



UW-Madison Police Department

Policy: 41.13

SUBJECT: FOOT PURSUITS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/25/17

REVISED DATE: 06/21/23

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and procedures that facilitate a safe apprehension of a subject who flees on foot and to prevent injuries to all involved parties.

DEFINITIONS:

"Foot Pursuit" refers to 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.

PROCEDURE:

41.13.1 OFFICER/COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Whenever an officer decides to engage, or continue to engage in a foot pursuit, an officer shall evaluate the risk involved to themselves, other officers, the subject and the community. Through this evaluation, the officer shall balance the risks associated with the need to pursue and immediately apprehend the subject.
- B. Prior to engaging in a foot pursuit, officers should consider the following factors when initiating or continuing safely;
 - 1. Whether the subject is armed or dangerous or is known to be routinely armed
 - 2. Reason for detaining the subject and risk to community
 - 3. Environmental surroundings (weather, visibility, physical hazards, etc.)
 - 4. Communications (ability to transmit location, radio coverage, quality of coverage etc.)
 - 5. Physical condition and ability of officer to apprehend the subject and communicate effectively with the communications center
 - 6. Officer's familiarity with the area
 - 7. Number of violators involved
 - 8. Availability of assistance and adequate backup
- C. An officer initiating a foot pursuit shall immediately notify Communications Center personnel, as soon as practical, and provide the following information:
 - 1. Unit Identification
 - 2. Location and direction of travel
 - 3. Number and description of suspect(s)
 - 4. Reason for pursuit
 - 5. Whether or not the suspect(s) is armed
- D. Communications Center personnel shall notify a supervisor of the circumstances, if they are unaware, and any other relevant information.
- E. The pursuing officer shall coordinate with other officers to establish a perimeter in the area to contain the suspect(s).

- F. Any officer utilizing a vehicle (motorized or non-motorized) to assist during a foot pursuit shall operate the vehicle with due regard and balance the risks associated with the need to pursue and immediately apprehend the suspect. An officer participating in a foot pursuit utilizing a vehicle should notify the Communications Center that they are utilizing a vehicle.
- G. Officers shall terminate a foot pursuit if ordered by a supervisor or if the officer believes that the risk to officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the subject.
- H. At the conclusion of a foot pursuit, as defined by this policy, officers shall complete an incident report regarding the situation including information that led up to and the final outcome of the foot pursuit. This report shall be forwarded through the normal channels for supervisory review.
- I. Any use of force by officer(s) during the pursuit and/or apprehension must be adhered to and documented in accordance with Department Directive 1.3 Response to Resistance.

41.13.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLE

- A. The supervisor's role is to monitor a foot pursuit and appropriately direct resources to safely apprehend the subject.
- B. The supervisor shall terminate a foot pursuit at any time they conclude that the danger to pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the subject.
- C. The supervisor shall review the incident report and video footage (if applicable) and make appropriate training recommendations, if any.

41.13.3 INTERJURISIDCTIONAL PURSUITS

- A. The pursuing officer shall keep Communications Center personnel informed of the location of the foot pursuit. When the pursuit leaves the department's campus Clery boundaries and enters an adjoining jurisdiction, Communications Center personnel shall notify the appropriate agencies in the adjoining jurisdiction and request their assistance with the pursuit.