

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Partners with the Community

5/212.05 FOOT PURSUITS

It is the policy of this Department that officers may engage subjects in a foot pursuit if certain factors are present that warrant the apprehension of a subject attempting to flee. Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous and require good judgment, sound tactics, and heightened safety awareness. The purpose of a foot pursuit is to apprehend a subject who refuses to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful order to stop fleeing.

DEFINITIONS

foot pursuit	An incident where an officer chases, on foot, a subject who is attempting to avoid being taken into custody.
apprehension	The pursuit of subject(s) wherein the intent of the pursuing officer(s) is to take the subject(s) into custody as quickly as possible.
containment	The isolation of a subject within a confined/controlled area, large or small, with the intent of preventing the subject's escape.

DECISION TO PURSUE

The safety of Department personnel and the public shall be the primary consideration when determining whether a foot pursuit will be initiated or continued. Officers deciding whether to initiate a foot pursuit or implement containment procedures will act reasonably and must take into consideration the reason for the foot pursuit as well as the severity of the crime.

Officers may initiate foot pursuits of any individual(s) the officer reasonably believes is engaged in criminal activity. Deciding to initiate a foot pursuit is a judgment an officer must make quickly and under dynamic circumstances.

When deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, officers should consider other possible, reasonable alternatives such as pursue to apprehend vs. pursue to contain. The decision to continue a foot pursuit must be constantly evaluated based upon the availability of other resources which would allow for:

1. Containment of the area with available personnel;
2. Canine search; and/or
3. Air Support.

OFFICER SAFETY CONCERNS

The following officer safety issues should be considered:

1. The potential for violence to officer(s) or citizens.
2. The officer is acting alone.
3. The subject is known or believed to be armed.
4. The officer becomes unsure of his/her location and direction of travel.
5. Radio contact is lost with Dispatch or backup officers.
6. The officer loses possession of his/her firearm, radio, or other essential equipment.
7. The subject enters a building, structure, confined space, or otherwise isolated area.
8. The officer becomes aware of unanticipated circumstances that increase the risk to officers or the public (i.e., baiting to ambush).
9. An officer pursuing multiple subjects does not reasonably believe he/she would be able to control the subjects should a confrontation occur.
10. Two or more officers involved in the pursuit become separated, lose visual contact with one another, or obstacles separate them to the degree they cannot immediately assist each other.
11. The need to secure Department vehicles left unlocked or running.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICER INITIATING THE PURSUIT

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Unless relieved by another officer or a supervisor, the initiating officer shall be responsible for coordinating the progress of the pursuit. Early information and communication by the involved officer(s) is essential, so adequate resources can be effectively deployed.

Officers initiating a foot pursuit should broadcast the following information:

1. Unit identifier;
2. Location and direction of travel;
3. Reason for the foot pursuit;
4. Number of subjects and descriptions; and
5. Whether the subject is known or believed to be armed.

Radio transmissions made while running may be difficult to understand and may need to be repeated. Officers unable to promptly and effectively broadcast information should consider the decision to transition to containment. When a foot pursuit terminates, the officer will notify Dispatch with location and the status of the pursuit termination (e.g., subject in custody or lost sight of subject), and will direct further actions.

Persons who are in prolonged physical encounters with officers may be at risk of medical distress. Officers will summon medical attention if the subject is injured or complains of injury (e.g., displays difficulty breathing or appears to lose consciousness. See LVMPD 6/002.00, *Use of Force* "Medical Attention").

TRANSITION FROM APPREHENSION TO CONTAINMENT

When an officer involved in foot pursuit loses sight of the suspect, the officer should consider transitioning from "pursuit to apprehend" to "pursuit to contain." In the transition to containment, the officer should:

1. Use protective cover or a position of advantage near where the suspect was last seen;
2. Broadcast the suspect's description and last direction of travel;
3. Establish a perimeter; and
4. Evaluate the time needed for the arrival of additional resources.

By maintaining a position where the suspect was last physically seen, the officer effectively seals one avenue of escape and gives arriving K-9 and Air Support a position from which to start their search. While in containment, maintaining the perimeter is a priority.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSISTING OFFICER

When an officer broadcasts that he/she is engaged in a foot pursuit, all other officers should minimize nonessential radio traffic to permit the involved officer(s) maximum access to the radio frequency. The first responding officer who is not actively engaged in the immediate apprehension of the subject(s) will establish a 360-degree perimeter.

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

A supervisor will make reasonable efforts to ascertain information, direct responding resources, and take command of the foot pursuit. The supervisor's physical presence is not required to exercise control over the foot pursuit and the supporting resources (e.g., K-9, Air Support, or additional officers). Recognizing that foot pursuits are dynamic and dangerous for both the public and involved officers, supervisors will make every effort to respond and will continuously assess the situation to ensure the foot pursuit is conducted within established Department guidelines.

A supervisor will respond to a foot pursuit when the following occur:

1. Injury to an officer, citizen, or suspect;
2. Any entry into a residence or similar structure, regardless if it is occupied or not;
3. Any reportable force; or
4. Any other unusual occurrence that warrants supervisory oversight.

Upon apprehension of the suspect, the supervisor should promptly respond to the termination point and direct post pursuit activity. Supervisors should conduct an after-action review with the officer(s) involved.

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COMMUNICATIONS AREA DISPATCHER

Upon being notified or becoming aware that a foot pursuit is in progress, Dispatch personnel will:

1. Initiate a Code Red on channel.
2. Request and dispatch Air Support and K-9 whenever possible.
3. Notify the field supervisor.
4. Contact and coordinate additional resources as directed by the field supervisor. (2/11, 1/20)■