

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
	Jan. 15, 2011	5.03
	REVISED	TOTAL PAGES
	Dec. 30, 2014	6
<b>Stopping Tactics</b>		



## 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 which 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.
  - 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 may use PIT or Boxing-In to assist a foreign agency's vehicular pursuit that does not conform to Division policy only when approval is given by a sworn supervisor.
    - b. Sworn personnel approved to use PIT or Boxing-In to assist a foreign agency's pursuit that does not conform to Division policy shall limit their participation in the pursuit to the implementation of the stopping tactic. Sworn personnel shall disengage and/or relinquish their position to the foreign agency if unable to implement PIT or Boxing-In within Division policy or within a reasonable amount of time.
  - 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), 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 of all road spikes and vehicle swoops and determine compliance with Division policy.

Note: If the stopping tactic is in conjunction with a pursuit no recommendation 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, including an investigative letter, of the use or attempted use of the following stopping tactics:
  - a. Boxing-In,
  - b. PIT,
  - c. Stationary Roadblock,
  - d. Any stopping tactic that results in human injury, or
  - 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. Stopping tactics used during a vehicular pursuit shall be investigated by a zone or traffic lieutenant.
8. The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) shall investigate the use or attempted use of a stopping tactic which results in a fatality or injuries likely to cause death.

#### 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. If possible, PIT should be approved by a sworn supervisor prior to use.
2. A marked unit should be used when performing PIT, and it is recommended that at least one other police unit be present.
3. 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.
4. PIT should not be used against vehicles that are substantially larger or taller than the police vehicle.
5. 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, 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 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.

#### **B. Sworn Supervisor**

1. Approve or disapprove the use of a stopping tactic as appropriate.
2. Notify the zone 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 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 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, 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 recordings made of the incident.

2. Document the findings and make a recommendation of compliance with Division policy in the narrative section of the Stopping Tactic Report. Complete the Supervisor's Review section of the report.
3. Complete a Data Processing Worksheet, form U-10.164, and attach to the Stopping Tactic Report.
4. Recommend corrective/disciplinary action when found outside of policy.

#### D. Commander

1. Review the investigative packet.
2. Make a recommendation regarding compliance with Division policy.
3. 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.

#### E. Deputy Chief

1. Review the investigative packet and determine compliance with Division policy.
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. Forward the packet to the Chief of Police when departmental charges or deviation from progressive discipline are requested, or
  - b. Determine corrective/disciplinary action as appropriate and forward the packet to the immediate supervisor.

#### F. Immediate Supervisor

1. When corrective/disciplinary action is determined:
  - a. Issue the corrective/disciplinary action and forward the investigative packet through the chain of command.
  - b. Forward a copy of the investigative packet to the Pursuit Recording Secretary.

#### 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.

H. Training Bureau Commander

Have Stopping Tactic Reports reviewed to develop training for the Division as needed.

I. Internal Affairs Bureau

Maintain the original Stopping Tactic Report and investigative packet.