



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 660 – VEHICLE PURSUITS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2025-06  
**ISSUED:** March 17, 2025

**EFFECTIVE:** March 17, 2025

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**  
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow  
**DATE:** December 23, 2024

**ACTION:** Amends General Order 2024-10 (June 3, 2024)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.2.11

#### ROLL CALL VERISON

**Contains only changes to current policy.  
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.**

#### 660.20 VEHICLE PURSUITS (WILEAG 6.1.4, 6.2.11)

##### E. PURSUIT PROCEDURES

1. The police member initiating a pursuit shall notify the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) as soon as reasonably possible that a pursuit is underway and provide the following information:
  - a. Police unit identification
  - b. Location, speed, and direction of travel
  - c. Reason for the pursuit
  - d. Pursued vehicle description, including license number, if known
  - e. Number of occupants
  - f. Road conditions
  - g. Traffic density
5. If a supervisor fails to acknowledge the pursuit within a reasonable period of time after initiation, as determined by the ~~Technical Communications Division supervisor~~ DEC supervisor, the DEC supervisor will notify the work location's shift commander and the shift commander ~~he/she~~ shall terminate the pursuit.

##### F. DECISION TO CONTINUE PURSUIT

1. The authority of the primary unit to continue the pursuit is, at all times, subordinate to the command of:
  - e. The field supervisor assigned by ~~Technical Communications Division~~ DEC in the event there is no district field supervisor available from the primary unit's district or

~~division. The Technical Communications Division shall assign the most readily available field supervisor to monitor and supervise the vehicle pursuit.~~

#### K. SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

1. Assistance will be coordinated by the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ DEC. The field supervisor and primary unit will be advised of the identity and location of the secondary unit(s) who can assist.
4. The secondary unit, upon joining the pursuit, shall as soon as practicable notify the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ DEC of its identity. If the primary unit is a one-officer unit, the secondary unit should assume radio communications responsibility, allowing the primary unit to devote full attention to driving.
7. If the primary unit becomes disabled, the secondary unit shall become the primary unit. The ~~Technical Communications Division shall~~ DEC will advise the field supervisor and other approved units that a new secondary unit is needed and the next unit to join the pursuit will be designated the secondary unit.  
(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)

#### ~~L. TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES~~

- ~~1. Receive and record all incoming information on the pursuit and the pursued vehicle.~~
- ~~2. Notify the field supervisor of the pursuing police member that a pursuit has been initiated.~~
- ~~3. Patch the pursuit channel to the "OACHASE" talk group to facilitate communications with other jurisdictions.~~
- ~~4. Clear the pursuit channel of any unnecessary traffic and broadcast "ATTENTION ALL UNITS, MILWAUKEE POLICE SQUAD # \_\_\_ IS IN PURSUIT." The dispatcher shall then broadcast the following information:~~
  - ~~a. Location, speed, and direction of travel.~~
  - ~~b. Description of vehicle and occupants.~~
  - ~~c. Reason for the pursuit.~~
  - ~~d. Identity of primary unit, secondary unit, and additional squads, if authorized.~~
- ~~5. Control all radio communications during the pursuit.~~
- ~~6. Coordinate assistance under the direction of the field supervisor or higher authority, if applicable.~~
- ~~7. Continue to monitor the pursuit until it has been terminated.~~

- ~~8. Dispatch a supervisor to the termination point of the pursuit if one has not responded.~~
- ~~9. Notify neighboring agencies, if applicable.  
(WILEAG 6.1.4.6)~~
- ~~10. Notify adjoining district (if not on same radio frequency) if chase is nearing or entering that district.~~
- ~~11. Notify the command and management staff via "CityWatch" of all pursuits that exceed five minutes in length. Additional "CityWatch" updates shall be sent every 5 minutes until the pursuit has been terminated.  
(WILEAG 6.1.4.2)~~

**LM. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**MN. SHIFT COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**NO. LIMITATIONS ON EMERGENCY VEHICLE PURSUITS AND TACTICS**

**OP. VEHICLE PURSUIT REPORT REQUIRED**

**PQ. COMMANDING OFFICER'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION**

**QR. VEHICLE PURSUIT REPORT REQUIRED FOR CRITICAL INCIDENTS**

### **660.25 DECISION NOT TO PURSUE**

- B. In such instances where a stop is attempted, the vehicle continues, and a pursuit is not initiated, members shall do the following:
1. Immediately notify the dispatcher of the non-pursuit circumstances, to include a detailed description of the vehicle, license plate number (if there is one), and description of the vehicle's driver if the member was able to observe the driver prior to flight. ~~TCD DEC will update~~ assist in updating the CAD event type to Non-Pursuit;

### **660.30 INTER-JURISDICTION VEHICLE PURSUITS (WILEAG 6.1.4)**

C. MPD VEHICLE PURSUIT ENTERING ANOTHER JURISDICTION

- ~~2. The Technical Communications Division shall initiate the "OACHASE" patch to initiate interoperable communications.~~
- ~~23. The pursuing police member shall begin radio transmissions with MILWAUKEE POLICE SQUAD # \_\_\_ and continue to broadcast the pursuit information as necessary with regard to changes in location, speed, direction of travel, and the reason(s) for the pursuit.~~
- ~~34. If the pursuit appears to be proceeding into another jurisdiction that is unaware of the pursuit, the Technical Communications Division shall DEC will assist in~~

contacting the appropriate jurisdiction by telephone via OALAWCALL and notify them of the pursuit.

