

Corinth Police Department



2011

This report summarizes vehicle pursuits by the officers of the Corinth Police Department for the 2011 calendar year.

2011 Year End
Vehicle Pursuit Report

Corinth Police Department

Year End Vehicle Pursuit Report 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Corinth Police Department General Order 500 Emergency Vehicle Operations Vehicle Pursuit Policy was made effective January 1, 2010. A review of the policy was completed in January 2011 and no major changes were made. The current policy provides guidelines on the operation of emergency vehicles during emergencies, non-emergencies, motor vehicle pursuits, and traffic stops. The Corinth Police Department defines a motor vehicle pursuit as follows: An active attempt by a law enforcement officer who is operating an authorized emergency vehicle and utilizing all emergency equipment to apprehend one or more occupants in a moving vehicle. Normally, the driver of the fleeing vehicle knows or should reasonably know, of that attempt and is evading apprehension by maintaining or increasing his speed, ignoring the officer or attempting to elude the officer while driving at speeds in excess of the legal speed limit.

The department continues to follow the guidelines of the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Task Force Agreement and Interjurisdictional Pursuit Policy Agreement set forth by The North Texas Police Chief's Association. The Interjurisdictional Pursuit Policy provides guidelines for notifications of pursuits entering a jurisdiction, control of the pursuit including number in police units involved, prohibited practices, and agency responsibilities.

The Corinth Police Department was not involved in an inordinate amount of vehicle pursuits in 2011. An analysis into the reason for the initiation of the originating contact was made. Of the 6 pursuits three were initiated for a traffic offense when the violators then fled from officers, constituting a felony offense of evading. Three others were initiated as a result of a criminal offense. In one instance two minor injuries occurred to officers who were involved in a foot chase after the initial vehicle pursuit. The injuries consisted of minor scrapes and scratches due to briars and tree limbs. Two suspect injuries were reported in 2011. Both injuries were minor, one resulted from an accident and the other resulted from a foot pursuit following the initial vehicle pursuit. Two of the pursuits involved the use of Stop Sticks to terminate the pursuit. In both instances, another agency deployed the Stop Sticks.

Corinth Police Department

Year End Vehicle Pursuit Report 2011

VEHICLE PURSUIT BREAKDOWN

During the course of the 2011 calendar year the Department was involved in 6 vehicle pursuits. The breakdown of pursuits and related noteworthy data is detailed in the following table:

2011 Vehicle Pursuit Breakdown	
Total Vehicle Pursuits	6
Accident Resulted	1
Injury to Suspect	2
Injury to Officer(s)	1
Injury to Uninvolved Party	0
Suspect Apprehended	4
Tire Deflation Device Utilized	2
Initiated for Traffic Violation	3
Initiated for Criminal Offense	3

POLICY

The current policy makes clear the situations authorizing Code 1 and Code 3 responses, prohibiting, under most circumstances, Code 2 responses. General Order 500 authorizes pursuits be initiated for the following circumstances:

- When an officer reasonably determines that there is no exposure to risk of collision, injury, or death greater than a reasonable need to apprehend the offender or recover the property; and,
- A felony offense in the officer's presence or the officer has reasonable suspicion a felony has been committed and the offender is escaping the officers presence and the officer

Corinth Police Department

Year End Vehicle Pursuit Report 2011

reasonably believes it is immediately necessary to apprehend the offender or recover property; or

- The offense of Driving While Intoxicated; or,
- A pursuit initiated by another law enforcement agency for the reasons stated above.

The current policy also provides specifics and direction on the following items:

- Definition of Motor Vehicle Pursuit
- Initiation of Motor Vehicle Pursuit
- Continuation of Motor Vehicle Pursuit
- Termination of Motor Vehicle Pursuit
- Vehicles authorized to engage in Motor Vehicle Pursuit
- Factors to consider before engaging in pursuit
- Notifications to be made regarding pursuits
- Responsibilities of Communications and Supervisors
- Pursuit guidelines
- Use of Stop Sticks
- Prohibited acts
- Inter-Jurisdictional Pursuits
- After action reporting
- Training

The Department continued to follow the DFW Interjurisdictional Pursuit Policy Agreement. The Department ensured participation in the DFW Interjurisdictional Pursuit Policy Agreement.

CHANGE TO EQUIPMENT

Patrol vehicles purchased during the 2011 calendar year were outfitted with a "Howler" siren. The Howler provides deep, low frequency tones, which are able to penetrate other vehicles, alerting drivers and pedestrians of police vehicle approach. The Howler is not a replacement to the vehicle's primary siren. It adds a minimum eight second penetrating burst of low frequency siren sound for use in heavy traffic, intersections or other high ambient noise conditions there by adding another layer of warning to traffic during a emergency vehicle operation. The department purchased Chevy Tahoes for supervisors. Each of the Tahoes purchased are pursuit rated.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

All officers of the department were trained by supervisory staff on General Order 500 during shift briefings and unit meetings in January 2011. The training was documented by memorandum from each supervisor conducting the training.

Corinth Police Department

Year End Vehicle Pursuit Report 2011

Three officers of the Corinth Police Department were sent to Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) training in 2011. Officers are sent routinely to EVOC training to keep emergency driving skills and techniques current. In the past, the department has participated in the Denton County Law Enforcement Training Consortium. The DCLETC disbanded in early 2011, however one officer of the department is an EVOC instructor and will be able to provide continuing training in emergency vehicle operations. The training is currently held at the Grayson County Airport near Sherman, Texas. The Department is also considering sending this officer to National Academy for Professional Driving (NAPD) training. If approved this officer could continue to train officers of the Department more frequently and closer to home as the driving course is more compact and is conducted at slower speeds.

CHANGE IN OPERATION/RESPONSE

Each pursuit undergoes a strict inspection process. The current process requires review from each division commander, the Captain and the Chief of Police. By scrutinizing each pursuit closer and with additional command personnel, a more thorough critique may be made ensuring the safety of the public and the officers of the Department is considered in future incidents. The department continued its close inspection process during the 2011 calendar year. By completing these reviews the Department recognized a couple of training concerns on a particular pursuit in 2011. The review brought to light officer safety issues not related to the pursuits. By conducting the review process Police Administration observed these actions and training was provided to the involved officers so the same mistakes would not be made again.