



FROSTBURG CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

37 BROADWAY, FROSTBURG, MD 21532 • 301-689-3000 (P) 301-687-0642 (F)

Kevin G. Grove
Commissioner of Public Safety

Nicholas J. Costello
Chief of Police

Emergency Vehicle Operations and Pursuits

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of emergency vehicles and for vehicular pursuits.

II. Definitions:

- A. **“Emergency Vehicle”** means a police vehicle with the emergency lights and sirens activated.
- B. **“Fleeing”** means maintaining or increasing speed, taking elusive or evasive action, and/or refusing to stop despite a police officer’s signal to stop, after a reasonable amount of time to stop.
- C. **“Motor Vehicle Pursuit”** means an active attempt by a police officer in a motor vehicle to apprehend a fleeing suspect actively attempting to avoid apprehension, beyond merely following the suspect.
- D. **“Police Vehicle”** means a vehicle assigned for police business.

III. Policy:

- A. An officer driving a Police Vehicle shall do so safely at all times, using reasonable care under the circumstances to avoid harm to persons and property.
- B. In driving a Police Vehicle and/or Emergency Vehicle a police officer **shall be guided by the principle that the sanctity of human life is the top priority**, recognizing that deviating from normal traffic laws as permitted in an Emergency Vehicle still increases the danger to the public and to the police officer.
- C. In determining whether to engage in a vehicular pursuit, a police officer **shall be guided by the principle that the sanctity of human life is the top priority**, recognizing that motor vehicle pursuits are inherently a high risk and dangerous activity.
- D. No police officer shall be disciplined or otherwise receive adversarial treatment for refusing to engage in a Motor Vehicle Pursuit.



FROSTBURG CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

37 BROADWAY, FROSTBURG, MD 21532 ◦ 301-689-3000 (P) 301-687-0642 (F)

Kevin G. Grove
Commissioner of Public Safety

Nicholas J. Costello
Chief of Police

IV. Procedures:

- A. Before engaging in any motor vehicle pursuit, the officer must determine that the need to apprehend the suspect immediately reasonably outweighs the risk to the public under the circumstances at the time. In making this determination, the officer shall consider the following factors:
1. Seriousness of the violation;
 2. Whether there is already evidence that would identify the suspect;
 3. Traffic volume;
 4. Road conditions;
 5. Lighting, weather, and visibility conditions;
 6. Driver skill and ability;
 7. Likely presence of deer or other roadway hazards;
 8. Other circumstances influencing safety.
- B. A motor vehicle pursuit is authorized when a suspect uses a vehicle to elude apprehension **and** the following has occurred:
1. Any violent arrestable offense resulting in or threatening death or serious physical harm, including hit & run; or
 2. Driving in a manner which would indicate the driver is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs; or
 3. The driver presents a serious threat to public safety.
- C. Upon initiating a motor vehicle pursuit, the officer will promptly notify their supervisor and/or police dispatch that a pursuit is beginning.
- D. A Police Officer shall not engage in a motor vehicle pursuit when:
1. A supervisor orders the termination of the pursuit; or
 2. Non-department personnel are in the vehicle; or
 3. The fleeing person is operating an all-terrain or off-road vehicle; or
 4. The danger of the pursuit outweighs the necessity of immediately apprehending the suspect.
- E. A Police Officer shall terminate a pursuit if involved in a motor vehicle crash involving personal injury.



FROSTBURG CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

37 BROADWAY, FROSTBURG, MD 21532 • 301-689-3000 (P) 301-687-0642 (F)

Kevin G. Grove
Commissioner of Public Safety

Nicholas J. Costello
Chief of Police