



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-12

Effective: 7/23/18 Review Due: 1/23/2019

## **2-12 PURSUIT INTERVENTION TECHNIQUE (PIT)**

### **2-12-1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines on the proper use of the Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) to assist in terminating motor vehicle pursuits.

### **2-12-2 Policy**

Vehicle pursuits are high-risk law enforcement activities and are inherently dangerous to citizens, the involved officer(s), motorists, the fleeing suspect and passengers. It is the goal of the Department to reduce the risks and dangers of motor vehicle pursuits. As part of that effort, the Department utilizes methods to assist officers in slowing and/or terminating vehicle pursuits with the ultimate goal of making pursuits safer until apprehension can be made.

### **2-12-3 Definitions**

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) – Can be simply defined as the forced rotation of a moving vehicle. The PIT is 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 vehicle to the rear quarter panel of the fleeing suspect's vehicle resulting in a predictable spin.

(Refer to APD SOP [2-45, Pursuit by Motor Vehicle](#) for pursuit related terms and definitions)

### **2-12-4 Procedures**

1. Only officers who have successfully completed certification training in the proper use and execution of the PIT are authorized to employ the technique.
2. The PIT may only be utilized during pursuits, which are compliant with APD SOP 2-45, Pursuit by Motor Vehicle, and have been approved by a supervisor.
3. Supervisory authorization is required prior to the use of the PIT.
4. Pursuing units must allow the PIT certified officer to assume the lead position in the pursuit.
5. Once the PIT certified officer performs the PIT on the suspect's vehicle, every effort should be made by assisting officers to set-up and conduct a high-risk traffic stop.

### **2-12-5 Use Considerations**

1. The use of the PIT in an attempt by officers to stop a fleeing motor vehicle is considered a seizure under the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment and its use must be objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances.



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2. The PIT is a precision maneuver and a controlled contact technique, which, if executed correctly, generally results in minimal damage to either of the involved vehicles and no injuries.
3. Motor vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous and attempts by officers 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 officers, motorists, and pedestrians, the following safety issues should be considered:
  - a. Location for executing the PIT maneuver
  - b. Speed of the fleeing vehicle
  - c. Traffic volume
  - d. Time of day/lighting conditions
  - e. Oncoming traffic
  - f. Pedestrian volume
  - g. Weather conditions
  - h. Road conditions
  - i. School zones
  - j. Size of the fleeing vehicle
4. Due to the fact that the officer executing the PIT will continue driving through the maneuver and is therefore temporarily unavailable to assist once the fleeing vehicle stops, there should be two additional units available to assist with containment of the suspect's vehicle and initiation of a high-risk traffic stop.
  - a. This means that there will be a total of three units directly involved in the pursuit prior to initiating the PIT.
5. The PIT should not be attempted on vehicles, which are higher or considerably heavier than the officer's vehicle (e.g. large commercial trucks, buses, RV's).
6. If the suspect's vehicle has an "electronic stability control" system, the effectiveness of the PIT can be reduced.
7. The PIT does not necessarily disable a suspect's vehicle and pursuing officers should be prepared for the pursuit to recommence after the PIT has been executed.
8. The PIT will not be utilized on two or three wheeled vehicles unless the use of deadly force is justified.
9. The PIT will not be executed at speeds above 35 miles per hour unless the use of deadly force is justified.
10. This policy should not be viewed as limiting the use of the PIT or any other use of force to protect the lives of officers, citizens, or suspects should they be in imminent danger of serious injury or death.

**2-12-6 Roles and Responsibilities**

1. Officers involved in the pursuit
  - a. In the event that either the primary or the secondary officer involved in the pursuit are PIT certified, request that one additional unit join the pursuit to assist after the PIT has been executed.



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2. PIT certified officer
  - a. Notify the supervisor in command of the pursuit of their availability.
  - b. When authorized to do so by the supervisor in command of the pursuit, safely assume the lead position in the pursuit.
  - c. The PIT may be executed only with the prior approval of the supervisor in command of the pursuit.
  - d. In order to increase safety after the execution of the PIT, the PIT officer should ensure that there are two additional units directly involved in the pursuit prior to executing the PIT.
  - e. Initiate the PIT only after considering relevant safety considerations.
3. Supervisors
  - a. Request that a certified PIT officer join the pursuit.

**2-12-7 Reporting Requirements**

1. The PIT officer will complete an incident report documenting their use of the PIT.
2. The use of the PIT will be reviewed as part of the supervisory post-pursuit investigation.
3. Use of the PIT Technique is not considered a vehicle crash.

**2-12-8 Training**

1. The initial pursuit intervention technique certification will consist of a minimum of eight (8) hours to include classroom and practical training.