

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



PURSUIT AND FORCIBLE STOPPING GUIDELINES

BY THE ORDER OF:
Chief Lance Maloney

OF PAGES:
16

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ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: 3.5.2, 3.5.3

PURPOSE The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish this department's procedures concerning vehicle pursuits.

POLICY It is the policy of the Hopewell Township Police Department to utilize procedures that are consistent with those provided by the New Jersey Attorney General's guidelines and the Mercer County Prosecutor's directives. Citizen and officer safety is the paramount consideration.

Because it is impossible for this SOP to anticipate every possible circumstance, this SOP is intended to serve as a guide for police officers in the use of discretion regarding matters relating to vehicular pursuit.

Rigorous compliance with this SOP should help to mitigate life-threatening situations for members of this department and the citizenry at large, and should help sustain the general health, safety and welfare of the community. It will further help promote public confidence in the police department.

Deciding whether or not to pursue a motor vehicle is one of the most critical decisions made by law enforcement officers. It is a decision that must be made quickly and under difficult and often unpredictable circumstances. In recognition of the potential risk to the public safety created by vehicular pursuits, no officer or supervisor shall be criticized or disciplined for a decision not to engage in a vehicle pursuit or to terminate an ongoing vehicular pursuit based on the risk involved, even in circumstances where this SOP would permit the commencement or continuation of the pursuit.

Any fatal or serious motor vehicle collision occurring during a pursuit must be immediately reported to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

Fatalities and serious collisions shall also be immediately reported to the superior officer on-call and the Chief of Police via the chain of command.

PROCEDURES

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Attempt to close distance is an action by law enforcement officers to close the distance gap between the law enforcement vehicle and the violator vehicle. The use of audio and visual emergency equipment has not yet been employed at this phase.
- B. Authorized tire deflation device is a device designed and intended to produce a controlled deflation of one or more tires of a pursued vehicle.
- C. Avenue(s) of escape is a gap in a roadblock that requires the violator to decrease the vehicle's speed to permit them to bypass the roadblock.
- D. Baiting is a willful attempt to entice or lure a police officer to engage in a pursuit.
- E. Blocking vehicle is a motor vehicle, often a law enforcement vehicle, which is placed perpendicular to a roadway or angled in such a way as to create a roadblock.
- F. Boxing in is the surrounding of a violator's moving vehicle with moving pursuit vehicles that are then slowed to a stop along with the violator's vehicle.
- G. Divided highway is a road that includes a physical median between traffic traveling in opposite directions.
- H. Heading off is an attempt to terminate a pursuit by pulling ahead of or towards a violator's moving vehicle to force it to the side of the road or to otherwise come to a stop.
- I. Meaningful review is a formal documented process to determine whether policy, training, equipment or disciplinary issues need to be addressed.
- J. Paralleling - street paralleling is driving a police vehicle on a street parallel to a street on which the pursuit is occurring.
- K. Paralleling - vehicle paralleling is a deliberate offensive tactic by one or more patrol vehicles to drive alongside the pursued vehicle while it is in motion.
- L. Pursuit driving is an active attempt by law enforcement officers, operating a motor vehicle and utilizing simultaneously all emergency equipment, to apprehend one or more occupants of another moving vehicle when the driver of the fleeing vehicle is aware, or should be aware of that attempt, and is purposely, knowingly or recklessly resisting apprehension by maintaining or increasing their speed, ignoring the officer, or attempting to elude the officer, while driving at speeds in excess of the legal speed limit.
- M. Roadblock is a restriction or obstruction used or intended for the purpose of preventing free passage of motor vehicles on a roadway in order to effectuate the apprehension of a violator.

- N. Standard of care: N.J.S.A. 39:4-91 sets forth the standards of right of way for emergency vehicles that reads in part:
- “...This section shall not relieve the driver of any authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall it protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.”*
- O. Supervisor: a sworn police officer who, by virtue of rank or assignment, is responsible for the direction or supervision of the activities of other police officers; typically the shift supervisor.
- P. Vehicle contact action (ramming) is any action undertaken by the pursuing officer intended to result in contact between the moving police vehicle and the pursued vehicle.
- Q. Unit - primary unit is the police vehicle that initiates a stop of a vehicle that results in a pursuit or any unit that assumes control of the pursuit as the lead vehicle (the first police vehicle immediately behind the fleeing suspect).
- R. Unit - secondary unit is any police vehicle that becomes involved as a backup to the primary unit and follows the primary unit at a safe distance.
- S. Violator is any person who a law enforcement officer reasonably believes:
1. Has committed a crime of the first or second degree or a crime listed in subsection III.A.2 of this SOP, or
 2. Poses an immediate threat to the safety of the public or other police officers.

II. DECIDING WHETHER TO PURSUE

- A. A police officer has the statutory authority to stop any person suspected of having committed any criminal offense or traffic violation. It must be clear that while it is the officer who initiates the stop, it is the violator who initiates the pursuit. The officers' decision to pursue should always be undertaken with an awareness of the degree of risk of death or serious injury to which the law enforcement officer may subject them and/or others. The officer must weigh the need for immediate apprehension against the risk created by the pursuit.

III. AUTHORIZATION TO PURSUE

- A. A police officer may only pursue:
1. When the officer reasonably believes that the violator has committed an offense of the first or second degree; or
 2. Has committed any crime/offense listed below:
 - a. Death by auto 2C: 11-5;
 - b. Aggravated assault 2C: 12-1b;

- c. Criminal restraint 2C: 13-2;
 - d. Aggravated criminal sexual contact 2C: 14-3a;
 - e. Arson 2C: 17-1b;
 - f. Burglary 2C: 18-2;
 - g. Vehicle theft 2C: 20-10;
 - h. Theft by extortion 2C: 20-5;
 - i. Escape 2C: 29-5;
 - j. Manufacturing, distributing or dispensing CDS 2C: 35-5b; or
3. When a police officer reasonably believes that the violator poses an immediate threat to the safety of the public or other police officers.
- a. Eluding the police where the actor creates a risk of death or injury to another generally constitutes a 2nd degree crime, but the fact that an actor is eluding the police does not provide personnel with the automatic authority to pursue. Therefore, a pursuit based solely on a 2nd degree eluding, without any other authorizing criteria should not be undertaken.
 - b. Pursuit for motor vehicle offenses is not authorized under the above criteria unless the violator's vehicle is being operated so as to pose an immediate threat to the safety of another person.
- B. Just because one of the authorization requirements is satisfied, a pursuit should not be automatically undertaken. Officers and supervisors must still consider the following factors:
- 1. Likelihood of successful apprehension.
 - 2. Whether the identity of the violator is known where later apprehension is possible.
 - 3. Degree of risk created by the pursuit in relation to:
 - a. Volume, type, speed and direction of vehicular traffic; or
 - b. Nature of the area: residential, commercial, school zone, open highway, etc.; or
 - c. Population density and volume of pedestrian traffic; or
 - d. Environmental factors such as weather and darkness; or
 - e. Road conditions: construction, poor repair, extreme curves, snow, ice, etc.

4. Police officer characteristics relative to:
 - a. Driving skills;
 - b. Familiarity with roads;
 - c. Condition of the police vehicle.

IV. TERMINATING THE PURSUIT

- A. Officers and supervisors must continually question whether the seriousness of the crime or offense justifies continuing the pursuit. An officer or supervisor will not be censured for terminating a pursuit when, in the officer/supervisor's opinion, continued pursuit constitutes an unreasonable risk.
- B. Officers shall terminate a pursuit when:
 1. Instructed to do so by a supervisor; or
 2. The officer believes that the danger to the pursuing officer or general public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension of the violator; or
 3. The violator's identity has been, or can be, established to the point where later apprehension may be accomplished, and where there is no serious immediate threat to the safety of the public or other police officers; or
 4. The pursued vehicle's location is no longer known or the distance between the pursuing vehicles and the violator's vehicle becomes so great that further pursuit is futile; or
 5. There is any person injured during the pursuit requiring medical care and there are no police or medical personnel able to render immediate assistance; or
 6. There is a clear, present and unreasonable danger to the police officer or the public. ***(A clear, present and unreasonable danger exists when the pursuit requires that the vehicle be driven at excessive speeds, against the flow of traffic for a sustained period, or in a manner that exceeds the performance capabilities of the pursuing vehicle or the capabilities of the police officers involved in the pursuit.)***
 7. Advised of any unanticipated condition, event or circumstance that substantially increases the risk to public safety inherent in the pursuit, or
 8. Pursuing officers lose the ability to communicate with headquarters.
- C. All pursuing units are required to acknowledge that they have received the order to terminate the pursuit. Continuing a pursuit after acknowledging an order of termination is considered a gross deviation from this SOP.

V. ROLE OF THE PURSUING OFFICER(s)

- A. To diminish the likelihood of a pursuit, police officers intending to stop a vehicle for any violation of the law shall, when possible and without creating a substantial threat to the public safety, close the distance between the two vehicles prior to activating the emergency lights and audible device.
- B. Officers shall recognize that while attempting to close the distance and prior to the initiation of a the pursuit and the activation of emergency lighting/audible equipment, they are subject to all motor vehicle laws governing the right of way (e.g., N.J.S.A. 39: 4-91 and N.J.S.A. 39: 4-92).
- C. Upon commencement of a pursuit and regardless of the time of day, the pursuing officer shall immediately activate emergency lights, audible device and headlights. If so equipped, auxiliary takedown lamps should not normally be used while the pursuing vehicle is in motion as they tend to washout the overhead emergency lights to other traffic.
- D. Pursuing officers shall maintain a safe distance from the violator's vehicle in order to have adequate time to facilitate evasive maneuvers and reduce the potential of a rear end collision that could possibly disable their police vehicle or deploy their air bag.
- E. Once the pursuit has begun, the primary unit must notify communications, identify him/herself by badge number, and provide as much of the following information as is known:
 - 1. Reason for the pursuit; **and**
 - 2. Direction of travel, designation and location of roadway; **and**
 - 3. Identification of the violator's vehicle; **and**
 - 4. Year, make, model, color, registration and other identifying characteristics of the violator's vehicle; **and**
 - 5. Number and description of occupants; **and**
 - 6. The speed of the violator's vehicle; **and**
 - 7. Other information that may be helpful in resolving or terminating the pursuit. Examples include road conditions, traffic density, weather conditions, etc.
- F. The primary unit shall be responsible for the immediate radio transmission at the initiation of the pursuit and for the determination of their pursuit actions and the decision to abandon or terminate the pursuit until relieved of this responsibility by a supervisor.
- G. Failing to adequately provide any of the above information shall cause the supervisor to consider ordering the termination of the pursuit.
- H. The secondary unit shall report by radio as soon as possible that it has joined the pursuit.

1. Additional units are generally prohibited from joining the pursuit without the expressed permission of a supervisor, but these units shall remain alert to the progress and location of the pursuit.
 2. Secondary units must exercise maximum radio discipline and refrain from making unnecessary transmissions.
 3. Any decision to permit additional units to participate in a pursuit should be based upon the number of persons in the pursued vehicle, the crime/offense for which the vehicle is wanted, or whether the actor(s) are believed to be armed or considered dangerous.
- I. In the event that the primary unit is unable to proceed with the pursuit or provide radio communications, the secondary unit may assume the role of primary unit and request that another secondary unit be assigned to the pursuit.
- J. Losing sight of the fleeing vehicle is cause for terminating the pursuit. A re-broadcast of the pursuit information to Hopewell Township Police Department units and to surrounding law enforcement agencies and the coordination of other search efforts shall normally be the responsibility of communications.
- K. Seat belts must be utilized at all times while the police vehicle is in pursuit.
- L. If it becomes necessary for pursuit officer(s) to leave their police vehicles to continue the pursuit on foot, they shall:
1. Immediately notify communications of their location and announce that a foot pursuit has commenced, including the general direction of flight;
 2. Consider taking a flashlight, even during daylight hours;
 3. Turn off the unit, remove the keys and, if possible, lock the vehicle.
 4. Keep communications current on their status and location during the dismounted pursuit;
 5. Be wary of the possibility that you may be lured into a trap or ambush;
 6. Approach all darkened areas and blind corners with utmost caution;
 7. If radio contact is lost or the portable radio unit becomes disabled, return to your police vehicle.

VI. VEHICULAR PURSUIT RESTRICTIONS

- A. No pursuit shall be conducted:
1. In a direction opposite to the flow of traffic on a divided highway.
 2. When an individual is present in the police vehicle, who is not a law enforcement officer.
- B. No more than two police vehicles shall be actively involved in a pursuit unless otherwise specifically directed by a supervisor.

- C. Unmarked police vehicles shall not participate in a motor vehicle pursuit unless equipped with emergency lights and an audible device other than the standard horn. Unmarked vehicles shall immediately relinquish primary unit status upon participation of a marked vehicle.
- D. Due to its high rollover potential, non-pursuit rated SUV type vehicles may participate in a pursuit, but shall exercise extreme care when cornering or when reacting to the pursued vehicle's evasive maneuvers. Non-pursuit rated SUVs shall immediately relinquish primary unit status upon participation of a marked patrol automobile or pursuit rated marked SUV.
- E. Because of its performance limitations, ATVs, truck chassis vehicles, bicycles, vehicles towing trailers, and vehicles designed solely for undercover work or undercover surveillance are prohibited from engaging in a vehicle pursuit. Officers/detectives operating these vehicles shall instead request assistance from a marked patrol unit.
- F. Throughout the course of a vehicular pursuit, pursuing officers shall not attempt to overtake or pass the violator's moving vehicle.
- G. Upon approaching an intersection controlled by traffic signals or signs, or at any other location where there may be a substantial increased likelihood of a collision, the operator of any pursuing vehicle shall, prior to entering the intersection, reduce their speed and control the vehicle so as to avoid collision with another vehicle, pedestrian or fixed object.
 - 1. Officers shall observe that the way is clear before cautiously proceeding through the intersection.
 - 2. At all other times including an attempt to close the distance prior to the initiation of the pursuit, personnel shall observe the applicable laws governing the right of way at intersections and other locations.
- H. Officers involved in a pursuit shall not engage in vehicle paralleling.
- I. There shall be no street paralleling along the route unless the pursuit passes through an officer's assigned patrol area. A patrol unit that is parallel street following shall not join or interfere with a pursuit and shall stop all pursuit related activity at the boundary of its assigned area.
- J. Officers involved in a pursuit shall not fire any weapon from or at a moving vehicle, nor engage in any vehicle contact action.
- K. Under no circumstances shall officers commandeer a civilian vehicle to engage in or continue a pursuit.

VII. FORCIBLE STOPPING AND ROADBLOCKS

- A. The use of tire deflation devices is currently not authorized.
- B. Boxing in or heading off a violator's moving vehicle is permitted only under extraordinary circumstances. These tactics substantially increase the risk inherent in the pursuit and shall only be employed:

1. At low speeds; and
 2. With the approval of a supervisor; or
 3. In response to an imminent serious threat to the safety of the public or a police officer.
- C. Prior to boxing in or heading off a pursued vehicle, the officer wishing to initiate such action shall notify all other units involved in the pursuit.
- D. Involved officers shall maneuver their vehicles in such a manner as to minimize vehicle contact action and danger to other vehicles or pedestrians.
- E. Roadblocks may only be employed as a last resort in circumstances where deadly force would otherwise be justified and there is definite knowledge that a person or persons in the fleeing vehicle is or are suspected of being wanted for a first or second degree crime and:
1. The roadblock will likely result in the apprehension of a suspect who poses an immediate risk to life and property; and
 2. A less obtrusive means is not feasible or appropriate.
- F. After carefully considering all of the relevant criteria, the decision to establish a roadblock must come from a supervisor. Supervisors must continue to monitor the circumstances that led to the deployment of a roadblock to ensure the criteria for deployment is timely and relevant. If the attendant circumstances change and the use of a roadblock is no longer justified or prudent, the order to establish the roadblock shall be immediately rescinded.
- G. At no time will a roadblock be established until all pursuing law enforcement vehicles are made aware of the roadblock, its location, and have acknowledged this awareness. Once a roadblock has been established and a vehicle or barricade has been positioned in the roadway, the following must apply:
1. Roadblocks should be established on streets or highways most likely to be used as an avenue of escape.
 2. The safety of others must remain a paramount consideration.
 3. At least two officers must be present at the roadblock location and shall be in full uniform.
 4. All available emergency warning lights and four way flashers must be utilized.
 5. If time permits, flares shall be arranged to channel traffic through the roadblock.
 6. There must be adequate distance to see the roadblock.
 7. There must be an avenue of escape.
 8. There must be no one in or near the blocking vehicle(s).

- H. When deploying a roadblock and if time permits, the officer or supervisor should ensure that EMS and the fire department are notified as soon as practicable. Have them stage off road nearby to render assistance when the scene is deemed secure. When practicable, further considerations include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Detour routine traffic and pedestrians from the area;
 - 2. Avoid standing between the roadblock vehicles and any fixed objects;
 - 3. Avoid standing in any other officers line of fire;
- I. Once the strategic location is chosen, the police vehicles should be parked at a forty-five (45) degree angle in the same direction as traffic flow, blocking the greater portion of the roadway, but leaving a narrow passage for traffic to pass through after the check. A vehicle circumventing the roadblock may or may not contain the person(s) being sought. It could be another person seeking to avoid questioning, an excited citizen, or an attempt to conceal a motor vehicle violation.
- J. Upon coming to a halt and approaching a suspect vehicle, officers should not stand in front of or behind the suspect vehicle. Further, officers should:
 - 1. Avoid standing between the stopped vehicle and any fixed objects;
 - 2. Avoid standing in any other officers line of fire;
 - 3. Order the driver (and passengers, if any) to show their hands, preferably palms up on the windshield;
 - 4. Order the driver to turn off the vehicle and toss the keys from the driver's side window (if able);
 - 5. Approach the vehicle with extreme caution being aware of sudden movement by either the driver or passenger(s);
 - 6. Maintain weapons discipline;
 - 7. Order the driver and passenger(s) to exit the vehicle one at a time and lie face down on the ground with arms extended, palms up;
 - 8. If handcuffed and as soon as practicable, sit the subject(s) upright to minimize the potential for positional asphyxia. Provide/supply medical aid when applicable.
- K. Officers and supervisors are responsible for minimizing hazards to police and other emergency personnel in any forcible stopping or roadblock scenario in addition to ensuring the safety of citizens to the extent possible.

VIII. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Supervisor
 - 1. Upon being notified or becoming aware of a vehicular pursuit, a supervisor shall take immediate control and provide directions to the pursuing unit(s).

2. The primary consideration of the supervisor is to acknowledge and authorize a pursuit to continue. The supervisor shall decide as quickly as possible whether or not the pursuit should continue.
3. The supervisor shall permit a pursuit to continue only if:
 - a. There is reasonable belief that the violator has committed an offense of the first or second degree, or a crime/offense listed in subsection III.A.2 of this SOP; or
 - b. There is reasonable belief that the violator poses an immediate serious threat to the safety of any person.
4. The supervisor shall order a pursuit terminated at any time he/she concludes:
 - a. That the danger to the pursuing officers or the public outweighs the necessity for the immediate apprehension of the violator.
 - b. The actor's identity is established to the point where later apprehension may be accomplished, **and** there is no immediate continuing threat to public safety.
 - c. That a pursuit is of a protracted duration, recognizing the overall population density and volume of vehicular traffic and the increased risk attached to prolonged vehicular pursuits, unless the supervisor determines that a furtherance of the pursuit is justified to respond to an immediate continuing threat to the public safety. No precise formula can be used to determine when a pursuit has become of a protracted duration. This decision must be left to the common sense and sound judgment of the supervisor considering all of the attendant circumstances.
5. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all personnel adhere to this SOP at all times. Additionally, supervisors shall ensure that communications personnel:
 - a. Verify that the registration number of the vehicle being pursued, when provided, is immediately checked through NCIC for any wants or holds.
 - b. Contact the jurisdiction where the vehicle is registered to determine if the vehicle had recently been reported stolen or has any wants or holds.

B. Communications personnel:

1. Upon notification that a pursuit is in progress, communications personnel shall immediately advise a supervisor of essential information regarding the pursuit if he/she has not already been otherwise notified. Communications personnel will keep the supervisor advised of the duration and progress of the pursuit.

2. Communications personnel shall carry out the following activities and responsibilities during the pursuit:
 - a. Receive and record all incoming information on the pursuit and the pursued vehicle;
 - b. Control all radio communications and clear the radio channels of all non-emergency calls;
 - c. Obtain criminal record and vehicle checks of the pursued vehicle and any suspects;
 - d. Coordinate and dispatch backup assistance and support units under the direction of a supervisor;
 - e. Notify neighboring jurisdictions when the pursuit may extend into its locality;
 - f. Ensure that the necessary data entries are made;
 - g. Acknowledge all radio transmissions from field units;
 - h. Rebroadcast pertinent radio transmissions to field units, if necessary;
 - i. Perform other duties as directed or required.

C. Other police units:

1. Police units not participating in the pursuit shall:
 - a. Maintain radio discipline at all times, keeping their transmissions to the barest minimum;
 - b. Not involve themselves in the pursuit, but remain reasonably close to the pursuit route to be in a position to render assistance when necessary;

IX. REINSTATING PURSUITS

- A. Reinstating a previously terminated pursuit shall only be undertaken consistent with the authorization criteria for originally initiating a pursuit. An order by a supervisor to terminate a pursuit is normally considered final. However, a pursuit may be reinstated if the situation changes drastically. Examples include, but are not limited to shots fired, serious injury sustained, etc.

X. INTER/INTRA JURISDICTIONAL PURSUITS

- A. Officers and supervisors shall ensure that communications personnel provide timely notification of a pursuit to any other jurisdiction into which the pursuit enters or may soon enter. Communications personnel will normally make the determination based upon the information provided by the pursuing units or the supervisor.

- B. At a minimum, a description of the violator's vehicle, number of units involved in the pursuit, location and direction of the pursuit and the reason for the pursuit must be provided.
- C. ***Notifying the other jurisdiction that a pursuit is in progress is not a request for it to join the pursuit.*** A request for assistance from that other agency must be specifically made. Whenever the pursuing officers are unfamiliar with the roadways and terrain of the other jurisdiction into which the pursuit has entered, the pursuing officers must be prepared to seek the assistance of and be prepared to relinquish the pursuit to the other agency.
- D. Upon approaching or crossing any jurisdictional boundaries, the primary unit shall notify communications who will immediately notify each jurisdiction the pursuit enters or may enter.
- E. The supervisor shall maintain control of any pursuing units following their entry into another jurisdiction and shall not relinquish control of Hopewell Township Police Department units to the other agency.
- F. Officers and supervisors should be aware that other jurisdictions might have a stricter pursuit policy. Backup support may not be authorized by another agency. Backup support may not be available from another agency due to their workload. The officer and/or supervisor must consider these factors in deciding whether to continue or terminate the pursuit.
- G. If an outside agency announces that it intends to deploy a tire deflation device along the pursuit route, the supervisor should reassess this agency's role in the pursuit as tire deflation devices increase the risk of collisions. The supervisor may:
 - 1. Permit the continuation of the pursuit only under extreme circumstances; or
 - 2. Relinquish control of the pursuit to the other agency; or
 - 3. Order termination of the pursuit.
- H. Pursuits initiated by another law enforcement agency might enter into Hopewell Township. Being notified by that other agency that a pursuit is entering this Township or Hopewell Borough is not a request to join the pursuit. Communications shall broadcast this information to patrol units. The officer and/or supervisor should position close by the pursuit route in order to be quickly available to render assistance, when needed.
- I. The outside agency may opt to relinquish control of the pursuit to members of this agency. The supervisor shall determine if the pursuit falls within the parameters set forth in this SOP and order a continuation of the pursuit or a termination of the pursuit.
- J. Assisting another agency in a foot pursuit following any crash or abandonment by the violator(s) is authorized at the discretion of the supervisor.
- K. Pursuits into other states require the expressed permission of a supervisor.

