

# Henderson Police Department

## 2018



# Department Vehicle Pursuit Analysis

## 2018

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Police Department's Vehicle Pursuits for the calendar year 2018. Vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous to both the officers involved and the public. The Henderson Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. The Henderson Police Department is committed to protecting our citizens, but at the same time ensuring the manner in which we do so does not place the public at risk to greater harm. This process requires continuous evaluation of the risks and benefits of each action. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 7.14 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of vehicle pursuits and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department in pursuit tactics and emergency driving. However skilled an officer might be, the vehicle being pursued may not have a competent driver, may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or have impaired mental status.

### **Vehicle Pursuit Reporting Requirements**

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 7.13 and Henderson Police Department Policy 7.15 (v) requires a written report be completed anytime an officer pursues a vehicle.

An officer, while in an authorized emergency vehicle, may initiate a vehicular pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by refusing to stop when directed to do so. A pursuit may also be initiated if the officer believes that the suspect, if allowed to escape, would pose a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

The on duty supervisor will ensure that all officers involved in a pursuit complete a PURSUIT REVIEW REPORT. The report will be completed before the end of the officer's tour of duty.

Any time an officer initiates a pursuit, department policy requires a supervisor be immediately notified by the dispatch center. The on-duty supervisor will retain authority over the pursuing officers of the department for the duration of the pursuit, and shall

order the pursuit to be discontinued should the risks outweigh the benefits of apprehending the offender. Both the on-duty supervisor and the initiating officer are charged with continuous evaluation of the pursuit as it occurs.

Each individual PURSUIT REVIEW REPORT is immediately reviewed by the officer's supervisor, and through the chain of command up to the Chief of Police. At the time of the incident, the pursuit is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of department policy. If the officer initiated a pursuit inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required, and the officer may receive additional training. In some cases, disciplinary action may be taken. This annual analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest needed or necessary changes in policy, training, equipment, or supervision.

All pursuit reports will be attached to a copy of the Offense Report for review up the chain of command. Once the Chief of Police signs the report, it will then be given to the Patrol Commander to retain for records.

### **Vehicle Pursuit Comparison 2017 to 2018**

There was a total of \_1\_ reported vehicle pursuit in 2018 and will be compared to \_1\_ reported vehicle pursuit from 2017. This represents a 0 % change in number of pursuits from 2017 to 2018.

<b>Reason for contact</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Traffic violation only	0	0	0
Misdemeanor Offenses	1	0	-1
Felony Offense	0	0	0
Outstanding Warrant	0	0	0
Suspicious Activity	0	1	+1
Suspected Intoxication	0	0	0
Total	1	1	0

### **Individual Officer Analysis**

There is no analysis provided for this report.

## **Reasons for a Pursuit**

In 2018, there were 0 vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer observed the driver commit a traffic violation and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. Failure to stop for an officer is a separate violation, and fleeing from an officer in a vehicle is a State Jail Felony.

In 2018, there were 0 vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer became aware the driver was wanted for a misdemeanor offense, and then the driver failed to stop when signaled by the officer.

In 2018, there were 0 vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer became aware the driver was wanted for a felony offense and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer.

In 2018, there were 0 vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer became aware the driver was wanted on an outstanding misdemeanor offense and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer.

In 2018, was 1 vehicle pursuit initiated because the officer observed the driver in suspicious circumstances and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. Officers have the authority to stop and question persons who are found in suspicious circumstances and the officer has reasonable suspicion to suspect criminal activity.

On 10-28-18, Officers were informed a subject with multiple felony warrants was the passenger in a vehicle in a particular parking lot. The driver was supposed to be the passenger's girlfriend. Officer's drove passed, and noticed the passenger side had the seat laid back and someone was in the seat. The vehicle's license plate returned to the driver (the girlfriend), and moments later, the girlfriend walked to the vehicle with food. Officer's attempted to stop the car in the parking lot, but it sped away leaving the city limits. The vehicle stopped on County Road 414 and the suspect was arrested for Evading and Hindering Apprehension of a known felon/sex offender.

In 2018, there were 0 vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer had reasonable suspicion to suspect the driver may be impaired due to alcohol or drugs and the driver failed to stop when signaled by the officer

In 2018, there were 0 vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer joined a pursuit which was already in progress.

## **Pursuit Terminations**

Pursuits can be terminated at any time by the pursuing officer or any Supervisor when they believe the danger posed to the citizens is greater than the need to apprehend the offender. This "voluntary termination" may better protect the citizens than the continuation of a dangerous pursuit for minor offenses. The table below provides information on the manner in which pursuits were terminated.

Type of Termination	2017	2018
Voluntary by Officer	0	0
Voluntary by Supervisor	0	0
Stopped by Arrest	1	1
Stopped-Fled on foot Escaped	0	0
Stopped- Fled on foot Captured	0	0
Accident-Violator involved in crash	0	0
Accident-Police involved in crash	0	0
Firearm discharged	0	0
Escaped-Not Captured	0	0
Escaped-Captured later	0	0

### **Damage and Injury**

In 2018, there were \_0\_ pursuits which had some damage or injury associated with the incident as a result of the pursuit.

### **Policy Violations**

The department policy on pursuits is reviewed periodically with officers to ensure they are aware of when they should or should not pursue a vehicle. After each pursuit, a PURSUIT REVIEW REPORT is forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police. If a violation of policy is identified, the Chief may decide on an appropriate response, which may include additional training or disciplinary actions if necessary.

In 2018, there were \_0\_ policy violations identified in regards to pursuit initiation or termination.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

In 2018, there were several cases of evading on foot, but only one Evading Arrest with a vehicle. Therefore there was only one pursuit report completed. The officers of the Henderson Police Department involved with this report were justified as signed by the Chief of Police.

### **Command Review- Actions to be taken:**

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Chief of Police

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Date