
Foot Pursuit Policy

458.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous and require heightened officer safety awareness, keen perception, common sense and sound tactics. It is the Department's position that although surveillance and containment are safer tactics for apprehending fleeing persons, it is understood a foot pursuit may sometimes be necessary. The purpose of this policy is to establish Department-wide guidelines, which can be applied to most foot pursuits, in an effort to standardize tactics and procedures that have been proven to be effective.

458.1.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department to assertively apprehend fleeing suspects in a manner maximizing both public and deputy safety, while acting in accordance with established policy and procedures.

The safety of Department Members and the public is paramount and should be the overriding consideration in determining whether or not a foot pursuit shall be initiated and/or continued. Any doubt by participating deputies or their supervisors regarding the overall safety of any foot pursuit should be decided in favor of communication, coordination, surveillance, and containment.

458.2 FOOT PURSUIT DEFINED

A foot pursuit is an incident where a deputy chases (on foot) a person who is evading detention or arrest.

458.3 MULTIPLE DEPUTY FOOT PURSUIT

When conducted by multiple (two or more) deputies, foot pursuits can be an appropriate and effective tactic. Should partner splitting occur for any reason, deputies should follow the guidelines of "One-Person Foot Pursuits."

Partner splitting occurs when loss of visual contact, distance, or obstacles separate partners to a degree they cannot immediately assist each other should a confrontation take place.

458.4 ONE-PERSON FOOT PURSUIT

[REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]
- 2. If the immediate apprehension of a fleeing suspect fails or is not possible, the deputy should broadcast identifying information about the suspect and location in order to initiate a containment perimeter by assisting deputies (Refer to Initiating Deputy Responsibility below).
- 3. If you can no longer see or hear the suspect, the deputy should consider setting up a containment perimeter in the area of the last known location.
- 4. Should containment be established and the suspect is believed to be within the containment, a coordinated search for the suspect begins. However, if the suspect is seen fleeing outside or beyond the containment perimeter, then a foot pursuit can be initiated again.
- 5. Should communication with dispatch be lost and cannot be re-established (e.g. Damaged pac-set or out of range), the pursuing deputy should consider terminating the pursuit.
- 6. If the suspect surrenders during the foot pursuit, the deputy should follow the Arrest Techniques in Section 5 of the Patrol Operations Procedures Manual:
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- 7. A deputy initiating a foot pursuit should broadcast, as soon as practical, the following information to dispatch:
 - (a) Unit identifier and location
 - (b) Number and location/direction of suspect(s)
 - (c) Suspect(s) description
 - (d) Reason for the foot pursuit
 - (e) Whether or not the suspect is armed, if known

458.4.1 ASSISTING DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever any deputy announces that he/she is engaged in a foot pursuit, all other deputies should minimize non-essential radio traffic to permit the involved deputies maximum access to the radio.

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Any deputy who is in a position to intercept a fleeing suspect or who can assist the primary deputy with the apprehension of the suspect shall act reasonably and in accordance with Department policy, based upon available information and his/her own observations.

458.4.2 TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

[REDACTED]

Based on these factors, if the deputy determines not to pursue, a containment perimeter should be coordinated immediately.

This policy does not restrict Deputy Sheriffs in their mission of apprehending violators of the law nor does it restrict situations involving "Exigent Circumstances."

- (a) "Exigent Circumstances"- means an emergency situation requiring swift action to prevent imminent danger to life or serious damage to property, or to forestall the imminent escape of a suspect or the destruction of evidence or property.

458.4.3 FIREARMS

[REDACTED]

458.4.4 CONTAINMENT PERIMETERS

A perimeter is used to contain a suspect in a specific area, thus making apprehension more likely and when combined with discontinuing the foot pursuit, it removes the inherent risks associated with pursuing. When a suspect flees on foot, using a perimeter rather than chasing a suspect greatly decreases the likelihood of an ambush.

For further guidelines/tactical considerations for perimeters and requesting for other resources, see Field Operations Manual (FOM) Sections 46-Unusual Occurrences/Hot Calls and 51-Critical Incident Management.

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458.5 FIELD SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

As with any tactical field incident, the field supervisor should; but does not have to be physically present to assert control over the situation and may order the termination of the pursuit based upon information received. It shall be the field supervisor's responsibility to monitor the event and to assist in requesting additional resources as needed (e.g. Air Support, K-9, and additional deputies).

The field supervisor shall respond to the termination point of the foot pursuit and assert control as needed. The field supervisor shall ensure compliance with all Department policies; specifically those relating to the use of force.

*The Department Commander (DC) can also terminate the foot pursuit at any time.