

SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: 10/15/2014	Supersedes Policy Dated: 06/30/2010	Rescinds:	SOG Number: 407.5
Accreditation Index: 81.2.4			
Part Title: Operations		Chapter Title: Arrests	
Chief of Police:			

Foot Pursuits ¹

I Policy

Officers of the Springfield Police Department are often called upon to chase suspects on foot. Due to the inherent safety risks of such pursuits, officers shall have reasonable suspicion of criminal activity prior to initiating a foot pursuit. Flight alone is not sufficient reason to initiate a foot pursuit. Officers are required to articulate the reason(s) the foot pursuit was initiated.

II Definitions

Foot Pursuit – A foot pursuit is the physical attempt by an officer(s), without the aid of a vehicle or other motorized device, to detain, arrest, or otherwise take physical custody of an individual who attempts to flee on foot. The officer must have reasonable suspicion that the suspect is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime, is resisting apprehension by fleeing as outlined in RSMO 575.150, or is considered to be a likely danger to himself (aside from those dangers inherent to the pursuit itself), to officers, or to the community.

III Procedure

1 POLICE OFFICER DUTIES CONCERNING FOOT PURSUITS

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of any officer initiating a foot pursuit to immediately:
 - 1.1.1 Secure their police vehicle (if applicable)

¹ Policy reissued under Chief Williams command. Minor grammatical and/or typographical corrections made as necessary. Per Policy Change Order 14-085, Effective Date 10/15/2014

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- 1.1.2 Advise the police dispatcher immediately of:
 - 1.1.2(a) Their radio number;
 - 1.1.2(b) Their current location;
 - 1.1.2(c) The direction of travel of the suspect;
 - 1.1.2(d) Whether the suspect is armed with a weapon;
 - 1.1.2(e) The reason for the pursuit;
 - 1.1.2(f) The description of the suspect(s);
- 1.2 If the pursuing officer is able, they should direct the initial responding officers to where they are needed.
- 1.3 If the pursuing officer loses sight of the suspect they shall notify the dispatcher of this fact, along with the last known location and direction of travel.
- 1.4 The first officer available should:
 - 1.4.1 Advise via radio their location and that they are in route.
- 1.5 The first officer arriving on the scene should:
 - 1.5.1 Provide immediate physical back-up assistance as needed.
- 1.6 All responding officers, in addition to attempting to apprehend a suspect, shall consider the necessity of:
 - 1.6.1 Responding safely to the scene;
 - 1.6.2 Coordinating their position on the perimeter, if established, and displaying their position on the MDT screen;
 - 1.6.3 Securing the suspect vehicle and/or patrol vehicle;
 - 1.6.4 Securing or containing additional suspects, evidence or weapon(s);
 - 1.6.5 Securing a crime scene;
 - 1.6.6 Delivering aid to any victim(s);
 - 1.6.7 Detaining any witness(es).
- 1.7 In cases where a foot pursuit initiates from an incident involving a two-officer unit and a suspect vehicle, the driver of the police unit should remain with the suspect vehicle and its occupants and the passenger officer should conduct the foot pursuit.
- 1.8 Upon being released from the scene by the supervisor in charge, each unit shall advise the dispatcher that they are returning to service.
- 1.9 A supervisor or commander will determine the necessity of a police report by the initiating officer for the foot pursuit.

2 POLICE DISPATCHER DUTIES CONCERNING FOOT PURSUITS

- 2.1 Upon hearing an officer advise that they are in foot pursuit the dispatcher shall immediately:
 - 2.1.1 Initiate the single-tone alert and broadcast that an officer is in foot

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- 3.1.5 Consider establishing an inner-perimeter search team for use in cases where the suspect has evaded pursuing officers.
 - 3.2 It is the responsibility of the supervisor to determine when a pursuit should be ended, along with what units should return to service and when. The supervisor will make units aware of this information by notifying the dispatcher.
 - 3.3 In the event that a supervisor is the unit that has initiated the pursuit, another supervisor shall take over the duties listed in Section 3 Police Supervisor Duties Concerning Foot Pursuits.
- 4 **FACTORS TO CONSIDER DURING A PURSUIT**
- 4.1 In the event an officer loses their firearm, the pursuit shall be terminated immediately.
 - 4.2 Strong consideration should be given to ending a foot pursuit in any of the following circumstances:
 - 4.2.1 The pursuing officer loses reliable radio communications;
 - 4.2.2 The pursuing officer loses their source of illumination in a dark environment;
 - 4.2.3 The suspect flees into a building that is structurally unsound (e.g. condemned).
 - 4.3 If the services of a canine are expected to be used, officers should refrain from wandering inside the perimeter since this may cause confusing scent trails for the canine. When attempting a track, at least one officer will be assigned to assist the canine officer.

IV Attachments