



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 660 – VEHICLE PURSUITS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS

GENERAL ORDER: 2026-09 ISSUED: February 6, 2026	EFFECTIVE: February 6, 2026	REVIEWED/APPROVED BY: Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow DATE: November 24, 2025
ACTION: Amends General Order 2025-06 (March 17, 2025)		WILEAG STANDARD(S): 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.2.11

#### ROLL CALL VERSION

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

#### 660.10 STATUTORY GUIDELINES (WILEAG 6.1.3, 6.1.4)

- F. [Wis. Stat. § 346.03\(6\)](#) and International Association of Chiefs of Police Model Policy Guidelines
- 4. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a pursuit, the officer shall take the following into consideration:
  - m. The presence of other persons (including minor passengers) in the police and/or suspect vehicle; and
  - n. Elevated risk vehicles that pose a risk of danger during attempted apprehension greater than that of a standard automobile (including, but not limited to, motorcycles, ATVs, bicycles, or nonmotorized vehicles). Members should be aware of the limitations and capabilities of these types of vehicles.
  - o. Availability, both in time and distance, of support units (both ground and Airborne Assessment Team) and technology; and
  - pa. Any other condition or situation that would create an unreasonable risk.

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

- C. Vehicle pursuits are justified when the police member knows or has probable cause to believe:
- 5. The necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the vehicle pursuit, as in the case of the vehicle engaging in reckless driving.

**Note:** Members may initiate a vehicle pursuit for either (1) reckless driving observed by the member prior to the initiation of a traffic stop or (2) if the suspect vehicle flees while driving in a reckless manner after an attempted traffic stop for any state law or ordinance violation.

**However, vehicle speed in and of itself is not enough for a member to initiate a vehicle pursuit for reckless driving for either (1) or (2). Members shall also have at least one of the following, but not limited to, factors present to initiate a vehicle pursuit for reckless driving (e.g., behaviors that show substantial and unreasonable risk of death or great bodily harm to another beyond just speeding):**

- 1. Collisions with other vehicles or objects;**
- 2. Forcing other vehicles to take evasive action to avoid collision;**
- 3. Failure to stop at controlled intersections without slowing or stopping.**

#### E. PURSUIT PROCEDURES

1. The police member initiating a pursuit shall notify the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) as soon as reasonably possible that a pursuit is underway and provide the following information:
  - h. Existence of any information concerning the presence/use of firearms, overt threat of force, or other unusual hazard.

#### H. DECISION TO TERMINATE THE PURSUIT

1. Police members who are engaged in a pursuit, and the field supervisor must continually evaluate the risk assessment criteria listed in SOP 660.10(F)(4) and determine whether the seriousness of the incident justifies continuing the pursuit.

**Note: Police members will not face disciplinary action for deciding to terminate a pursuit if in their opinion the risk of pursuing outweighs the risk to the safety of the public, other department members, and/or the suspect.**

#### K. SECONDARY UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

3. A supervisor may authorize more than two units to be in active pursuit.
  - a. All other available units shall remain aware of the direction and progress of the pursuit but shall not actively participate, and shall not respond to or parallel the pursuit on adjacent streets unless specifically authorized to do so.
  - b. These units may assist with a high risk vehicle contact in accordance with SOP 660.20(G) or respond to any crash that occurs related to the pursuit.

#### L. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

4. The assigned field supervisor shall immediately proceed to the termination point to provide guidance and necessary supervision. The supervisor shall then complete a *Vehicle Pursuit* report, via the AIM system personnel management software,

regardless of how the pursuit was terminated. If the field supervisor is unable to proceed to the termination point and orders the officer(s) to another location to report the pursuit, the supervisor shall document in the **Notes Narrative** section of the *Vehicle Pursuit* report the reason(s) why they could not proceed to the termination point. (WILEAG 6.1.4.1, 6.1.4.2)

## N. LIMITATIONS ON EMERGENCY VEHICLE PURSUITS AND TACTICS

### 2. Intervention Options

In the course of a vehicle pursuit, deliberate contact between vehicles or forcing the pursued vehicle into parked cars, ditches, or any other obstacle, boxing in, heading off, ramming, driving alongside the pursued vehicle while it is in motion, or the use of roadblocks is prohibited.

