

Louisville Metro Police Department

Standard Operating Procedures	SOP Number: 12.1
	Effective Date: 05/16/03 Prv. Rev. Date: 09/05/20 Revised Date: 12/19/22
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 21.2
Chapter: Special Response	
Subject: Pursuits	

12.1.7 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES (CONTINUED)

- Sufficient information has been provided by the pursuing officer for the supervisor to evaluate the necessity of a pursuit.
- Only the required or necessary units are involved in the pursuit.
- Aerial support, if available, has been requested.
- The proper radio frequency is being utilized. The radio channel where the pursuit was initiated is the frequency utilized for the entire pursuit. All assisting units will change to the assigned channel. Specialty units (e.g. Criminal Interdiction Division, Canine Unit, Traffic Unit, etc.) will also change to a primary channel (LMPD 1 – 4).
- Affected allied agencies are being notified.

The supervisor in charge will continuously evaluate the updated information to determine if the pursuit should be continued or terminated and will be held accountable for his/her decision. In controlling the pursuit, the supervisor in charge is responsible for:

- Approving or terminating a pursuit (KACP 21.2g).
- Directing pursuit vehicles or air support into, or out of, the pursuit.
- Redesignating primary, secondary, or other unit responsibilities.
- Coordinating pursuit tactics.
- Granting or denying permission for the pursuit to continue outside of the LMPD's jurisdiction (KACP 21.2h).

The supervisor may also approve support units to assist the primary and secondary pursuit units based upon an analysis of the following criteria:

- The nature of the offense for which the pursuit was initiated
- The number of suspects in the vehicle and/or any known propensity for violence
- Weapon involvement
- The number of pursuit vehicles
- Any damage or injuries to the primary and secondary unit or officers
- The number of officers needed to make an arrest at the conclusion of the pursuit
- Any other clear and articulable facts that would warrant the increased hazards caused by numerous pursuit vehicles

The supervisor in charge of the pursuit will continue to direct the pursuit, approve or order alternative tactics, and maintain control until the pursuit is terminated. A higher ranking commanding officer may assume responsibility for, and direct, the pursuit.

12.1.8 TACTICS (KACP 21.2f)

Disabling Devices: Disabling devices should be deployed, whenever possible, to immobilize a pursued vehicle. However, they will not be used if the pursued vehicle is a two-wheeled vehicle.

Emergency Equipment: Officers will utilize all emergency equipment in continuous operation during a pursuit.

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12.1.8 TACTICS (CONTINUED)

Offensive Tactics: In the course of a pursuit, deliberate contact to forcibly stop a fleeing vehicle is permitted only if the use of deadly force would be justified under the circumstances and the action does not create a substantial risk of serious physical injury or death to uninvolved persons.

Passing: There should be no attempt by officers to pass other units involved in the pursuit unless the passing officer receives specific permission from the primary unit or the field supervisor.

Physical or Deadly Force: Pursuit tactics involving the use of physical or deadly force are guided by KRS and departmental policy.

Roadblocks: A roadblock is a barricade or other obstruction (e.g. vehicle, signs, devices, etc.) used to disrupt the flow of traffic in an attempt to stop, or prevent the escape of, a fleeing vehicle. Roadblocks will only be utilized as a last resort and may not be utilized without the approval of a supervisor. The use of roadblocks must be weighed against the potential risk presented by continuing the pursuit. Roadblocks will be established with due regard for everyone, whether directly or indirectly involved in the pursuit, including, but not limited to, officers, civilians, and suspects.

Roadblocks will only be used in areas with sufficient visibility in order for the pursuing vehicles and the offender's vehicle to safely stop. Under no circumstances are roadblocks to be established in blind areas, such as curves or expressway ramps (KACP 21.2i).

Shooting at, or from, a Moving Vehicle: Officers will not discharge their firearms either at, or from, a moving vehicle unless deadly force is being used against the officer or another person. The use of a vehicle by a civilian will not be considered deadly force unless there is gunfire or it is reasonable to believe the vehicle is intentionally being used to strike a person, a crowd, another occupied vehicle, or a building or structure when capable of causing mass injuries, serious physical injuries, or the death of another person (LMCO 36.04). Officers should avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used as a weapon against them. Officers that must challenge an operator of a moving vehicle will do so from the safest location possible.

12.1.9 TERMINATION (KACP 21.2g)

Pursuits will be terminated when the risks created by continuing the pursuit outweigh the need for an immediate apprehension.

An officer's decision to terminate a pursuit for safety reasons is not subject to criticism or review.

Pursuits will be terminated immediately when any of the following occur:

- A supervisor in charge of the pursuit, or a higher-ranking officer, issues an order of termination;
- The officer loses visual contact and the likelihood for apprehension is decreased;
- The officer's emergency lights and/or siren malfunction during the pursuit;
- The officer doesn't believe that it is safe to continue the pursuit; or
- The officer is out of radio range or loses contact with MetroSafe.