# WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT SOP 4.9

Date Issued: 12/27/2019 Review: 03/05/2021

[Note: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Wolfeboro Police Department and, as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.]

By Order of: Dean J. Rondeau, Chief of Police

## **FOOT PURSUITS**

**Policy** 

To ensure officer safety while providing a basic function of Law Enforcement To apprehend subjects that attempt to thwart justice by flight.

**Purpose** 

The purpose of this directive is the following:

Officer Safety

**Procedures** 

**Safety** 

A recent study has shown that:

- A significant number of officers are killed or injured during foot pursuits.
- Officers have no plan of action, other than arresting the suspect.
- That a *simple* chase can develop into a life-threatening situation for officers, when subjects turn on the officer with a weapon.
- Tunnel vision blurs officers' action and prevents effective safety measures from taking place.

**Definition** 

**Foot pursuit:** means the physical attempt by an officer, without the aid of a motor vehicle, to detain, arrest or otherwise take physical custody of an individual who attempts to flee on foot.

#### SOP 4.9 Foot Pursuits

#### **Procedures**

The following should be considered when initiating, continuing or ending a foot pursuit:

- Nature of offense.
- Communication access.
- Presence of physical danger.
- Physical condition and abilities of the officer.
- Safety of the officer and general public.

Members should operate as a team in setting up a perimeter to contain the subject.

Communication to be advised at all times when possible.

Member	Shall
Primary Officer	Notify dispatch about the pursuit
	Offense
	Description
	Direction
	Continue to notify dispatch of location & progress
Dispatcher	Contact secondary officer or mutual aid officer for
	back up
	Maintain communications with primary officer
	Advise secondary officer(s) of perimeter area to
	intercept suspect
	Notify on duty supervisor
	Notify call back supervisor if extended pursuit
	If communications is lost with primary officer, have an
	officer respond to primary officers last known location
Secondary Officer	Attempt to set up perimeter
	Intercept suspect
Supervisor	Oversee the scene on arrival

### **Prohibited**

Officers should not conduct or continue foot pursuits if:

- They get disarmed or lose possession of their service weapon.
- The danger to the officer or the public outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension.
- They lose contact with the dispatcher.
- They lose contact with communications.
- Are unsure of the suspect whereabouts or continued direction of travel.
- The chase goes into buildings or isolated areas without a backup officer, except in the event of extreme urgency, such as the immediate threat to the safety of the general public or other officers.