



**Santa Cruz Consolidated  
Emergency Communications Center**



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**9-1-1** FIRE  
POLICE  
MEDICAL



Michael J. McDougall  
General Manager

**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS  
LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

<b>Policy No.</b> 4730	<b>Date Issued:</b> June 1, 1996
<b>Section:</b> 4700 – Specific Procedures	<b>Date Revised:</b> July 14, 2008
<b>Accreditation Standards:</b> CALEA 2.3.2, 6.3.1	
<b>SUBJECT: PURSUITS</b>	
<b>APPROVED:</b>	 _____ Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee
<b>APPROVED:</b>	 _____ Michael J. McDougall, General Manager

When dispatchers are advised by officers of a pursuit, dispatchers should immediately clear the radio channel with an alert tone, and advise all units involved in the pursuit to switch to the Sheriff's Red channel (as the primary Command channel). Only NetCom dispatchers will make necessary channel assignments; field units should not switch to another Command channel until and unless directed to do so by NetCom. Dispatchers will immediately notify the patrol supervisor and CHP of the pursuit. Units not involved in the pursuit should remain on their primary radio frequency. If the Sheriff's Red channel is not available for pursuit coordination, the "White" (CLEMARS) channel should be used.

1. Dispatchers should quickly ascertain the following information from the officer initiating in the pursuit:
  - ◆ Present location.
  - ◆ Direction and speed of travel.
  - ◆ Last cross street passed.

- ◆ Description of the suspect vehicle, including license number and number of occupants.
  - ◆ Reason for the pursuit.
2. Dispatchers should inform the dispatchers of nearby jurisdictions of the pursuit, in case they become involved.
  3. Officers involved in pursuits should keep dispatchers advised of their location. If officers have not broadcast an update for approximately 30 seconds, dispatchers will ask for an updated location and direction of travel. Dispatchers should always repeat pursuing officers' broadcasts exactly as given (full echo).
  4. Dispatchers should run license plates of suspect vehicles for hot checks and registrations. Dispatchers will advise officers of the status of license plates along with the types of vehicles from the registration checks; if license numbers come back stolen, officers should be advised IMMEDIATELY. If registrations come back to different makes of vehicles, dispatchers should confirm license plate numbers. ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING SUSPECT VEHICLES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PURSUING OFFICERS WITHOUT DELAY.
  5. During pursuits, assisting dispatchers should take over all secondary radio channels and phone lines. When possible, assisting dispatchers should follow pursuits on maps to verify directions of travel, streets, etc. Assisting dispatchers should advise of dead ends, closed roads and known detours.
  6. Under no circumstances will dispatchers unnecessarily leave the radio frequency while pursuits are in progress.
  7. If pursuits continue out of Santa Cruz County jurisdiction, assisting dispatchers should contact the appropriate county and advise them of the pursuit, its nature and location. Pursuits that leave Santa Cruz County jurisdiction limits will be broadcast on CLEMARS (White channel). Officers involved in the pursuit will be advised to switch to CLEMARS. The neighboring county should be advised of the pursuing units' radio identifiers and asked to monitor CLEMARS.
  8. Officers assisting CHP units during CHP controlled pursuits within Santa Cruz County will broadcast their locations and all other pertinent information to NetCom on the Sheriff's Red or assigned Command channel. Assisting officers will continue to provide updated information until pursuits are terminated or officers are no longer involved in the pursuits.
  9. Pursuant to Santa Cruz County pursuit guidelines, pursuits initiated by CHP units will be controlled by CHP dispatch in coordination with NetCom. NetCom will maintain constant and direct telephone communications with CHP dispatch during the entire pursuit. Such communication between NetCom and CHP dispatch will also be main-

tained during pursuits not controlled by CHP whenever CHP units are in close proximity or actively involved in the pursuit.

10. Pursuing officers will remain on the Sheriff's Red or assigned Command channel until code 4 and NetCom dispatchers advise them to switch back to their primary channels.