
	MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT
	221.00 HIGH RISK VEHICLE STOPS/APPREHENSIONS
	Effective Date: October, 2019
	Approved: _____  Chief of Police

- I. Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for tactics and procedures in making a High Risk Traffic Stop.
- II. Policy
It is the policy of the department that High Risk Traffic Stops will be conducted when officers suspect that the occupants of the vehicle are dangerous and/or the occupants are suspected to have weapons. High Risk Traffic Stop Techniques were established to provide officers with an increased line of protection, using tactics and cover, when encountering risks greater than what would be considered normal/moderate in the course of their everyday duties. A High Risk Traffic Stop should be conducted at the end of every pursuit. No officer shall discharge their weapon from behind the Control Line.
- III. Definitions
Control Officer: An officer who is in charge of giving commands to the occupants of the suspect vehicle. The control officer is not necessarily the primary officer but the one in a position where commands can be better communicated.
Arrest Control Officer: An officer who is capable of going hands free in order to place handcuffs on a subject.
Control Line: This is the line of officers located behind the Patrol Cars positioned directly behind the suspect vehicle.
- IV. Procedures
 - A. Pre-Planned High Risk Apprehensions
 1. A pre-operation meeting will be held involving all participants in the operation in order to familiarize themselves with all officers who may participate in the arrest or are in any way connected with the operation.
 2. If any undercover officer or informant is at the scene of the operation, and cannot be withdrawn, he will be described to all participants by photograph, if available, and a clothing description.
 3. All officers that participate will either be in uniform or will wear distinctive clothing identifying them as peace officers. This clothing should have large contrasting letters which are visible from front and back and identify the wearer as a peace officer. This clothing should be shown to all participants for familiarization during the pre-operation meeting.
 - B. Procedure for High Risk Vehicle Stops
 1. Advise communications of the location and direction of travel, request back-up and when practical, wait for back-up before signaling suspect vehicle to stop.
 2. Maintain safe distance behind suspect vehicle, in case of sudden stop or gun fire.
 3. If possible, offset police vehicle to left of suspect vehicle to give officer protection. If possible, offset the secondary police vehicle to the right of suspect vehicle.
 4. Ideally, officers should position themselves at the rear of these two police vehicles as cover (Control Line). This is to maximize safety, communication, and coordination between officers.
 5. If dark, illuminate suspect vehicle with all available white-light (i.e. spot light., takedown lights, steady burn, etc.).

6. The control officer should order all occupants to show their hands, remain still, look ahead, and exit vehicle only when ordered to do so.
7. Draw weapon to ready position to cover occupants of vehicle, if necessary.
8. If the motor of suspect/violator's vehicle is running, order driver to turn the ignition off.
9. Order the driver and occupants to exit vehicle, one at a time.
10. If possible, each occupant shall be ordered back behind the police vehicle prior to placing in handcuffs.
11. The occupant will be secured in a police vehicle not being used as a cover vehicle. If possible, the suspect should be questioned in regards to the total number of occupants in the vehicle, including any children before ordering the next occupant out of the vehicle. If possible, each occupant should be placed in separate police vehicles.
12. If an occupant refuses to obey commands or cannot be brought behind a police vehicle, all attempts should be made to have the subject lay prone on the ground or kneel facing away from officers. Before leaving cover and attempting to apprehend the subject, officers will coordinate with each other to ensure that all threat areas are covered upon approach and while taking the subject into custody.

EFFECTIVE: September, 1990; REVISED: January, 1992; REVISED: October, 2019; FORMERLY: 223.00; FORMERLY: 222.00