



2-12 PURSUIT INTERVENTION TECHNIQUE (PIT)

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

[2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle](#)

[2-53 Use of Force Definitions](#)

[2-54 Intermediate Weapon Systems](#)

[2-56 Use of Force—Reporting by Department Personnel](#)

[2-57 Use of Force—Review and Investigation by Department Personnel](#)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

SO 21-24 Amendment to SOP 2-12 Pursuit Intervention Technique

2-12-1 Purpose

The purpose of this is policy to provide sworn personnel with a technique to utilize when slowing and or terminating a vehicle pursuit. Vehicle pursuits are high-risk law enforcement activities and are inherently dangerous to civilians, the involved officer(s), motorists, the fleeing suspect and passengers. It is the goal of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to reduce the risks and dangers of motor vehicle pursuits. As part of that effort, the Department utilizes methods to assist sworn personnel in slowing and/or terminating vehicle pursuits with the ultimate goal of making pursuits safer until apprehension can be made.

2-12-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to establish rules, use considerations, and procedures for the proper use of the Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT), which can assist in terminating motor vehicle pursuits.

2-12-3 Definitions

A. Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT)

A precision maneuver, which involves intentional, vehicle-to-vehicle contact and consists of a pursuing officer applying lateral pressure with the front corner of their



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Review: 05/26/2022

Replaces: 05/21/2021

vehicle to the rear quarter panel of the fleeing suspect's vehicle, resulting in a predictable spin.

Department personnel shall refer to SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for pursuit-related terms and definitions.

5 2-12-4 **Rules**

- A. Only sworn personnel who have successfully completed certification training in the proper use and execution of the PIT are authorized to employ the technique.
- B. The PIT shall only be utilized during pursuits, consistent with SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle.

N/A C. Supervisory authorization is not required for the PIT, once the pursuit has been authorized by a supervisor.

- D. Pursuing units shall allow the PIT certified officer to assume the lead position in the pursuit.
- E. Use of the PIT is not considered a vehicle crash.

2-12-5 Use Considerations

- A. The use of the PIT in an attempt by sworn personnel to stop a fleeing motor vehicle is considered a seizure under the Fourth Amendment and its use shall be objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances.
- B. The PIT is not a front bumper "bumping" or "ramming" maneuver.

4 2. Utilizing a police vehicle to ram, or intentionally collide with another motor vehicle is deadly force because it creates a significant risk of serious physical injury or death to both the occupants of the fleeing vehicle and the involved sworn personnel.

- a. Ramming shall only be authorized when the use of deadly force would be justified.
- b. All other reasonable options for stopping a vehicle should be considered prior to utilizing a ramming technique to stop a fleeing vehicle.

6 C. Motor vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous and attempts by sworn personnel to bring a pursuit to a safe conclusion, including the use of the PIT, carry with them additional risks and dangers. In order to reduce the risks to sworn personnel, motorists, and pedestrians, the following safety precautions shall be considered:



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1. Location for executing the PIT maneuver;
2. Speed of the fleeing vehicle;
3. Traffic volume;
4. Time of day/lighting conditions;
5. Oncoming traffic;
6. Pedestrian volume;
7. Weather conditions;
8. Road conditions;
9. School zones; and
10. Size of the fleeing vehicle.

5 D. The PIT shall not be attempted on vehicles that are higher or considerably heavier than the officer's vehicle (e.g., large commercial trucks, buses, and RV's).

N/A E. If available, there should be three units involved in the pursuit prior to initiating a PIT. Once the PIT has been executed, the primary unit shall continue driving through the maneuver and is, therefore, temporarily unavailable. The second and third units shall assist with containment of the suspect vehicle and initiation of a high-risk traffic stop.

F. If the suspect's vehicle has an "electronic stability control" system, the effectiveness of the PIT may be reduced.

G. The PIT does not necessarily disable a suspect's vehicle and pursuing sworn personnel should be prepared for the pursuit to recommence after the PIT has been executed.

4 H. The PIT shall not be utilized on two- or three-wheeled vehicles, unless the use of deadly force is justified.

4 I. The PIT shall not be executed at speeds above 35 mph, unless the use of deadly force is justified.

6 2-12-6 **Procedures**

A. The PIT certified officer shall:



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1. Once the pursuit has been authorized, notify the supervisor in command of the pursuit that they are available;
2. Safely assume the lead position in the pursuit, when authorized to do so by the lead vehicle, consistent with SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle;
3. Take into consideration factors such as weather, time of day, volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, road conditions, capabilities of the pursuit vehicle, population density, and geographic location when selecting a location to execute the PIT maneuver;
4. If feasible, advise of the location of the PIT prior to executing the PIT to allow support sworn personnel to set up for a high-risk traffic stop (felony stop);
5. Execute the PIT once the officer determines it is safe to do so; and
6. Immediately request medical attention when an individual is injured or complains of injury following use of the PIT.

B. A supervisor shall:

1. Identify the availability of a PIT certified officer in the area command to assist with terminating the pursuit and request that the PIT certified officer joins the pursuit; and
 - a. If no PIT certified officer is available, supervisors shall check City-wide.
2. Review the use of the PIT as part of the supervisory post-pursuit investigation.

N/A 2-12-7 Use of Force Reporting and Investigating Requirements

- A. All uses of the PIT maneuver 35 mph or below shall be considered a Level 2 use of force and reported as a Level 2 use of force (Refer to SOP Use of Force—Reporting by Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).
 1. If the use of the PIT maneuver 35 mph or below results in, or could reasonably result in, serious physical injury, hospitalization, or death, it shall be considered a Level 3 use of force and reported as a Level 3 use of force (Refer to SOP Use of Force—Reporting by Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).
- B. All uses of the PIT maneuver 35 mph or below shall be investigated as a Level 2 use of force (Refer to SOP Use of Force – Review and Investigation by Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).
 1. If the use of the PIT maneuver 35 mph or below results in, or could reasonably result in, serious physical injury, hospitalization, or death, it shall be investigated as



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a Level 3 use of force (Refer to SOP Use of Force – Review and Investigation by Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).

- C. All uses of the PIT maneuver above 35 mph shall be considered deadly force and reported as a Level 3 use of force (Refer to SOP Use of Force—Reporting by Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).
- D. All uses of the PIT maneuver over 35 mph shall be investigated as a Level 3 use of force (Refer to SOP Use of Force – Review and Investigation by Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).