

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
	Jan. 15, 2011	5.03
	REVISED	TOTAL PAGES
	Jul. 12, 2020	7
Stopping Tactics		



Cross Reference: 2.01, 5.01, 5.02, 5.04, 5.07, 7.08, 10.15, 11.02

I. Definitions

A. Boxing-In (moving roadblock)

A technique in which three or more police vehicles are positioned around a moving vehicle and gradually slow all vehicles to a stop.

B. Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT)

A technique in which sworn personnel use a moving police vehicle to intentionally contact another moving vehicle in order to induce a rotational spin of the violator vehicle into a position it can be blocked by law enforcement.

C. Road Spikes

A specially designed device that will cause one or more tires of a vehicle to deflate at a controlled rate when a vehicle is driven over the device.

D. Stationary Roadblock

A tactic used by sworn personnel to cause a partial blockage of the roadway using stationary objects.

E. Stopping Tactic

Any action taken or technique used by sworn personnel to force or attempt to force a vehicle to stop.

F. Vehicle Swoop

A technique in which sworn personnel use police vehicles to block in a vehicle that is stopped, moving slowly, or beginning to move.

II. Policy Statements

A. Use of a Stopping Tactic

1. A respect for human life shall take priority in all uses of stopping tactics. A stopping tactic may be used when there is a reasonable belief that the risk to human life is greater if the vehicle is not stopped than from the use of the stopping tactic.
2. Unless exigent circumstances exist, sworn personnel shall only use authorized stopping tactics and shall do so based on training and policy. The following are authorized stopping tactics:
 - a. Boxing-In
 - b. PIT

- c. Road Spikes
 - d. Stationary Roadblock
 - e. Vehicle Swoop
3. Stopping tactics may be used as part of a planned tactical operation, such as stopping a wanted felon by SWAT section personnel.
 4. Stopping tactics may be used in situations other than an authorized pursuit.
- B. Sworn personnel may use an authorized stopping tactic only after having been trained and certified by the Advanced Training Unit.
- C. Ramming
1. Sworn personnel shall not use a police motor vehicle to ram another vehicle unless the other vehicle or vehicle's occupant(s) poses a risk of serious physical harm to themselves, officer(s), or the public.
 2. The use of a motor vehicle to ram another vehicle shall be used only in compliance with the "Use of Force" directive.
- D. Assistance to a Foreign Agency
1. Sworn personnel shall follow all Division policies regarding implementing a stopping tactic when providing assistance to a foreign agency.
 2. PIT and Boxing-In
 - a. Sworn personnel shall not use PIT or Boxing-In to assist a foreign agency's vehicular pursuit that does not conform to Division policy.
 3. Unless otherwise noted, sworn personnel may assist a foreign agency by using other stopping tactics when either:
 - a. Assistance is requested by the foreign agency, or
 - b. Approval is given by a sworn supervisor.
- E. Reporting, Documenting, and Reviewing
1. Sworn personnel shall record the use or attempted use of a stopping tactic on the Cruiser Video System (CVS) and Body-Worn Camera (BWC) if available.
 2. Sworn personnel shall report the use or attempted use of a stopping tactic to a sworn supervisor as soon as practical.
 3. Sworn personnel shall document the use or attempted use of a stopping tactic on the Stopping Tactic Report, form U-10.194.
 4. A sworn supervisor shall review each Stopping Tactic Report for completeness.
 5. A zone or traffic lieutenant shall conduct the investigation and:
 - a. Make a determination of compliance with Division policy for all road spikes and vehicle swoops, or make a recommendation of compliance with Division policy for the stopping tactics listed in Section II,E,6 (except for PIT).

- b. When appropriate, make a recommendation concerning disciplinary action to be taken.

Note: If the stopping tactic is a PIT or is in conjunction with a vehicular pursuit, no recommendations should be made until the incident has been reviewed by the Pursuit Review Committee.

6. A zone or traffic lieutenant shall conduct an administrative investigation of the use or attempted use of any of the following stopping tactics:
 - a. Boxing-In
 - b. PIT
 - c. Stationary Roadblock
 - d. Any stopping tactic that results in human injury or property damage not caused by the use of road spikes
 - e. Any ramming incident
7. Stopping tactics used as part of a planned tactical operation shall be investigated by the appropriate supervisor of the tactical unit and included in the after-action incident report for that operation.
8. PIT incidents and stopping tactics used during a vehicular pursuit shall be investigated as outlined in the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive.
9. ***The use or attempted use of a stopping tactic which results in a fatality or injuries likely to cause death shall be referred to an independent agency for investigation.***
10. The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) ***may*** investigate ***a foreign agency's*** use or attempted use of a stopping tactic which results in a fatality or injuries likely to cause death ***provided no Division personnel are actively engaged.***
11. The SWAT Section Lieutenant should investigate the use or attempted use of stopping tactics initiated by and/or involving SWAT units.

F. Boxing-In

1. Requires a sworn supervisor's approval.
2. Should only be used on divided highways and in light traffic.

G. PIT

1. PIT shall only be used or attempted if the situation also meets the requirements for engaging in a vehicular pursuit as outlined in the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive.
2. If possible, PIT should be approved by a sworn supervisor prior to use.
3. A marked unit should be used when performing PIT, and it is recommended that at least one other police unit be present.
4. PIT shall only be used or attempted when the suspect is at speeds of 45 mph or slower, unless the other vehicle or vehicle's occupant(s) pose a risk of serious physical harm to themselves, officer(s), or the public.

5. PIT should not be used against vehicles that are substantially larger or taller than the police vehicle.
6. PIT shall not be used against a two or three-wheel vehicle, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), or other similar vehicle.

