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 officers with guidance in balancing the safety of the public and themselves against law enforcement's duty to apprehend violators of the law. Vehicle pursuits require officers to exhibit a high degree of common sense and sound judgment. Officers must not forget that the immediate apprehension of a suspect is generally not more important than the safety of the public and pursuing officers (CRS § 42-4-108).

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 risk to public safety created by vehicle pursuits, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for deciding not to engage in a vehicle pursuit due to the risk involved. This includes circumstances where Department policy would permit the initiation or continuation of the pursuit. It is recognized that vehicle pursuits 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.

Officers must remember that the most important factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment. An officer’s conduct during the course of a pursuit must be objectively reasonable; that is, what a reasonable officer would do under the circumstances.

253.02 DEFINITIONS

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (GJRC) – Communications Center shall mean that component of the primary jurisdiction responsible for broadcasting messages to law enforcement vehicles on police frequencies, for receiving such messages from police vehicles, and for monitoring messages between police vehicles; the Communications Center commonly called "dispatch."

OFFICER – Officer shall mean any commissioned peace officer, recruit, or sworn employee in the state of Colorado, regardless of specific title, e.g., sheriff, deputy, etc., as defined in C.R.S. 16-2.5-101.
ORIGINATING JURISDICTION - Originating jurisdiction shall mean the jurisdiction within which a pursuit originates.

PRIMARY JURISDICTION - Primary jurisdiction shall mean the jurisdiction of the officer driving the primary vehicle.

PRIMARY VEHICLE - Primary vehicle shall mean the police vehicle driven by the officer initiating a pursuit or another police vehicle that takes the lead vehicle position.

PURSUIT - Pursuit shall mean an active attempt by an officer (operating a Department vehicle) to apprehend an operator of a motor vehicle who, fails to obey such direction and either increases the vehicle's speed, extinguishes the vehicle's lights, or makes other overt action designed to avoid apprehension.

PURSUIT IMMOBILIZATION TECHNIQUE (PIT)
A specific maneuver deployed in an attempt to stop a suspect’s vehicle from eluding an officer. Certain applications of this technique may be construed to be a use of force, including deadly force, and are subject to Department policies guiding such use. This maneuver may only be deployed by a Grand Junction Police officer who has been properly certified in the procedure.

RAMMING - The deliberate act of impacting a suspect's vehicle with another vehicle in an attempt to force the suspect's vehicle to stop. This is not a PIT, vehicle pin, or VCT pin. This maneuver is used only with supervisory approval.

RECEIVING JURISDICTION - Receiving jurisdiction shall mean a jurisdiction which is entered by a pursuit, which began in another jurisdiction.

ROADBLOCK - A restriction or obstruction used or intended for the purpose of preventing free passage of the suspect's motor vehicle in order to affect his apprehension. This maneuver is used only with supervisory approval.

SECONDARY VEHICLE - Secondary vehicle shall mean a police vehicle that becomes involved in a pursuit immediately following the primary vehicle and acting as the primary vehicle’s backup.

SUPERVISOR - Supervisor shall mean a commissioned Peace Officer of the rank of Corporal or above.

TERMINATE - A pursuit is terminated when the emergency equipment on all of the police vehicle(s) involved in the pursuit has been deactivated and the speed of said police vehicle(s)
has been reduced to the speed limit and all traffic laws are followed.

**TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE (Stop Stick)** – Tire deflation devices shall not be used by the Grand Junction Police Department.

**VEHICLE PIN-VCT PIN (Vehicle Containment Technique)**
The act of positioning police vehicles to make direct contact against a suspect vehicle. This is generally done at slower speeds or on a stationary vehicle and should be used to prevent a suspect vehicle from fleeing.

**253.03 GENERAL PROCEDURES**

**ENGAGING IN PURSUIT** – A police officer may only initiate or engage in a pursuit when the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe that the fleeing suspect, other than by the act of fleeing:

- has committed, has attempted to commit, or is about to commit a felony crime involving violence and/or a weapon, for which alternative methods of apprehension seem unlikely; or

- has committed, has attempted to commit, or is about to commit a crime for which the failure to pursue would increase the risk of danger to the public.

**CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES** - Officers, whenever possible, shall consider alternative methods of apprehending suspects when it is likely that a vehicle pursuit will occur. The decision to pursue is not irreversible and officers shall continually evaluate whether the risk of danger to the officer and the public resulting from the continuation of the pursuit is greater than the risk of injury to any person that may result from the complete escape of the suspect. In determining whether to initiate or continue a pursuit, police officers and supervisors should consider, the following factors:

- seriousness of the original crime

- degree of risk created by pursuit if the suspect is not immediately apprehended

- volume, type, speed, and direction of vehicular traffic, and direction of pursuit

- nature of the area such as residential, commercial, school zone, or open highway
• population density and volume of pedestrian traffic

• environmental factors such as weather and time of day; and road conditions such as construction, poor repair, extreme curves, and ice

POST-TERMINATION INVESTIGATION - Nothing in this Directive shall preclude or limit an officer from conducting a post-termination investigation with the approval and coordination by a Supervisor.

COMPLIANCE WITH C.R.S. - Officers will comply with C.R.S. 42-4-108 pertaining to the operation of authorized emergency vehicles.

LIGHTS AND SIREN ACTIVATED - Grand Junction Police officers shall use both emergency lights and siren when involved in vehicle pursuits. Whenever two officers are in one vehicle, the driver shall be responsible for the operation of the vehicle and all emergency equipment in the vehicle. The second officer shall maintain communications with the Communications Center and any supervisor.

When officers initiate a pursuit, they shall use visible and audible warning devices (lights and siren) and shall notify the Communications Center of relevant facts about the pursuit such as:

• location
• direction of travel
• description of vehicle
• number of occupants
• reason for pursuit
• speed

Normally, only three marked police vehicles shall be directly involved in a pursuit. Directly involved, as used here, means following behind the pursued vehicle in close proximity.

• When the back-up officer engages the pursuit, he/she shall activate all emergency equipment, advise the Communications Center that three units are involved, and call out the route of the pursuit.

• All other units shall stay clear of the pursuit remaining
VEHICLE - PURSUIT

alert to its progress and location in the event they are needed to assist with traffic direction, accident investigation, foot pursuit, perimeter, security, etc.

- The officer initiating the pursuit and the back-up unit may pursue the suspect vehicle outside of the City of Grand Junction, unless otherwise directed by a sworn supervisor.

- Communications Center personnel shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when the direction of travel indicates the pursuit is leaving the City of Grand Junction.

- Paralleling of the pursuit is only allowed with supervisor approval.

Any supervisor or, in his/her absence, the officer initiating the pursuit may request additional units to participate in the pursuit if it appears that marked units are not sufficient to safely apprehend the suspect(s).

MARKED POLICE UNITS - A fully marked patrol vehicle is the most suitable vehicle to conduct a pursuit. If an unmarked vehicle or special purpose vehicle is used, it should be used only until relieved by a marked vehicle. Pursuits by unmarked vehicles shall be terminated:

- if in the judgment of officer(s) involved the risks to themselves or to others outweigh the benefits of apprehension

- unmarked police vehicles not fitted with emergency equipment (lights and siren) shall not be used in pursuits or for making routine traffic stops.

During a pursuit, a supervisor(s) shall actively monitor the progress of the pursuit, continually assess the risks and hazards involved in allowing the pursuit to continue and determine whether to allow the pursuit to continue or order it terminated at any time.

Supervisor(s) shall order a pursuit terminated at any time if it is concluded that the danger to the pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the suspect.

A Patrol Sergeant or other sworn supervisor shall respond to the location of the termination or discontinuation of all Grand
253.05 Dispatch Responsibilities

When an officer initiates a pursuit, the dispatcher shall implement “Code1 air” and immediately notify a patrol supervisor.

If the pursuing officer(s) advises of a license plate number on the suspect vehicle, a check for wants and registration shall be immediately completed.

The dispatcher shall document the progress of the pursuit and record all traffic violations, the location(s), and the time(s) that they occur.

253.06 Methods of Stopping Pursued Vehicles

RAMMING - Except under extraordinary circumstances, with supervisor approval, Grand Junction Police officers shall not attempt to deliberately ram a suspect vehicle. This does not include PIT, Vehicle pin, or the VCT Pin.

ROADBLOCKS - The use of roadblocks to apprehend a pursued vehicle must be in compliance with this Directive and may be deployed only with supervisor approval.

• Department personnel shall only use roadblocks to
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apprehend an extremely dangerous felon(s) who, if allowed to escape, could create a substantial risk of another person being killed or seriously injured. The authority to initiate and cancel a roadblock shall lie with a sworn supervisor.

- At least one marked vehicle shall be on the scene of a roadblock. Only personnel trained in roadblock techniques are authorized to deploy the roadblock.

PURSUIT IMMOBILIZATION TECHNIQUE (PIT) - is an acceptable method of terminating an authorized vehicle pursuit. Officers must be trained in the Pursuit Immobilization Technique by this Department before use is authorized. Officers may only perform the PIT when driving properly equipped police vehicles.

Officers are only allowed to use the Pursuit Immobilization Technique when they are involved in an authorized pursuit that has been acknowledged by a supervisor, the officer deems it is safe to do so, and its use conforms to training. Photos shall be taken of any GJPD police vehicles that either attempted or completed a PIT on a suspect vehicle. If the suspect vehicle is on scene, pictures of it shall be taken as well. These photos shall be booked into evidence to be a part of the criminal case.

VEHICLE PIN - Under certain circumstances it may be in the best interest of the GJPD and the public to immobilize or “pin,” a vehicle to prevent the driver or occupants from driving away.

In these situations, the use of the “pin,” technique may provide the officers with a reasonably safe means of preventing a potential pursuit. The use of these techniques has the potential to place officers in a dangerous position. Therefore, these techniques should only be used when other alternatives seem ineffective or unlikely to work. Whenever possible a supervisor should be consulted before these methods are attempted.

SUPERVISOR NOTIFICATION - Whenever a pursuit approaches the Department’s jurisdiction the Communications Center shall, as soon as practicable, notify the GJPD Supervisor of the existence of the pursuit, the reason for the pursuit and shall keep the GJPD supervisor apprised of the status of the pursuit. When a pursuit is discontinued or reaches termination, all units shall be so advised immediately. A GJPD supervisor shall respond to the scene of termination or discontinuation of any pursuit within the City of Grand Junction.
PURSUITS BY OTHER AGENCIES ENTERING THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION - Two marked police unit(s) from the Grand Junction Police Department may become directly involved in the pursuit upon approval by a GJPD supervisor.

Such supervisory approval may only be given upon ascertaining that the originating jurisdiction's reason for engaging in the pursuit follows Grand Junction pursuit procedures as set forth in this Directive. Units may be assigned for traffic control and similar tasks.

Communications Center staff or the GJPD assist unit(s) shall advise the reason for the pursuit. The GJPD assist unit(s) shall immediately advise the Communications Center of the following information:

- number of police units involved, if known
- location and direction of travel
- description of suspect vehicle
- number of suspects and description
- speed, if known

Based upon the available information, a supervisor shall determine if additional units are required or if the Grand Junction unit(s) should abandon the pursuit. If the pursuit leaves the City of Grand Junction and more than one police unit from another jurisdiction is involved, the Grand Junction unit shall abandon the pursuit, unless otherwise directed by a sworn supervisor.

LIMITED INVOLVEMENT - GJPD Officers will not become involved in a pursuit originating in another jurisdiction if the pursuit does not meet the standard of this policy. A GJPD supervisor may assign officers to assist with traffic control, to render assistance at the termination or discontinuation point, or to monitor the progress of the pursuit. Such officers shall not be considered to be directly involved in the pursuit. The overall command of a pursuit shall rest with the primary jurisdiction.

Upon the request of the primary jurisdiction, or in the event of exigent circumstances, a GJPD supervisor may authorize the use of GJPD approved stopping tactics provided the pursuit meets GJPD policy for initiating a pursuit.
Any foot pursuits, perimeter control and investigation of crimes committed during or at the termination of the pursuit will be the responsibility of the jurisdiction in which it occurs.

The originating jurisdiction shall be responsible for processing the arrest of any suspect(s) and for coordinating the investigation of the original violation. Nothing herein shall preclude the investigation of any accident, criminal act, or other incident that occurred during the course of the pursuit by any jurisdiction in which such an incident occurred. Grand Junction Police personnel participating in an inter-jurisdictional pursuit remain under the direct supervision of Grand Junction Police supervisors.