



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-12

Effective: 12/22/2022 Review: 12/22/2023 Replaces: 05/26/2021

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Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):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 \(Formerly 2-55\)](#)
- [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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)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 22-45 Amendment to SOP 2-12 Pursuit Intervention Technique; Ramming Maneuver

2-12-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide sworn personnel with a technique to utilize when slowing and terminating a motor vehicle pursuit. Motor vehicle pursuits are high-risk law enforcement activities and are inherently dangerous to community members, the involved officer(s), motorists, the fleeing individual, and passengers.

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 slowing and terminating a motor vehicle pursuit.

N/A 2-12-3 Definitions

A. Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT)

A precision maneuver that 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.

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



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B. Ramming Maneuver

The intentional use of a police vehicle to strike any vehicle to mechanically disable it to stop the vehicle from fleeing.

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.

N/A B. Only trained sworn personnel shall use the PIT during motor vehicle pursuits, consistent with SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle (refer to SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for sanction classifications and additional duties).

N/A C. Supervisory authorization is not required for the PIT once a supervisor has authorized the motor vehicle pursuit.

D. Pursuing units shall allow the PIT-certified officer to assume the lead position in the pursuit.

N/A E. Use of the PIT is not considered a vehicle crash.

2-12-5 Use Considerations

5 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. Therefore, its use shall be objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances.

4 B. The PIT is not a ramming maneuver.

1. Using a police vehicle to strike, or intentionally collide with a pursued vehicle creates a significant risk of serious physical injury or death to the occupants of the pursued vehicle, the involved sworn personnel, and potential bystanders.

a. A ramming maneuver is considered deadly force and shall only be used if the fleeing vehicle presents a deadly threat to the officer, other sworn personnel, or the general public.

b. When feasible, sworn personnel shall only use a ramming maneuver with supervisory authorization.

1 c. Before using a ramming maneuver, sworn personnel shall consider all other reasonable options for disabling the pursued vehicle to stop it from fleeing.

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 additional risks and dangers. To reduce the risks to sworn personnel, motorists, and pedestrians, sworn personnel shall consider the following safety precautions:



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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. Sworn personnel shall not attempt to use the PIT on motor vehicles that are higher or considerably heavier than the officer's vehicle (e.g., large commercial trucks, buses, and RVs).

5 E. If available, there should be three (3) units involved in the pursuit before initiating a PIT. Once the PIT has been executed, the primary unit shall continue driving through the maneuver and is temporarily unavailable. The second and third units shall assist with the containment of the suspect vehicle and initiating a high-risk traffic stop.

F. If the individual'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.

1 H. Sworn personnel shall not utilize the PIT on two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicles unless the use of deadly force is justified.

1 I. Sworn personnel shall not utilize the PIT at speeds above thirty-five miles per hour (35 MPH) unless the use of deadly force is justified.

6 2-12-6 **Procedures**

A. Once the pursuit has been authorized, the PIT-certified officer shall:

1. Notify the supervisor in command of the pursuit that they are available;



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N/A

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 (refer to SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for sanction classifications and additional duties);
 3. Take into consideration factors such as weather, time of day, the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, road conditions, capabilities of the pursuit vehicle, population density, and geographic location when selecting a place to execute the PIT maneuver;
 4. If feasible, advise of the location of the PIT before 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 using 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 at thirty-five miles per hour (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 at thirty-five miles per hour (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 at thirty-five miles per hour (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).



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1. If the use of the PIT maneuver at thirty-five miles per hour (35 MPH) or below results in, or could reasonably result in, serious physical injury, hospitalization, or death, it 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).
- C. All uses of the PIT maneuver above thirty-five miles per hour (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 thirty-five miles per hour (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).