**Note: Members who have been trained in the administration of stationary vehicle containment, vehicle assault techniques, and stationary vehicle blocking maneuvers may only employ these tactics as trained if they are currently assigned to or supervise a division, unit, or task force within the CIB that has been authorized by the assistant chief or inspector of the CIB to employ these tactics. A *Stationary Vehicle Contact* report shall be completed in the personnel management software by a supervisory officer of a higher rank than the member(s) who employed one of these tactics during the pursuit.**

(WILEAG 6.1.4.4, 6.2.11.3)

## O. VEHICLE PURSUIT REPORT REQUIRED

2. The supervisor responsible for filing a *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall obtain a number in the **AIM system** personnel management software prior to securing from duty on the date in which the incident occurred. The member(s) and subject(s) names, date, time and location of the incident shall also be entered on the same date the number was generated.
3. The supervisor shall complete the following, but not limited to, mandatory fields in the *Vehicle Pursuit* report:
  - a. Reason for the initial contact.
  - b. Reason for the pursuit.
  - c. Location where the pursuit started.
  - d. Location where the pursuit was terminated.
  - e. Suspect information including the suspect's probation / parole status, driver license status, and any criminal charge(s) and ordinance violation(s) the suspect is being arrested for pursuant to the pursuit.

f. If any video evidence was captured and who reviewed the video.

43. The supervisor shall document in the ~~Notes~~ ~~Narrative~~ section of the ~~AIM~~ ~~Vehicle Pursuit~~ report the following, but not limited to, information:

- a. ~~Reason for the initial stop.~~
- b. ~~Reason for the pursuit.~~
- c. ~~Location where the pursuit started.~~
- d. ~~Location where the pursuit was terminated.~~
- ae. Statements shall be separately obtained and documented from officers, witnesses, and suspects.
- bf. Review of body worn camera video and mobile data video / audio recording equipment. Supervisors shall include a time stamp(s) in their report indicating the specific times of significant events captured by video. Supervisors shall verify the officer(s) statements reflect what occurred in the video evidence.
- cg. If video evidence of the pursuit is not available, document the route of the pursuit.
- h. ~~Suspect information including the suspect's probation / parole status, driver license status, and any criminal charge(s) and ordinance violation(s) the suspect is being arrested for pursuant to the pursuit.~~
- di. Evidence observed and/or collected at the scene.

54. *Vehicle Pursuit* reports are to be completed and ~~tracked~~ submitted to the appropriate supervisor/shift commander within 8 days of the incident.

55. The *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall be reviewed by the supervisor / shift commander within 10 days following the receipt from the supervisor who completed the report (within 18 days of the incident). The *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall then be ~~tracked~~ submitted by the supervisor / shift commander to their commanding officer.

76. The *Vehicle Pursuit* report shall be reviewed by the commanding officer within 17 days following the receipt from the supervisor / shift commander (within 35 days of the incident).

87. Reports shall be thoroughly completed and reviewed within 35 days following the date the incident occurred and then ~~tracked~~ submitted to the Internal Affairs Division.

98. Internal Affairs Division shall review the reports within 21 days following the receipt from the commanding officer of the work location.

109. In addition to completing the *Vehicle Pursuit* report, it is the field supervisor's responsibility to address any deficiencies in a timely manner in accordance with SOP

870.4550 (Non-Disciplinary Corrective Action).

1140. The supervisor shall ensure the body worn camera and mobile data video / audio recording video is categorized as a "Vehicle Pursuit" in the Axon system.

P. COMMANDING OFFICER'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

1. The member's commanding officer shall review the AIM System *Vehicle Pursuit* report and enter a recommendation ~~under "Incident Tracking"~~ regarding compliance with policy in the notes field. These reports shall be forwarded ~~through "Incident Tracking"~~ and ~~general information "Status"~~ directly to the appropriate supervisor of the Internal Affairs Division.
2. If there are serious injuries requiring admission to a hospital or if death occurs as a result of a pursuit, the commanding officer shall also ~~forward share~~ the reports via the AIM system personnel management software ~~to~~ with their respective bureau commander. Commanding officers may ~~forward share~~ pursuit reports ~~to~~ with their bureau commander at any other time they believe notification is warranted.



JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk