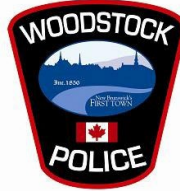


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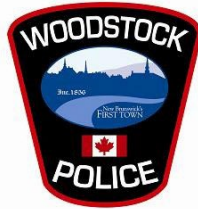
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Subject: Emergency Vehicle Operations (Pursuit)	
Policy Number: 2023-003	
Effective Date: May 25th, 2023	Next Review Date: May 25th, 2026
Area(s) This Policy Applies to:	Office Responsible for Review of this Policy:
Members	Chief of Police or Designated Agent
Related Instruments:	Policy Sponsors:
	Chief of Police
	Document Pages (including Title Page):
	This document consists of 9 pages

Revision History:

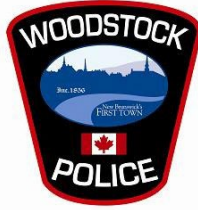
Woodstock Police Force Date of Passage of Current Framework: Revised: November 10th, 2025 I certify that this Policy was adopted by Woodstock Police Force as indicated above.

Date Created:	Woodstock Police Force	Contact:
May 25th, 2023	Approval Date: November 10th, 2025	Mark Bennett, Chief of Police



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POLICY

1. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES:

A pursuit occurs when a police officer follows a vehicle with the intent to stop or identify the driver, and the driver, being aware of the police action, fails to stop, initiates evasive action, or ignores directions to stop/avoid apprehension.

A pursuit presents a high risk for injury or death.

The police officer's prime responsibility is the safety of the victim, the public, the police, the suspect and the protection of public property.

Public safety represents a balance, which may change rapidly and must be continually assessed.

Officers must comply with relevant sections of the *Criminal Code*, the *Motor Vehicle Act* and *Policing Standards – New Brunswick* to be able to justify an intervention through pursuit. A police officer engaged in a pursuit is not relieved or protected from the consequences of a wanton or reckless disregard for the lives and safety of other persons.

2. DEFINITIONS:

"Closing the distance" means catching up to a vehicle, but does not include a pursuit.

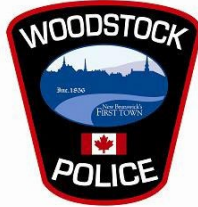
"Emergency vehicle response" means the operation of a police motor vehicle responding to an incident that requires an immediate police attendance based on information received and the member's risk assessment.

"Pursuit" means the operation of any emergency vehicle by a peace officer for the purpose of apprehending a person/suspect who refuses to stop their vehicle as directed by a peace officer, and attempts to evade apprehension.

"Primary pursuit vehicle" means the police vehicle that maintains direct visual contact and is the closest unit to the suspect vehicle during the pursuit.

"Secondary pursuit vehicle" means the police vehicle closest to the primary to provide backup assistance and when in visual contact may take over radio communication.

"Police Package" means a vehicle manufactured especially for law enforcement use and can include upgraded engines, heavy duty suspension, heavy duty brakes, heavy duty cooling systems, heavy duty electrical systems, pursuit rated tires and other special items.



“Marked Emergency vehicle” means a vehicle manufactured or equipped with a police package including 360-degree lighting, siren, and a standard police force decal kit.

“360-degree lighting” means an emergency vehicle displaying flashing or revolving red and blue lights that are visible from any directions.

“Command/Command and Control” means the authority and capability of a supervisor or designate to direct the actions of police resources and equipment during a police pursuit.

“Pursuit supervisor” means a person assuming command of a “pursuit in progress”, at the request of the primary or secondary pursuit vehicle through the communications centre.

“Subdued decal vehicle” means a marked emergency vehicle equipped with police force approved, low conspicuity reflective decals.

3. CLOSING THE DISTANCE:

Before attempting to close the distance, a risk assessment must be applied, and public/police safety considered.

Emergency lights must be used when closing the distance. The siren will also be used if the risk assessment indicates a risk to public and police safety. The siren may be discontinued once the violator’s vehicle has pulled over and stopped.

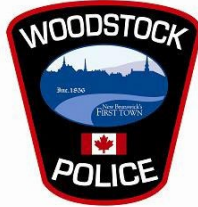
When approaching an intersection, the operator of the police vehicle must abide by the provincial or municipal legislation relating to the operation of an emergency vehicle.

4. POLICING STANDARDS – OPS 7:

Pursuits may only be initiated in situations where a driver and or passenger of a vehicle being pursued has committed, or is about to commit, an indictable (dual procedure) offence and immediate apprehension is required to prevent imminent harm to a person. Possession of stolen vehicles, *Motor Vehicle Act* offences, and municipal by-laws offences do not in themselves constitute offences that pose an imminent harm to the public, and therefore do not justify pursuits.

5. FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

In assessing whether to initiate, continue or discontinue a pursuit, the police officer, supervisor or any other authorized person monitoring the pursuit must continually assess the following factors and how they influence the effect of a police pursuit on the balance of public safety:



- a) nature and seriousness of the offence: the driver or the passenger committed or is about to commit an indictable (dual procedure) offence and immediate apprehension is required to prevent imminent harm to a person;
- b) availability of other methods of apprehension;
- c) if the subject is known, can the pursuit be justified;
- d) age of the driver;
- e) known emotional state of the driver;
- f) manner in which the driver is operating the vehicle;
- g) presence of pedestrians or other traffic;
- h) housing density, visibility, road type, weather conditions and time of day;
- i) presence of passengers in the pursued vehicle who are not suspects;
- j) type and condition of vehicle being pursued;
- k) mechanical condition and type of emergency equipment on police vehicle;
- l) ability of police officer to operate pursuit vehicle; and
- m) length of time or distance involved in the pursuit.

6. PRIMARY PURSUIT VEHICLE:

Except in exigent circumstances, only a primary and secondary police vehicle may be involved in a pursuit.

After initiating a pursuit, the police officer will immediately notify the communication centre of the following:

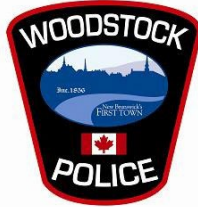
- a) call number of the police car and the names of the operator and passenger(s);
- b) location, direction of travel and reason for pursuit; identification and other particulars of the vehicle being pursued such as: registration number, colour(s), make, model and year, outstanding features, number of occupants, direction of travel and speed, and type of assistance required;
- c) progress of pursuit giving additional information, for e.g. direction, speed, road and weather conditions, traffic conditions; and,
- d) termination of pursuit giving exact location and assistance required if a collision has occurred or if the suspect(s) has fled on foot.

The primary or secondary pursuit vehicle will direct the communications centre to locate a supervisor to assume command of the pursuit.

7. SECONDARY PURSUIT VEHICLE:

The secondary pursuit vehicle should maintain a safe distance behind the primary pursuit vehicle to provide any necessary backup assistance.

If possible, the operator of the secondary pursuit vehicle should assume responsibility for radio communication when in a position to visually monitor the pursuit.



A secondary pursuit vehicle must not pass the primary pursuit vehicle unless the operator of the primary pursuit vehicle requests it.

8. PURSUIT:

A police officer will not pursue an off-road vehicle or motorcycle unless the public will be seriously endangered if the vehicle is not stopped.

All emergency warning equipment installed on the police vehicle will be activated during a pursuit.

Only a marked emergency vehicle equipped with 360-degree lighting, a siren and any other emergency equipment that is available may be used in a pursuit. An exception to this is an unmarked police vehicle equipped with flashing or revolving red and blue lights and a siren may be used only in exigent circumstances to protect life.

Use of an unmarked police vehicle in a pursuit must be relinquished to a marked police vehicle as soon as possible. A subdued police vehicle will be deemed an unmarked vehicle in the absence of 360-degree lighting and a siren.

A police motorcycle may only be used in a pursuit in exigent circumstances to protect life and weather/road conditions permitting. The use of a police motorcycle in a pursuit must be relinquished to a fully marked police vehicle as soon as possible.

Pursuits will not commence with a non-police passenger in the police vehicle. An auxiliary police officer on duty is a police passenger.

A pursuit will not be initiated when an auxiliary police officer is driving the police vehicle.

A police officer will not use a vehicle to deliberately ram or force a suspect vehicle off the roadway unless the public will be seriously endangered if the vehicle is not stopped.

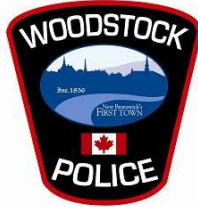
Police officers will not discharge a firearm for the sole purpose of attempting to stop a vehicle.

Complete or partial roadblocks will only be considered as a measure of last resort and must be authorized by the supervisor.

9. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMUNICATION CENTRE:

The communication centre, on being advised that a pursuit is in progress, will:

- a) notify the supervisor of the pertinent details received;
- b) initiate a brief special broadcast informing all personnel of the pursuit and advising them to remain in their patrol areas until further advised;
- c) advise all personnel on patrol that until further notice radio traffic to communication centre is restricted to urgent traffic only;
- d) initiate vehicle registration check and CPIC query;



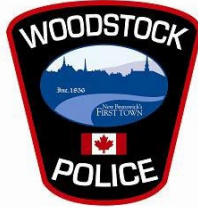
- e) contact other police vehicles and other police agencies in the pursuit area as requested by the pursuit driver and/or supervisor;
- f) keep an open channel on radio, record communications between the members of the pursuit in progress and maintain status logs with appropriate times and locations;
- g) repeat special broadcast from time to time if pursuit is extended;
- h) transmit special broadcast when pursuit has terminated;
- i) dispatch all emergency assistance requested in event of an accident; and
- j) broadcast the description of the suspect(s) and any other pertinent information should the suspect(s) flee on foot.

10. RESPONSIBILITY OF PURSUIT SUPERVISOR:

A supervisor will either monitor a pursuit directly from a communication centre or be patched through to permit direct contact with the members involved in the pursuit. If a supervisor is not available, then the senior officer directly involved in the pursuit will assume command of the pursuit.

When a supervisor or other authorized person has been notified by the communication centre of a pursuit that person will:

- a) declare to the communication centre and all other working personnel that they are taking command of the pursuit;
- b) monitor the progress of the pursuit;
- c) order additional units to assist if necessary;
- d) ensure neighbouring police agencies are contacted for their assistance if the suspect vehicle appears headed for their jurisdiction;
- e) order unnecessary units to resume normal patrol;
- f) order alternative tactics as required including the use of hollow spike strips and roadblocks;
- g) order discontinuation of the pursuit if time, distance, road traffic conditions or other circumstances warrant this action;
- h) ensure all available particulars of the occurrence are provided to the Chief of Police for information purposes and furtherance to others as required including the media liaison officer;
- i) ensure an investigation is conducted when the pursuit results in a serious collision causing death or injury to anyone or extensive property damage;
- j) ensure the services of a qualified Collision Analyst or Reconstructionist are utilized in incidents resulting in serious injury or death; and
- k) review all police force audio and video, where available, prior to submitting the incident report to the Chief of Police.



11. INTERJURISDICTIONAL PURSUIT:

When a neighbouring police agency provides the particulars of a pursuit and requests assistance in apprehending the suspect vehicle the following procedures will apply, **unless existing circumstances preclude this action.**

It is understood that the police officer who participates in a pursuit remains, at all times, governed by internal policies adopted by Woodstock Police Force.

When a pursuit approaches a neighbouring jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is responsible for assuming command and control of the pursuit at the earliest opportunity. The following must occur:

- a) communicate with the police agency of jurisdiction;
- b) provide the reason for the initiation of the pursuit; and
- c) transfer command of the pursuit to the police agency of jurisdiction.

When a pursuit enters a neighbouring jurisdiction and the pursuit cannot immediately be transferred to the other agency, termination of the pursuit must be considered. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to:

- a) a seriousness of the offence and the situation;
- b) necessity for immediate apprehension; and
- c) direction from the police agency of jurisdiction.

All personnel engaged in a pursuit into the new jurisdiction, including the dispatcher and the supervisor, will comply with the policy applicable to the responsibilities for each respective officer/employee.

12. TERMINATION OF PURSUIT:

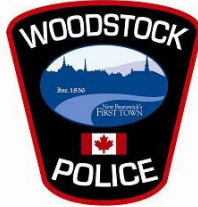
Pursuits will be terminated when the pursuit becomes futile, when the risk to anyone exceeds the need to immediately apprehend the offender, or other means of apprehension are possible.

A decision to terminate a pursuit may be made by:

- the primary pursuit vehicle;
- the secondary pursuit vehicle; or
- the pursuit supervisor.

No criticism will be levelled against a member whose judgement dictates the need to discontinue a pursuit.

Once a decision has been made to terminate a pursuit, the officer shall immediately disengage from following in a manner that is obvious to the subject vehicle. All emergency equipment is to be deactivated, and the emergency vehicle is to pull over to the side of the road and stop. The officer shall immediately notify the communications center they have stopped and are no longer following the vehicle. Once the subject vehicle has left the immediate area the officer may resume regular patrol.



13. PURSUIT CAUSING DANGER TO THE PUBLIC, SERIOUS PROPERTY DAMAGE, INJURIES OR DEATH:

After every pursuit involving danger to the public, serious property damage, injuries or death(s), the Chief of Police or delegate will call for a debriefing session for all personnel involved.

When a person dies or sustains injuries that can cause death during a pursuit. Upon notification of a serious incident, the Chief of Police or designate will notify the Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT) in accordance with Section 24.5(1) of the *New Brunswick Police Act*.

14. REPORTING OF PURSUIT:

All pursuits will be reported on **Form P100**, Pursuit report.

At the conclusion of the pursuit and prior to terminating the shift, the police officer who initiated the pursuit will complete an occurrence report outlining the relevant facts of the incident.

When the investigation has been completed, the pursuit report will be forwarded through channels to the Chief of Police for review.

Should the investigation reveal a breach of policy guidelines during the conduct of the pursuit, the Chief of Police will include in the report any corrective action taken under the circumstances.

All pursuit reports shall be kept on file by the respective police agencies in accordance with provincial and agency requirements.

Pursuit reports are to be forwarded to the Policing Standards and Contract Management Branch of the Department of Public Safety within 30 days of the incident.

REFERENCES:

1. Policing Standards – New Brunswick:
 - a. OPS 7 Motor vehicle pursuits
2. Municipal / Regional Police Forces Operational Manual:
 - a. 3.8 Roadblocks
 - b. 6.3 Arrest – warrants
3. Criminal Code
4. Motor Vehicle Act

FORMS:

- Emergency vehicle operations – Pursuit Report, Form P100