



2-13 STARCHASE PURSUIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Related SOP(s):

2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle

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, such as 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, and 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 tactic.

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 marked patrol equipped police vehicle or with a hand-held device to remotely affix a GPS tracking device to a vehicle that the officer has ~~probable cause~~ reasonable suspicion to believe that the vehicle is stolen or has been used in a felony crime or an already active pursuit.

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The StarChase system allows a trained officer in an equipped police vehicle or handheld device to remotely affix a GPS tracking device to a vehicle that the officer has reasonable suspicion that any occupant or operator inside that vehicle is involved in any criminal activity in violation of any federal or state law, or city ordinance.

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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

6 A. StarChase equipment shall only be utilized by those officers/detectives who have been trained on its proper use.

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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.

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~~D.~~

E. 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.

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F. 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 F-G. 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 Department policy, officers will disengage emergency equipment and immediately stop following the vehicle.

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1. If the on-duty supervisor is unavailable, the next available on-duty supervisor will take command of the activation.

F. Where there is a StarChase activation and the target vehicle flees then the current APD pursuit policy will be followed.

G. 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.

~~G.~~

H. Officers should not attempt to track a StarChase activation or access the StarChase monitor while driving.

I. 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.

J. 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.

K. Once deployed the device must be removed immediately at the termination point of a pursuit or apprehension.

5 L. 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 ~~stolen vehicle or other felony crime for which its intended use~~ crime.

M. 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, as well as device reissuance from StarChase.

2-13-8 Training

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- A. ~~Officer/Detectives who have received training on the StarChase System will receive a four-hour refresher training yearly by the Advanced Training staff.~~
- B. ~~A familiarization training for non-equipped officers and supervisors will be posted yearly on Power DMS.~~

DRAFT