



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-13

Effective: 08/18/2020

Review: 08/18/2021

Replaces: 09/24/18

2-13 STARCHASE PURSUIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Related SOP(s) Form(s), and Other Resource(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

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

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resources

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

2-13-1 Purpose

This policy provides guidelines for the use of the StarChase Pursuit Management System in order to describe the procedures, requirements, and expectations surrounding the use of the system.

2-13-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to initiate a StarChase activation when Department personnel become involved in an authorized pursuit. Department personnel will activate the system when the vehicle to be engaged is wanted in connection to a known felony crime in progress; for example, a stolen vehicle, robbery, burglary, or when the suspect vehicle attempts to leave the scene of a lawful vehicle stop and where the propensity for flight would endanger the community, officers, or the offender.

2-13-3 Definitions

A. Motor Vehicle Pursuit

A motor vehicle pursuit is an active attempt by a law enforcement officer operating a Department vehicle with engaged emergency equipment to apprehend one or more occupants of another moving vehicle and the driver of that vehicle is driving their vehicle in a manner that endangers the life of another person. It shall be reasonably apparent that the driver of that vehicle is aware of the attempted apprehension and is resisting by refusing to stop, disobeying traffic laws, or attempting to elude the officer through evasive maneuvers or tactics.



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B. StarChase Activation

The use of the StarChase system's air pressure system to discharge a tracker from an equipped police vehicle or handheld device onto the suspect vehicle. Once the tracker is affixed, its location can be tracked using a computer with Internet access.

C. StarChase Pursuit Management System

The StarChase system allows a trained officer in an equipped police vehicle or with a handheld device to remotely affix a GPS tracking device to a vehicle that the officer has probable cause to believe that the vehicle is stolen or has been used in a felony crime or an already active pursuit.

D. Supervisor

Any on-duty supervisor who is directly involved in or has been informed of a StarChase activation.

2-13-4 Rules and Procedures

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- A. StarChase equipment shall only be utilized by those officers/detectives who have been trained on its proper use.
 - B. StarChase equipment shall only be utilized for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
 - C. StarChase equipped patrol vehicles, with the approval from a supervisor, may respond Code 3 to join a pursuit for the potential use of the device.
 - D. If an officer locates a vehicle, and has probable cause to believe that the occupants of the vehicle have committed a felony crime (i.e, confirmed stolen vehicle, a vehicle known to be involved in a felony crime or a vehicle which was stopped for a lawful vehicle stop and attempts to leave prior to the officer contacting the driver), the officer may deploy a StarChase without prior authorization from a supervisor.
 - E. Once deployed, a supervisor must be informed and continually updated as to the status and progression of the activation.
 - F. At the direction of a supervisor, a StarChase equipped unit may be directed to assume the lead position in a pursuit in order to affix the GPS beacon.
 - G. If the officer who is attempting to deploy the StarChase equipment must pursue the vehicle to deploy the equipment in accordance with SOP 2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle and that vehicle would not meet the pursuit policy, they are not to engage or attempt StarChase.
 - 5 H. Where there is a StarChase activation on a vehicle that takes flight after being engaged with emergency equipment, and continued pursuit is not allowed under



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Department policy, officers will disengage emergency equipment and immediately stop following the vehicle. The target vehicle will then be tracked by radio communications personnel and can be tracked and monitored by a supervisor. Marked patrol units will stay in the vicinity and be available to establish a perimeter around the area should the suspect(s) attempt to flee on foot.

2-13-5 Pre-Activation Considerations

- 6 A. The decision to initiate a StarChase activation shall rest solely on the officer, who shall take into account the safety of the community, officers and occupants of the target vehicle.
- 6 B. The following factors will be considered by the officer prior to a StarChase activation:
1. Whether the officer can safely maneuver close enough to the suspect vehicle to come within targeting range.
 2. Whether the officer can safely pass any other vehicle involved in the pursuit.
 3. Whether other circumstances would indicate the device would be ineffective (i.e. weather conditions, suspect vehicle weaving).

2-13-6 StarChase Activation

- 6 A. Once there has been a StarChase activation, the involved officer will:
1. Call out the activation over a dispatch monitored air.
 2. Give a description of the vehicle.
 3. Provide an approximate description of the offender.
- B. Dispatch will advise the officer once the projectile has been launched, if the projectile is trackable. If not and conditions remain safe to do so, and does not violate SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle, a second projectile may be attempted to be attached to the vehicle under all the same conditions of this policy.
- C. Once a StarChase is activated, dispatch shall advise all airs that a StarChase has been deployed.
- D. The dispatched air involved in a StarChase activation will remain the primary channel and the channel will not be switched where the tracked vehicle moves across area commands.
- E. If the deployment occurred on a non-dispatch air, officers shall switch to a dispatch monitored air as quickly and safely as possible.



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- F. The deploying officer's on-duty supervisor will be in command of the activation.
 - 1. If the on-duty supervisor is unavailable, the next available on-duty supervisor will take command of the activation.
- G. Where there is a StarChase activation and the target vehicle flees, then the current APD pursuit policy will be followed.
- H. Officers equipped with StarChase will not predeploy on an unoccupied vehicle that is not stolen or currently being used in the commission of a crime.
- I. Officers should not attempt to track a StarChase activation or access the StarChase monitor while driving.
- J. Officers with a prisoner in their vehicle shall not deploy a StarChase device nor volunteer to deploy a device should a request be made for one.
- K. If the vehicle in which the device is attached is not located by the end of the officer's shift, that officer's supervisor should allow the continued tracking, if the deployment was near the end of the officers regularly scheduled shift.
- L. Once deployed, the device must be removed when safe to do so at the termination point of a pursuit or apprehension.
- 5 M. The StarChase system shall not be used outside of official police duties or to track an individual's movements in which that individual is not the suspect of a crime.
- N. StarChase will not be used on two- to three-wheeled vehicles.

2-13-7 Reporting

- 7 A. After the deployment of a GPS device, the deploying officer will submit a written report to Operations Review detailing the number of GPS devices deployed as the result of the deployment, whether or not an apprehension was made, and if a vehicle or property was recovered to include a dollar amount. Officers will list all offender information, if known, as well as recovered property as a result of a StarChase activation.
- B. Officers will email the results to StarChase reference the activation, the serial number of the device, as well as whether the device was successful for tracking purposes, in addition to device reissuance from StarChase.