


**Department of Public Safety
Police Division
Policies and Procedures**

<u>Title</u> Foot Pursuits	<u>SOP Number</u> 9.2.201
Approval Signature 	
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Foot Pursuits

- I. **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.
- II. **Policy:** It is the policy of this agency that officer and public safety shall be the overriding consideration in determining whether a foot pursuit will be initiated or continued.
- III. **Definitions:**

Foot Pursuit: 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.
- IV. **Procedure:**
 - A. Officer Responsibilities
 1. 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.
 2. Before engaging in a foot pursuit, officers should consider the following factors when initiating or continuing safely.
 - a. Whether the subject is armed or dangerous or is known to be armed
 - b. Does reasonable suspicion of a crime or offense exist to support a detention or does probable cause for arrest exist?
 - c. Risk to the community if not apprehended.
 - d. Environmental surroundings (weather, visibility, physical hazards, etc.).
 - e. Communications (ability to transmit location, radio coverage, quality of coverage, etc.)
 - f. Physical condition and ability of the officer to apprehend the subject and communicate effectively with the communications center.
 - g. Officer's familiarity with the area and the location and nature of the area involved.
 - h. The number of suspects involved.
 - i. Availability of assistance and adequate backup
 3. An officer initiating a foot pursuit shall immediately notify Communications Center personnel, as soon as practical, and provide the following information:
 - a. Unit Identification
 - b. Location and direction of travel
 - c. Number and description of the suspect(s)
 - d. Reason for pursuit
 - e. Whether or not the suspect(s) is armed

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B. Emergency Communication Dispatcher responsibilities.

1. The Emergency Communication Dispatcher shall notify a supervisor of the circumstances and any other relevant information.
2. The Emergency Communication Dispatcher will assist with clearing the radio channel of all non-emergency traffic and/or coordinating and dispatching backup assistance or other support.

C. Foot Pursuit Operations

1. The pursuing officer shall coordinate with other officers to establish a perimeter in the area to contain the suspect(s).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. After 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 outcome of the foot pursuit. This report shall be forwarded through the normal channels for supervisory review.
5. The officer shall complete a Contact Card, Form-10 as appropriate following UCPD policy 2.2.101 Pedestrian Stops and Field Interviews, and Pat-Downs.
6. An arrest will be processed following UCPD policy 2.2.200 Arrest, Processing, and Transportation of Detainees.
7. Any use of force by an officer(s) during the pursuit and/or apprehension must be adhered to and documented following UCPD policy 7.1.100 Use of Force.

D. Supervisor Responsibilities and Role

1. The supervisor's role is to monitor a foot pursuit and appropriately direct resources to safely apprehend the subject. Possible resources and considerations include:
 - a. aerial support,
 - b. perimeter or containment of the area,
 - c. canine search,
 - d. saturation of the area with patrol personnel, and/or
 - e. apprehension at another time and place when the officer knows the identity of the subject.
2. 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.

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3. The supervisor shall review the incident report and video footage (if applicable) and make appropriate training recommendations, if any.

E. Interjurisdiction Pursuits

1. 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.

References

UCPD policy 2.2.101 Pedestrian Stops and Field Interviews, and Pat-Downs

UCPD policy 2.2.200 Arrest, Processing, and Transportation of Detainees

UCPD policy 7.1.100 Use of Force