

## 214 Vehicle Pursuits

### 214.6.3 PRECISION IMMOBILIZATION TECHNIQUE

The use of the PIT should be approved in advance by the control supervisor. Officers and supervisors should weigh the need to immediately stop the vehicle based on the driving behavior and risk to the public, versus apprehension of the suspect, or termination of the pursuit.

- (a) PIT shall not be performed on the following vehicles:
  - 1. Motorcycle.
  - 2. All-Terrain Vehicle.
  - 3. Vehicles pulling trailers.
  - 4. Tractor trailers.
  - 5. Large Motor homes.
  - 6. Vehicle's carrying known hazardous materials.
- (b) Special PIT Considerations
  - 1. If known, the use of PIT should generally be avoided in the following situations:
    - (a) Pickup truck with passengers in the bed.
    - 2. ~~StarChase equipped vehicles should not normally be used to perform PIT.~~

### 214.6.4 LOW SPEED INTERVENTION

#### ~~214.6.5 STARCHASE PURSUIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM~~

~~The StarChase® system allows an officer to remotely affix a GPS tracking device to a pursued (or about to be pursued) vehicle using an air pressure system to discharge the tracker from the front of the StarChase® equipped patrol car to the vehicle in front of it. Once the tracker is affixed, its location can be tracked by an employee (StarChase® Monitor) using a computer with an internet connection. This concept is similar to a RAT/GPS.~~

- ~~(a) For the purpose of clarity of communications, radio traffic should identify the device as "StarChase®".~~
- ~~(b) StarChase® equipment in the patrol vehicle will only be operated by officers who have been trained in its use. StarChase® equipped vehicles will not be assigned to officers who are not trained on its use unless required by exigent circumstances.~~
- ~~(c) Vehicles equipped with StarChase® equipment will not be used to push vehicles.~~
- ~~(d) Except as specified below, officers shall use their own judgment regarding affixing a StarChase® tag upon a vehicle and do not need prior approval from a supervisor:
  - 1. ~~All safety decisions related to the discharge of a StarChase® tag rest with the operating officer. While supervisors may direct or approve the deployment of a StarChase® equipped patrol car that is involved in the discharge of a tag, safety decisions related to passing other involved vehicles and the actual discharge of the device rest solely upon the operating officer whose decisions must take into account the guidelines contained in General Orders. In accordance with general orders, the safety of officers, uninvolved persons and persons inside the targeted vehicle shall be considered. The following decisions are specifically included:
    - ~~(a) Whether the officer can safely maneuver close enough to the suspect vehicle to come within targeting range.~~
    - ~~(b) Whether the officer can safely pass any other vehicle involved in the pursuit.~~
    - ~~(c) Whether any circumstance would indicate the device would not work (e.g. weather conditions, suspect vehicle weaving, etc.)~~~~~~
- ~~(e) StarChase® equipped patrol cars, with approval from a supervisor, are authorized to respond Code 3 to join a pursuit for potential use of the device.
  - 1. ~~Unless directed otherwise, the StarChase® equipped vehicle will join the pursuit at the rear of authorized pursuing vehicles until cleared to pass.~~~~

2. ~~Once a StarChase® equipped vehicle joins a pursuit, it becomes an authorized unit as it relates to the number of authorized pursuing vehicle.~~
  3. ~~StarChase® equipped vehicles may pass other pursuing vehicles only when deemed safe and only with specific permission from the unit to be passed. Permission is to be sought and acknowledged one passing at a time. Officers driving the StarChase® equipped vehicle will identify which side of the overtaken vehicle they will pass.~~
- (f) ~~StarChase® tags will be deployed in accordance with training.~~
1. ~~Once the StarChase® tag has been successfully deployed, pursuing vehicles should normally drop back significantly from the suspect vehicle.~~
  2. ~~Officers will maintain constant communication with the StarChase® Monitor for speed/direction/location updates of the suspect vehicle.~~
  3. ~~The Control Supervisor will coordinate with the StarChase® Monitor to direct resources and officers to appropriate locations to apprehend the suspect.~~
  4. ~~No officer who is driving a moving patrol car will access the StarChase® Monitor data as this creates an unnecessary hazard.~~
- (g) ~~Tactical Considerations~~
1. ~~The StarChase® tag will not normally be deployed in the following situations unless the suspect poses a substantial risk to the public:~~
  2. ~~During heavy rain.~~
  3. ~~While driving on exceptionally rough terrain.~~
  4. ~~On a motorcycle.~~
  5. ~~When pedestrians are between or very near the suspect vehicle and the StarChase® equipped vehicle.~~
- (h) ~~In addition to the normal pursuit reporting procedures required by general orders, Officers who use the StarChase® system will report all tag deployments to the Police Technology Unit by sending an email to [APDPoliceTechnology@austintexas.gov](mailto:APDPoliceTechnology@austintexas.gov).~~