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Pursuing officer(s):
1. All officers who operate agency vehicles in vehicular pursuit, roadblock, or forcible stopping situations are required to file the Attorney General's *Pursuit Incident Report*. These reports are required in all cases when a pursuit takes place, regardless of the duration or whether it results in an apprehension or not.
 2. Additionally, in all cases a standard *Investigation Report* is also required. This is especially helpful in instances when a pursuit is not already a part of an existing investigation. The Attorney General's *Pursuit Incident Report* lacks the necessary information to conduct follow-up investigations into what may be a 2nd degree crime and to provide intelligence for other agency members.
 3. The supervisor shall ensure that these reports are completed prior to the pursuing officer(s) reporting off duty. The supervisor's approval is necessary to authorize any delay.
- B. The administrative commander or his/her designee shall prepare an annual *Vehicular Pursuit Summary Report* for submission to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. The annual *Vehicular Pursuit Summary Report* shall contain the following information:
1. Total number of pursuits;
 2. Number of pursuits resulting in collision, injury, death and arrest;
 3. The number and type of vehicles involved in collisions (police, violator, third party);
 4. A description of individuals injured or killed (police, violator, third party);
 5. The number of violators involved and arrested in pursuit incidents, including passengers.

XII. PURSUIT REVIEW

- A. All pursuit, roadblock and forcible stopping incidents shall be subjected to a meaningful review. The shift supervisor shall conduct the meaningful review. The meaningful review shall ordinarily involve a review of all documents, available evidence and an interview of any available persons who may have information regarding the incident.
1. The purpose of the meaningful review is to determine if the actions taken during the pursuit comply with statutory law, current criminal procedure, Attorney General's guidelines, Prosecutor's guidelines and this SOP regardless of the outcome.
 2. Further purposes are to identify equipment needs, training needs, determine if modifications to this policy are necessary, or to recommend disciplinary action.

- B. If a ranking officer (i.e., sergeant, lieutenant) is involved in a pursuit, the next highest-ranking officer in that chain of command shall conduct the meaningful review. If the Chief of Police is involved in a pursuit, the internal affairs supervisor shall conduct the meaningful review or may refer the matter to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.
- C. The operations commander shall also review these incidents to determine whether:
 - 1. The relevant SOP was clearly understandable and effective to cover the situation;
 - 2. Department equipment is adequate;
 - 3. Department training is currently adequate;
 - 4. Departmental rules, or SOPs were followed.
- D. If a Hopewell Township Police Department vehicle collides with another vehicle or any other object during the course of a pursuit, the shift supervisor will initiate a crash investigation. A crash investigation will be conducted, even if the crash took place in another jurisdiction and regardless of whether injuries were sustained.
 - 1. The investigation shall determine whether the collision could have been prevented.
 - 2. A copy of the investigation shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police through the chain of command.
 - 3. In every case where the collision could have been prevented, the investigation shall set forth the actions taken by the agency to address the cause or causes of the collision including, but not limited to:
 - a. Revision of agency policy or policies;
 - b. Remedial training;
 - c. Equipment needs;
 - d. Discipline.
- E. The administrative commander or his/her designee shall generate the required annual documented analysis of all pursuit incidents in the prior calendar year.
 - 1. This analysis is a structured process for dissecting pursuit events into their basic parts to identify any patterns or trends that could be predictive or could indicate program effectiveness, training needs, equipment upgrade needs, and/or policy modification needs. Examples of some summary categories to analyze include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Pursuits by time of day;
 - b. Pursuits by shift;

- c. Pursuits by officer(s) involved;
 - d. Pursuits by reason;
 - e. Location of pursuit initiation (business, residential, or industrial);
 - f. Location of pursuit termination;
 - g. Pursuits resulting in injury to police personnel;
 - h. Pursuits resulting in crashes;
 - i. Pursuits resulting in crashes to police vehicles;
 - j. Pursuits from other jurisdictions.
2. This analysis should be completed by March 15th of the prevailing year.

XIII. TRAINING

- A. Training for police officers in the application of this SOP shall be conducted semiannually and may be accomplished electronically.
- B. At a minimum, pursuit training shall consist of the following:
 1. A review of applicable statutes;
 2. A familiarization with Attorney General and Prosecutor Guidelines;
 3. Forcible stopping options;
 4. A review of this SOP;
 5. Decision making skills (if available)
- C. All police personnel, prior to operating any police vehicles on patrol or participating in any forcible stopping or roadblocks, must be provided with this mandatory training.
- D. The training coordinator shall file an annual training report with the Mercer County Prosecutor to confirm that the in-service vehicular pursuit SOP training was received by all police officers. A copy shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police.