

**East Lansing Police Department  
Policy & Procedure**

<b>Subject: Foot Pursuits</b>	<b>ELPD Policy #: 300-24</b>
<b>Effective Date: March 1, 2022</b> <b>Revised Date:</b>	<b>Distribution:</b> <b>Departmental</b>
<b>MACP Accreditation Standard :</b>	<b>MACP Standard: 3.5.7</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

This policy is intended to provide overall direction and guidance to officers when deciding if foot pursuits are warranted and how they should be conducted.

**II. POLICY**

Foot pursuits are inherently dangerous police actions. It is the policy of the East Lansing Police Department that officer and public safety shall be the overriding consideration in determining whether an officer will engage or continue in a foot pursuit. Foot pursuits occur in a wide variety of circumstances.

**III. PROCEDURE**

**A. Definition**

Foot pursuit is a situation in which an officer chases a subject on foot in an effort to detain or arrest an individual, whom he/she has reasonable suspicion to believe is about to commit, is committing, or has committed a crime, or is being taken into protective custody, and is resisting apprehension by fleeing from the officer on foot.

**B. Decision to Pursue**

1. Although it is an officer's decision to initiate contact, it is the subject or violator who decides to precipitate a foot pursuit by fleeing. An officer's decision to pursue on foot shall be made with an awareness of, and appreciation for the risk to which the officer and others will be exposed. No employee, outside of an administrative review, shall criticize another employee of the Department for their decision that the risk of foot pursuit exceeded that which is reasonable for the officer's safety or the safety of others. (3.5.7a,b)
2. Where necessary, an officer may pursue persons who he or she reasonably believes have committed an act that would warrant a stop, investigative detention, or arrest.

3. In deciding to engage in a foot pursuit, an officer shall consider the following alternatives:
  - a. Aerial support
  - b. Containment of the area
  - c. Canine search
  - d. Saturation of the area with patrol personnel
  - e. Apprehension at another time and place when the officer knows the identity of the subject or has other information that would likely allow for later apprehension. (3.5.7 c, e)
  
4. In deciding to engage or continue a foot pursuit, officers shall also consider risk factors whenever officers are:
  - a. Acting alone
  - b. In an unfamiliar area
  - c. In an area that is hostile
  - d. Pursuing suspects who are known to be or suspected of being armed
  - e. Pursuing more than one person
  - f. Unable to obtain backup in a timely manner
  - g. Not in adequate physical condition to conduct a foot pursuit
  - h. Unable to establish and maintain contact with dispatch
  - i. Pursuing in inclement weather, darkness, or reduced visibility conditions.

#### C. Initiating Officers Responsibilities

1. Officers initiating foot pursuits shall bear operational responsibility for the foot pursuit unless circumstances dictate otherwise or until relieved by a supervisor. Pursuing officers are reminded that voice transmissions while running and in other tactical situations may be difficult to understand. Officers may have to repeat their transmission.
  
2. The officer initiating a foot pursuit shall, as soon as practical, provide the following information to dispatch.
  - a. Unit identifier
  - b. Reason for the foot pursuit
  - c. Officer location and direction of pursuit
  - d. Number of subjects and description
  - e. Whether or not the subject(s) is armed.

#### D. Secondary Unit(s) Responsibilities

1. Additional available units should respond to the area to assist with the foot pursuit and/or perimeter. (3.5.7g)

E. Foot Pursuit Coordination

1. The initiating officer shall, when practical, coordinate directly or indirectly through dispatch, with secondary officers to establish a perimeter in the area to contain the subject(s). [3.5.7f]

F. Restrictions [3.5.7 h,j,k]

1. The pursuing officer shall terminate a pursuit if instructed by a supervisor. (3.5.7 d)
2. Unless there are exigent circumstances such as an immediate threat to the safety of other officers or civilians, officers should not engage in or continue a foot pursuit under the following conditions: [3.5.7k]
  - a. If the officer believes the danger to pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension.
  - b. Into buildings, structures, confined spaces, or into wooded or otherwise isolated areas without sufficient backup and containment of the area. The primary officer shall stand by, radio his/her location and await the arrival of officers to establish a containment perimeter.
  - c. If the officer loses possession of his/her firearm.
  - d. If the subject's identity is established or other information exists that allows for the subject's probable apprehension at a later time and there is no immediate threat to the public or police officers.
  - e. If the subject's location is no longer known.
  - f. If the initiating officer loses communication with dispatch or backup officers.
  - g. If an officer or third party is injured during the pursuit who requires immediate assistance and there are no other police or medical personnel able to render assistance.
  - h. If the officer is unaware of his/her location or direction of travel.
3. When the pursuing officer terminates the pursuit, he/she shall notify dispatch with his/her location and request any assistance deemed necessary.

4. Officers may reinstate a previously terminated pursuit if the conditions that required the pursuit to be terminated are no longer present.

E. Supervisor's Responsibilities [3.5.7 f,j]

1. Continually monitor the pursuit and respond to the scene if deemed necessary.
2. Ensure the perimeter is set up appropriately.
3. Consider the tactical apprehension strategies.
4. Terminate pursuits when deemed necessary.
5. Following each incident, debrief with the officers involved and with his/her platoon as a whole.

F. Dispatch Responsibilities (3.5.7i)

1. Upon being notified that a pursuit is in progress, communications personnel shall immediately notify a supervisor and provide all available information.
2. Communications personnel shall carry out the following responsibilities during the foot pursuit:
  - a. Control all radio communications and clear the radio channels of all non-emergency traffic.
  - b. Coordinate and dispatch additional patrol units under the direction of the supervisor.

G. Reporting and Review

1. At the conclusion of a foot pursuit as defined by this policy, all officers involved in the pursuit shall complete a written report describing their actions. (3.5.7 m)
2. A policy review will be conducted on each foot pursuit by a supervisor and/or department administration. [3.5.7 n]
3. An annual documented summary of all foot pursuits and a written annual analysis of all foot pursuits shall be compiled by department administration and kept on file. [3.5.7o]

#### IV. CANCELLATIONS

Authorized By:

  
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Kim Johnson, Chief of Police