45. The MPD supervisor shall, at all times, remain in command of MPD personnel if the pursuit enters another jurisdiction. Supervisors from other agencies are responsible for their personnel and for following their individual agency's policies and procedures.
56. If, during the pursuit, the primary and secondary roles are relinquished to another jurisdiction, operational command of the pursuit shall also be turned over to a supervisor of that jurisdiction.  
(WILEAG 6.1.4.6)

#### D. OUTSIDE AGENCY VEHICLE PURSUIT ENTERING THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

2. The ~~Technical Communications Division~~ DEC will patch the pursuit channel/talk group to the "OACHASE" talk group to facilitate communications with the outside agency and the MPD.

### **660.35 VEHICLE PURSUIT COMMITTEE**

- A. A Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall conduct periodic comprehensive reviews of all vehicle pursuit issues affecting the department.
- B. The Chief of Police shall appoint police members to the Vehicle Pursuit Committee, along with a graduate, in good standing, from the Citizen Academy who is also a resident of the City of Milwaukee that is identified by the Community Relations, Engagement and Recruitment Manager and subsequently approved by the Chief of Police, who shall serve a one-year term, subject to extension at the discretion of the Chief of Police.
- C. A supervisor from the Internal Affairs Division and a supervisor from the Office of Management Analysis and Planning shall be standing members of the Vehicle Pursuit Committee and shall not be subject to the aforementioned term limit.
- D. The Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall meet at least bi-annually, or as otherwise directed by the Chief of Police, and shall focus on, but not be limited to, the following:
  1. Justification of the pursuit by department members.
  2. Proper field supervision and supervisory review of pursuit incidents.
  3. Application and effectiveness of department policies and procedures concerning vehicle pursuits, including whether there has been a violation of SOP 660.05 (Due Regard).
  4. Proper use of department equipment (vehicle).
  5. Effectiveness of Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) Training.

6. Identification of training needs and opportunities for department members.
- E. The Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall prepare a written report of the committee's finding and/or recommendations, and submit such report to the Chief of Police within ten (10) days of the completed bi-annual or directed review. The Chief of Police, or designee, shall submit a copy of this report to the Fire and Police Commission executive director within thirty (30) days of the completed bi-annual or directed review. This report may be obtained through procedures established under Wisconsin Statutes related to public records.
- F. The Chief of Police, or designee, shall send correspondence to the Fire and Police Commission executive director if the Vehicle Pursuit Committee bi-annual meeting was not held.
- G. Any recommendations or other matters for consideration by the Vehicle Pursuit Committee shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Office of the Chief.

#### **660.3540 EMERGENCY OPERATION PROCEDURES (WILEAG 6.1.3)**

##### A. EMERGENCY DRIVING GUIDELINES

##### B. EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE MODES

1. Police members shall use emergency warning equipment in accordance with applicable statutes.
2. ~~Technical Communications Division personnel assigning police members to respond to calls for assistance may, in addition to providing all other pertinent information, designate the response mode to notify the assigned police member of the seriousness of the situation.~~
3. ~~The district commanding officer or watch commander may override the direction of Technical Communications Division personnel and order a police member to use a different response mode if deemed to be necessary under the circumstances.~~

##### C. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL PATROL UNITS

2. The police member making the request shall remain near the radio long enough to determine if the call has been received by the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ DEC. Additionally, the police member shall establish a radio command post as soon as possible to provide status reports, coordinate the efforts of arriving units, and confirm that adequate assistance actually arrives.
4. Primary response units shall proceed to the designated location/command post in accordance with the response mode specified. They shall give the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ DEC an estimated time of arrival based on distance, traffic, and weather conditions.
5. Primary response units shall immediately notify the ~~Technical Communications~~

Division DEC upon arrival at the scene and provide a status report as soon as possible.

~~D. TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES~~

- ~~1. Receive and record all incoming information on the call for assistance.~~
- ~~2. Dispatch appropriate field personnel and notify the field supervisor of action taken.~~
- ~~3. Control all radio communications during the emergency.~~
- ~~4. Coordinate assistance under the direction of the field supervisor.~~
- ~~5. Continue to monitor the situation until it has stabilized or terminated.~~

~~DE. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES~~

- ~~1. The field supervisor, upon notification of a request for emergency assistance, shall note the classification/designation assigned by the Technical Communications Division DEC, and shall change the directed response mode if a different response mode is called for.~~

**660.4045 ROUTINE NON-EMERGENCY CALLS (WILEAG 6.1.3)**



JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk