursuit. Units from the Sheriff's Office should not join a pursuit unless specifically requested to do so by the agency whose peace officers are in pursuit. The exception to this is when a single unit from the initiating agency is in pursuit. Under this circumstance, a unit from the Sheriff's Office may join the pursuit until sufficient units from the initiating agency join the pursuit.

When a request is made for the Sheriff's Office to assist or take over a pursuit from another agency that has entered this jurisdiction, the supervisor should consider these additional following factors:

- (a) Ability to maintain the pursuit.
- (b) Circumstances serious enough to continue the pursuit.
- (c) Adequate staffing to continue the pursuit.
- (d) The public's safety within this jurisdiction.
- (e) Safety of pursuing peace officers.

As soon as practical, a supervisor or the Patrol Lieutenant should review a request for assistance from another agency. The Patrol Lieutenant or supervisor, after consideration of the above factors, may decline to assist in or assume the other agency's pursuit.

Assistance to a pursuing allied agency by deputies of the Sheriff's Office will terminate at the County limits provided that the pursuing peace officers have sufficient assistance from other sources. Ongoing participation from this department may continue only until sufficient assistance is present.

In the event that a pursuit from another agency terminates within this jurisdiction, deputies shall provide appropriate assistance to peace officers from the allied agency including, but not limited to, scene control, coordination, and completion of supplemental reports and any other assistance requested or needed.

307.7 PURSUIT INTERVENTION

Pursuit intervention is an attempt to terminate the ability of a suspect to continue to flee in a motor vehicle through the tactical application of technology, road spikes, blocking, boxing, PIT (Police Immobilization Technique), ramming, heading off, or roadblock procedures.

307.7.1 WHEN USE AUTHORIZED

Use of pursuit intervention tactics should be employed only after the approval of a supervisor. In deciding whether to use intervention tactics, deputies/supervisors should balance the risks of allowing the pursuit to continue with the potential hazards arising from the use of each tactic to the public, the deputies and persons in or on the pursued vehicle. With these risks in mind, the decision

Vehicle Pursuits

to use any intervention tactic should be reasonable in light of the circumstances confronting the deputy at the time of the decision.

It is imperative that deputies act within the bounds of legality, good judgment, and accepted practices.

307.7.2 DEFINITIONS

Boxing-in/Rolling Roadblock - The surrounding of a suspect's moving vehicle with moving pursuit vehicles which are then slowed to a stop along with the suspect's vehicle. Boxing in/rolling roadblocks are mobile stop techniques.

Heading Off - An attempt to terminate a pursuit by pulling ahead of, behind or toward a suspect's moving vehicle to force it to the side of the road or to otherwise come to a stop. Heading off is a forcible stop technique.

Roadblocks - A restriction or obstruction used or intended for the purpose of preventing the free passage of motor vehicles on a roadway in order to effect the apprehension of a suspect. This includes placement of vehicles as well as the use of devices to disable a vehicle. A roadblock is a stationary stop technique.

Spikes or Tack Strips - Spike Strips Ramming A device that extends across the roadway designed to puncture the tires of the pursued vehicle, Stop Sticks do not require authorization from a supervisor.

Vehicle Contact Action (Ramming, Police Immobilization Technique (PIT)) -

Any action undertaken by the pursuing officer intended to result in contact between the moving police vehicle and the pursued vehicle. Vehicle contact actions are forcible stop techniques.

307.7.3 USE OF FIREARMS/VEHICLE CONTACT ACTION

Deputies involved in a pursuit shall not discharge any firearm from or at a moving vehicle, nor engage in any vehicle contact action except as a last resort in which it reasonably appears necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury to a peace officer or another person where deadly force would otherwise be legally justified. Where feasible, a deputy should obtain authorization from a supervisor before discharging a weapon from or at a moving vehicle.

307.7.4 INTERVENTION STANDARDS

Any pursuit intervention tactic, depending upon the conditions and circumstances under which it is used, may present dangers to peace officers, the public, or anyone in or on the vehicle being pursued. Certain applications of intervention tactics may be construed to be a use of deadly force and subject to the requirements for such use. Deputies who have not received certified Sheriff's Office training in the application and use of any intervention tactic or equipment shall consider these facts and requirements prior to deciding how, when, where, and if an intervention tactic should be employed.

Vehicle Pursuits

Those tactics which reasonably may be construed to be a use of deadly force should be employed only as a last resort in which it reasonably appears necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury to a peace officer or another person where deadly force would otherwise be legally justified. Where feasible, a deputy should obtain authorization from a supervisor before applying any tactic which may be reasonably foreseen to be a use of deadly force.

Intervention tactic application circumstances include:

- (a) Deputies may use stationary stop techniques, (Stop Sticks) to terminate any pursuit so long as the technique is employed in a fashion that is not reasonably calculated to cause death or great bodily harm to persons in the pursued vehicle or others in the vicinity (e.g. the pursued vehicle has sufficient time and distance to stop before reaching the roadblock or the technology employed is designed to disable the vehicle without the loss of control). Absent exigent circumstances, such techniques should not be employed by deputies that have not been trained in the application of the selected technique.
- (b) Deputies may use mobile stop techniques to terminate any pursuit so long as the technique is employed in a fashion that is not reasonably calculated to cause death or great bodily harm to persons in the pursued vehicle or others in the vicinity. Where feasible, a deputy should obtain authorization from a supervisor before implementing mobile stop techniques. Absent exigent circumstances, such techniques should not be employed by deputies that have not been trained in the application of the selected technique.
- (c) The use of forcible stop techniques is permitted only when there is legal justification for the use of deadly force. Where feasible, a deputy should obtain authorization from a supervisor before implementing forcible stop techniques. Absent exigent circumstances, such techniques should not be employed by deputies that have not been trained in the application of the selected technique.

307.7.5 CAPTURE OF SUSPECTS

Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Deputies shall use only that amount of force, which reasonably appears necessary under the circumstances, to properly perform their lawful duties.

Unless relieved by a supervisor the primary [officer_deputy] should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect(s) following the pursuit. Deputies should consider the safety of the public and the involved deputies when formulating plans to contain and capture the suspect.

307.8 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Deputies shall complete an appropriate report of the pursuit incident and assign a police report number to each pursuit incident. If involved in an inter-jurisdictional pursuit, obtain an Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (ISPERN) number in addition to their own police report number. This report shall be marked Code "A".

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office LE Policy Manual

Vehicle Pursuits

- (a) Pursuit incidents will be investigated thoroughly. The acquisition of statements, photographs, drawings, preliminary medical reports and any other evidentiary items that are or could be relevant to the conduct of the pursuit incident should be completed.
- (b) A police report shall be completed stating the facts of the pursuit to his/her supervisor. This report should minimally contain the following information:
 - 1. Date and time of the pursuit.
 - 2. Length of pursuit.
 - 3. Involved units and deputies.
 - 4. The initial reason for pursuit.
 - 5. Starting and termination points.
 - 6. Disposition: arrest, citation, etc. Arrestee information should be provided if applicable.
 - 7. Injuries and/or property damage.
 - 8. Medical treatment.
 - 9. Name of the supervisor at the scene.
- (c) The police report shall be completed and submitted through the chain of command for internal evaluation and review to determine:
 - 1. Guideline compliance.
 - 2. Operational needs.
 - 3. Future training needs.
- (d) The "Pursuit Driving Report" will be submitted to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, 600 South Second Street, Suite 300, Springfield, Illinois 62704, by each agency involved in a pursuit.

307.8.1 REGULAR AND PERIODIC PURSUIT TRAINING

The Patrol Division and Investigation Division of the Sheriff's Office will participate no less than annually in regular and periodic Sheriff's Office training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public at all times, including a recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to deputies and others.

307.8.2 POLICY REVIEW

All Patrol Division and Investigation Division deputies shall certify in writing that they have received, read and understand this policy initially and upon any amendments.

307.9 APPLICATION OF VEHICLE PURSUIT POLICY

This policy has been created with input from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board; Police Pursuit Guidelines (revised March, 2004), in accordance with 50 ILCS 705/7.5.