



**CHAPTER 24
VEHICLE PURSUITS**

Effective: January 2005

Revised: July 2022

24.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to outline the circumstances and manner in which members may engage in a vehicle pursuit.

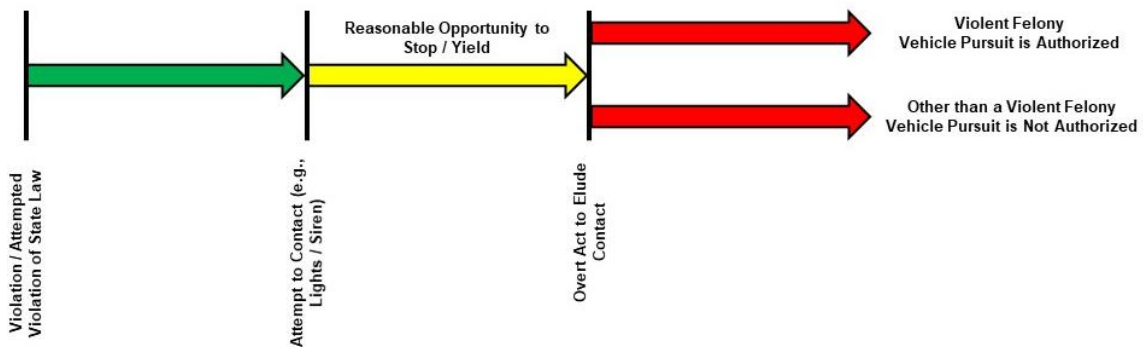
24.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Golden Police Department to conduct vehicle pursuits in accordance with § 42-1-102, § 42-4-108, and § 42-4-213, C.R.S. It is recognized that engaging in a vehicle pursuit may be necessary to apprehend a suspect however, members must balance the need to apprehend a suspect with the need to protect the public from the danger caused by the pursuit. Engaging in a vehicle pursuit requires members to exhibit a high degree of situational awareness and sound judgement.

24.2 AUTHORIZATION

A member is authorized to engage in a vehicle pursuit when a member has reasonable grounds to believe there was a violation or attempted violation of state law and:

- A. The violation constitutes a violent felony, or
- B. The violation includes an escape from custody or an outstanding arrest warrant for a violation that constitutes a violent felony.



Vehicle Pursuit Authorization Diagram

The decision to engage in a vehicle pursuit must be based on facts known, or perceived, at the time. Facts unknown to those involved, no matter how compelling, cannot be considered later when determining if a pursuit was authorized.

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24.3 GUIDELINES

Primary and secondary member responsibilities:

A. Decision to initiate a vehicle pursuit:

1. Once a vehicle contact is initiated and it is determined the vehicle is attempting to elude contact, a member will advise the Communications Center and either terminate the attempted contact or initiate a vehicle pursuit.
2. When determining if a vehicle pursuit should be initiated, a member should consider:
 - a. The reason for the contact;
 - b. A member's knowledge, skills and abilities (e.g., vehicle operation skill, familiarity with the area);
 - c. The likelihood of apprehension (e.g., known suspect identity, later apprehension, use of a tactical vehicle intervention); and
 - d. The degree of risk involved to the public (e.g., location, vehicle and pedestrian traffic, time of day, road conditions, actions of the vehicle, risk to the public if the suspect is not apprehended).
3. If a pursuit is not initiated the member will turn off all emergency equipment and return to routine vehicle operation. All attempts to contact the vehicle will cease without new and compelling information / circumstances. The Communications Center will be advised of the vehicle's description and last known location and direction of travel.
4. The involved member(s) will initiate an investigation for eluding as defined in § 42-4-1413 and/or § 18-9-116.5, C.R.S., regardless of if the vehicle was pursued or not, and complete an incident report.

B. Decision to continue / terminate a vehicle pursuit:

1. Once a vehicle pursuit is initiated, the decision to continue the pursuit will be continuously evaluated.
2. The primary member may at any time terminate a vehicle pursuit for any reason.

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3. If a decision to terminate a vehicle pursuit is made, members involved will turn off all emergency equipment and return to routine vehicle operation. All attempts to contact the vehicle will cease without new and compelling information / circumstances.

C. Conduct during a vehicle pursuit:

1. When a vehicle pursuit is initiated and as soon as conditions permit, the primary member will advise the Communications Center of:
 - a. The initiation of the vehicle pursuit;
 - b. The reason for the vehicle pursuit;
 - c. Location;
 - d. Vehicle description;
 - e. Direction of travel;
 - f. Speed;
 - g. Traffic conditions; and
 - h. Any other relevant information.
2. As conditions permit, the Communications Center will be advised of the status of the vehicle pursuit to include any relevant changes (e.g., direction of travel, speed).
3. Once a secondary member is involved, they will be primarily responsible for keeping the Communications Center advised of the status of the pursuit.
4. During a vehicle pursuit the active talk group (radio channel) in use will be designated for emergency radio transmissions only.
 - a. Radio transmissions on the active talk group will be limited to the Communications Center, primary member, secondary members, and the watch commander.
 - b. Members not involved in the pursuit are to restrict transmissions except for emergency radio traffic or utilize another talk group.

