

CHAPTER 7
REPORTS OF INCIDENTS—PURSUITS
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CHAPTER 7

REPORTS OF INCIDENTS—PURSUITS

1. POLICY.

a. When an incident meets the definition of a pursuit, as defined in Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 5, Pursuit Policy and Emergency Vehicle Operations, a supervisor shall evaluate the pursuit and complete a pursuit report as required by Section 14602.1(a) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC).

(1) A supervisor, when available, shall review associated documentation and video footage of the pursuit.

b. All pursuit reports shall be documented using the automated Pursuit Reporting System (PRS). The PRS is located on the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Intranet site under Resources > Managers and Supervisors > Pursuit Reporting System.

c. Pursuit reports shall be completed and routed to the respective Division within seven calendar days from the date of the pursuit. Division offices shall review the pursuit report, including any changes or corrections required to be made by the Area, and submit the report to the Employee Health and Wellness Section (EHWS), Risk Management Unit (RMU), within ten calendar days of the date of receipt. The EHWS is the Office of Primary Interest for pursuit reports.

2. GENERAL.

a. For the purpose of this chapter, commands, sections, units, teams, or task forces not assigned to an Area office are to follow the same reporting procedures set forth for Area reporting. Should an officer assigned to a task force engage in a pursuit, a Special Project Code (SPC) needs to be entered in the SPC box.

b. For instances where a pursuit results in a crash of a patrol vehicle, refer to Chapter 5 of this manual for any additional documentation.

c. Pursuant to Section 14602.1(a) CVC, CHP is the custodian of records for pursuit-related data for the Department as well as allied agencies. All requests for records related to pursuit reports (e.g., Public Records Act requests) shall be routed through the Public Records Section. Allied agencies seeking pursuit-related data should be directed to contact the EHWS, RMU.

d. For PRS documentation, air support is considered as observing and relaying pertinent information, and not in active pursuit. Therefore, it is not required to document statistics regarding their involvement in a pursuit except to notate the total number of air support units involved. A report is required only when a ground unit is actively pursuing a fleeing suspect.

e. In the event a pursuit is terminated by ground units and air support continues to track the vehicle, the pursuit report shall only document actions up to the termination of ground units. The continued actions of air support are not reported. Should any ground units resume active pursuit, this would require a new pursuit report to be generated.

3. PROCEDURES.

a. Single Command Pursuit Report. A single command pursuit occurs when the primary pursuit unit(s), as defined in HPM 70.6, Chapter 5, are all from the same command.

(1) In the event the pursuit travels outside of the command's geographical boundaries, the primary pursuit unit's home command is responsible for creating the report for the pursuit and shall complete an entry as if the pursuit occurred within the command's geographical boundary.

EXAMPLE: If a South Sacramento Area's primary unit pursues a suspect into the North Sacramento Area and remains as the primary pursuing unit while a North Sacramento Area officer enters the pursuit as a secondary unit, the South Sacramento Area will continue to account for all pursuit reporting data. In this single command example, if any crashes occur during this pursuit, the crash information shall be documented on the pursuit report regardless of whether they geographically occurred in South Sacramento's jurisdiction, North Sacramento's jurisdiction, or an allied agency's jurisdiction.

b. Multiple Command/Agency Pursuit Report. When more than one command and/or agency is involved in the same pursuit, each involved command and/or agency is responsible for completing a report for only those portions of the pursuit when their units were the primary pursuit units.

EXAMPLE: If a South Sacramento Area unit pursues a suspect into the North Sacramento Area, and a North Sacramento Area unit joins the pursuit taking over as the primary pursuit unit, South Sacramento Area will discontinue accounting for information such as minutes and mileage at that time. The North Sacramento Area will begin accounting for the pursuit information from the time they take over as the primary pursuit unit. In the event the pursuit reenters the

South Sacramento Area's geographical boundary, and a South Sacramento unit reassumes as the primary pursuit unit, the South Sacramento Area will resume accounting for the minutes and mileage of the pursuit and the North Sacramento Area will discontinue their account of minutes and mileage. The South Sacramento Area will then add the minutes and mileage from both reportable instances and enter the total minutes and mileage of their involvement into the PRS.

(1) When a departmental pursuit includes an allied agency that had been the primary pursuit unit prior to or after CHP involvement, the allied agency's involvement shall be documented by listing their National Crime Information Center (NCIC) number in the "Involved NCIC's" section of the PRS. This would pertain to a continuous pursuit only. Areas should obtain the allied agency's report number and notate it within the "Notes" section of the PRS.

(a) When involved in a multiagency pursuit, the CHP Area supervisor shall only report information for the time they were the primary pursuit unit. The CHP Area supervisor shall coordinate with the allied agency to ensure information is not double reported and remind the allied agency representative of their responsibility to submit a CHP 187A.

EXAMPLE: A CHP North Sacramento Area unit is involved in a pursuit with a Sacramento Police Department (SPD) unit. If the CHP North Sacramento Area unit is the primary pursuit unit and SPD is the secondary unit, only CHP North Sacramento will report minutes and mileage of that portion of the pursuit. The moment the SPD unit takes over as the primary pursuit unit in the pursuit, the CHP North Sacramento Area will discontinue their accounting of minutes and mileage, and SPD will report minutes and mileage for that portion of the pursuit.

(2) As required by Section 14602.1(a) CVC, allied agencies shall report their pursuit data to CHP, and are required to submit a completed CHP 187A, Allied Agency Pursuit Report, to Support Services Section, through one of the following methods:

(a) Faxing to (916) 843-4228.

(b) E-mailing to PursuitReport@chp.ca.gov.

(c) Mailing to Support Services Section, P.O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001.

NOTE: Data entry personnel within Support Services Section are responsible for adding allied agency data to the PRS.

4. AREA COMMANDERS' RESPONSIBILITY.

- a. Area commanders shall review each pursuit report entered into the PRS.
- b. Area commanders shall review associated documentation including Wireless Mobile Video/Audio Recording System (WMVARS), and Body-Worn Camera (BWC) footage prior to Area approval.
- c. Each pursuit shall be reviewed for compliance with departmental policy and law. Additional training, if necessary, shall be coordinated by the command. Any potential employee misconduct shall be handled according to HPM 10.2, Internal Investigations Manual.
- d. Area commanders shall conduct quarterly PRS audits for pursuits occurring within their respective Areas to ensure pursuit reports are completed within the given time frames.
- e. If a pursuit report is created in error and requires deletion, notification should be made to EHWS, RMU, as soon as possible.

5. DIVISION CHIEFS' RESPONSIBILITY.

- a. Following receipt of a completed pursuit report, the Division Chief and/or Assistant Chief shall review and approve the report within ten calendar days from the date of receipt. If not approved, note the corrections needed and return the report to the Area in the PRS. The Area commander shall be notified of the changed status, and the original reporting time frame will take effect again.
- b. The Division Chief and/or Assistant Chief shall review associated documentation including WMVARS/BWC footage prior to Division approval.
- c. Each Division shall conduct quarterly audits of the PRS for pursuits occurring within their respective Division to ensure pursuit reports are completed and reach final status within the given time frames.