H. Road Spikes

1. If possible, the use of spikes should be approved by a sworn supervisor prior to use.
2. Only road spikes approved by the Division may be used.
3. Should be used on hard surfaces.
4. Shall not be used against a two or three-wheel vehicle, ATV, or other similar vehicle.

I. Stationary Roadblock

1. Requires a sworn supervisor's approval.
2. May be set up using objects suitable to block the roadway, such as construction barrels, vehicles, and traffic barriers.
3. At least one marked unit should be used when possible. Only Division vehicles may be used and shall be unoccupied.
4. Shall be set up in a manner and location that reasonably permits the suspect:
 - a. To recognize the roadblock and avoid a traffic crash, and
 - b. Maneuver through the roadblock.

J. Vehicle Swoop

1. May be attempted or used only on stopped or slow moving vehicles.
2. Requires that at least one marked unit be used unless part of a planned tactical operation.

III. Procedures

A. Sworn Personnel

1. Determine the appropriate stopping tactic for the situation, location, and available time, and request approval if reasonably possible.
2. Activate and position the CVS and BWC to record the stopping tactic when practical and able.
3. Implement the stopping tactic as trained and within Division policy.
4. Notify the Dispatcher and a sworn supervisor upon using or attempting to use a stopping tactic.
5. Complete the Stopping Tactic Report.
6. If a PIT was used or attempted, follow the procedures outlined in the "Post-Pursuit Actions" section of the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive.

B. Sworn Supervisor

1. Approve or disapprove the use of a stopping tactic as appropriate.
2. Notify the zone or traffic lieutenant.

3. Respond to the scene and review the area where the stopping tactic was used or attempted as necessary.
4. Review the Stopping Tactic Report for accuracy. Forward to the investigating lieutenant.
5. Conduct a debriefing with the sworn personnel involved to review the positive actions taken and any actions that may improve the response.

C. Investigating Lieutenant

1. Obtain and review the following as required:
 - a. Copies of the CVS and BWC recording(s) from units directly involved with or present during the use or attempted use of the stopping tactic
 - b. A copy of the radio transmissions
 - c. A copy of the Arrest Report, form U-10.100, as applicable
 - d. A copy the Traffic Crash Report, form OH-1, as applicable

Note: When the incident involves a Vehicle Swoop only with no property damage or injuries, supervisors are only required to review the CVS and BWC recordings made of the incident.

2. Document the findings in the "Supervisor's Review" and "Investigative Summary" sections of the Stopping Tactic Report.
 - a. If the incident involves road spikes or a vehicle swoop, select the appropriate check box to indicate whether the stopping tactic was compliant with Division policy.
 - b. If the incident involves a stopping tactic listed in Section II,E,6, conduct an administrative investigation and make a recommendation regarding compliance with Division policy (except for PIT).
 - c. If the incident involves a PIT, follow the procedures outlined in the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive and the "Vehicular Pursuit Investigations" section of the Supervisor's Manual.
 - d. Recommend corrective/disciplinary action when appropriate.
3. Complete a Data Processing Worksheet, form U-10.164, and attach it to the Stopping Tactic Report.
4. Forward the investigative packet through the appropriate chain of command.

D. Involved Personnel's Commander

1. Review the investigative packet.
2. Forward Vehicle Swoops and/or the use of Road Spikes with no property damage or injuries and found within policy directly to the Pursuit Recording Secretary.
3. Make a determination regarding compliance with Division policy unless the incident involves a PIT or serious injury.

4. When found within policy:
 - a. Forward the packet and findings to the Pursuit Recording Secretary.
 - b. Notify the involved personnel of the decision.
 5. When found outside of policy, either:
 - a. Determine corrective/disciplinary action as appropriate and forward the packet to the involved personnel's deputy chief, or
 - b. Forward the packet to the deputy chief when departmental charges or deviation from progressive discipline are requested.
 6. If the incident involves a PIT, follow the procedures outlined in the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive.
 7. Forward investigations involving a serious injury to the deputy chief.
- E. Involved Personnel's Deputy Chief
1. Review the investigative packet and determine compliance with Division policy when the incident involves a serious injury.
 2. When found within policy:
 - a. Forward the packet and findings to the Pursuit Recording Secretary.
 - b. Notify the involved personnel of the decision.
 3. When found outside of policy, either:
 - a. Determine corrective/disciplinary action as appropriate and forward the packet to the immediate supervisor for follow-through, or
 - b. Forward the packet to the Chief of Police when departmental charges or deviation from progressive discipline are requested.
 4. If the incident involves a PIT, follow the procedures outlined in the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive.
- F. Involved Personnel's Immediate Supervisor
1. When corrective/disciplinary action is determined:
 - a. Issue the corrective/disciplinary action.
 - b. Forward the original investigative packet through the chain of command to the Human Resources Bureau.
 - c. Forward a copy of the investigative packet to the Pursuit Recording Secretary.
 2. If the incident involves a PIT, follow the procedures outlined in the "Vehicular Pursuits" directive.
- G. Pursuit Recording Secretary
1. Forward a copy of the Stopping Tactic Report and findings to the Training Bureau Commander.
 2. Forward the original Stopping Tactic Report and investigative packet to the Internal Affairs Bureau for filing if no discipline was issued.
- H. Training Bureau Commander
- Have Stopping Tactic Reports reviewed to develop training for the Division as needed.

I. Human Resources Bureau

1. Remove and maintain original disciplinary documentation from the investigative packet in accordance with the appropriate collective bargaining agreement.
2. Forward the remainder of the investigative packet to the Internal Affairs Bureau for filing.

J. Internal Affairs Bureau

Maintain the original Stopping Tactic Report and investigative packet.