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5. All police vehicles engaged in a vehicle pursuit will use both emergency lights and siren while engaged in the pursuit.

D. Limitations and restrictions during a vehicle pursuit:

1. The number of police vehicles involved in a vehicle pursuit will be commensurate with resources needed to conduct the pursuit safely and effectively.
2. A fully marked patrol vehicle rated for pursuit driving is deemed to be the most suitable vehicle for use in a vehicle pursuit.
 - a. Other police vehicles equipped with emergency lights and siren may initiate and/or assist with a pursuit.
 - b. Those vehicles will relinquish their role in the pursuit as fully marked patrol vehicles are in a position to take over.
3. Police vehicles will not travel in a direction opposite to the flow of traffic on a divided roadway unless exigent circumstances exist, it is safe to do so, and using an alternative (e.g., parallel roadway) would result in losing sight of the vehicle.
4. Police vehicles which contain a passenger(s) that is not a member of the department will not engage in a vehicle pursuit unless approved by the watch commander.

Communications Center responsibilities:

- A. The Communications Center function will be handled by the Jefferson County Communications Center (Jeffcom).
- B. Jeffcom will follow their established directives for handling a vehicle pursuit.

Watch commander responsibilities:

- A. As conditions allow, the watch commander will acknowledge a vehicle pursuit over the active talk group (radio channel).
- B. The watch commander will monitor the vehicle pursuit and assess the risks and hazards involved in allowing the pursuit to continue.

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- C. The watch commander has the authority to order a vehicle pursuit to be terminated when they reasonably believe the risks to the public caused by the pursuit outweigh the benefits and need for immediate apprehension.

Support responsibilities:

- A. Members not directly involved in a vehicle pursuit may assist along the anticipated route or at the point of termination (e.g., traffic control, tactical vehicle intervention, high-risk vehicle stop, perimeter / containment).
- B. Any response will be done in accordance with all applicable laws and directives (routine or emergency response).

24.4 INTER-JURISDICTIONAL VEHICLE PURSUITS

Golden initiated vehicle pursuit entering another jurisdiction:

- A. As soon as conditions allow, whenever a Golden initiated vehicle pursuit is likely to enter another jurisdiction, the Communications Center will be asked to notify the receiving jurisdiction of the pursuit, the reason for the pursuit and any assistance that may be needed.
- B. When a vehicle pursuit is terminated, those involved from all participating jurisdictions should be advised immediately.

Vehicle pursuits entering Golden from another jurisdiction:

- A. Members will not become directly involved in a vehicle pursuit originating from another jurisdiction unless:
 - 1. They are officially requested to do so by the other jurisdiction either by direct knowledge (e.g., scanning another talk group) or via the Communications Center;
 - 2. The other jurisdiction's reason for the vehicle pursuit is such that a pursuit would be authorized as outlined in this chapter; and
 - 3. The watch commander is made aware of the intended involvement.
- B. The watch commander may assign members to supporting roles to assist with a vehicle pursuit (e.g., traffic control along the anticipated route, render assistance at the point of termination). Members so assigned will not be considered to be directly involved in the pursuit.

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C. Overall command of the vehicle pursuit will rest with the originating jurisdiction.

Investigation and jurisdiction at the point of termination / discontinuance:

- A. The originating jurisdiction will generally be responsible for coordinating the investigation and processing the arrest of any suspects involved. If a more serious violation occurred in another jurisdiction, that jurisdiction may take responsibility for coordinating the investigation and subsequent steps.
- B. Nothing is intended to preclude the investigation of any act (e.g., crash, criminal act) which occurred during the course of the vehicle pursuit by any jurisdiction in which an incident occurred.

24.5 DOCUMENTATION AND REVIEW

In addition to the incident report required in the *Vehicle Pursuit Guidelines* section of this chapter, when a vehicle pursuit occurs, a review of the pursuit will be completed in accordance with the procedures in *GPD PPM Chapter 8 – Incident Review Board*.

24.6 TRAINING

Members will receive initial training on this chapter during their pre-service training as it relates to their duties and responsibilities associated with a vehicle pursuit. Additional training will be completed as needed.

24.7 ANNUAL REVIEW

Sworn members, and any other members deemed necessary, will review this chapter annually.

24.8 ANNUAL ANALYSIS

A documented annual analysis of vehicle pursuits, to include a review of written directives and related procedures, will be completed and submitted to the Chief of Police for review and approval.