

# **Angleton Police Department**

**2022**



# **Department Vehicle Pursuit Analysis**



Guadalupe Valdez  
Chief of Police

# ANGLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Protecting with Purpose, and Serving with Pride*



Robert C. Dahlstrom  
Assistant Chief of Police

## Vehicle Pursuit Analysis for 2022

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Angleton Police Department's Vehicle Pursuits for calendar year 2022. Vehicle Pursuits are inherently dangerous to both the officers involved and the public. The Angleton Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service with the least adverse impact on our citizens. The Angleton Police Department is committed to protecting our citizens but at the same time ensuring the way we do so does not place the public at risk of greater harm. This process requires continuous evaluation of the risks and benefits of each action. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 7.14 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of vehicle pursuits and the inherent risks involved.

Officers are trained by the department in pursuit tactics and emergency driving. However, as skilled as an officer might be in these situations, the vehicle being pursued may not have a competent driver and many times the driver may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## Vehicle Pursuit Reporting Requirements

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 7.13 and Angleton Police Department Directive: 07.13.1, requires a written report be completed anytime an officer pursues a vehicle.

Any time an officer calls a pursuit, department policy requires a Supervisor be immediately notified by the Dispatch center. The supervisor is required to monitor the pursuit and act as an uninvolved decision maker regarding the danger of the pursuit. Both the officer and Supervisor are charged with continuous evaluation of the pursuit as it occurs and are required to call off the pursuit when wither believe the risks to the officer or public outweigh the need for immediate capture of the suspect.

Each individual Pursuit Report is immediately reviewed by the Officer's Supervisor, and through the Chain of Command to the Chief of Police. At the time of the incident, the Pursuit is reviewed to ensure the use was appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy. If the officer initiated a pursuit inappropriately, a departmental investigation is required, and the officer may receive additional training or in some cases discipline up to and including termination from employment. This annual analysis is not intended to





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determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment, or supervision.

## Vehicle Pursuit Comparison 2021/2022

There was a total of sixteen (14) Reported Vehicle Pursuits this year compared to ten (10) last year. This represents a difference of four (4) vehicle pursuits.

The reasons for Pursuit initiation are listed below by type with comparison to the previous year.

	2021	2022	Difference
Traffic Violation Only	3	7	+4
Misdemeanor Offense	2	4	+2
Felony Offense	1	1	0
Outstanding Warrant	0	0	0
Suspicious Activity	0	0	0
Suspected Intoxication	0	0	0
Agency Assist	4	2	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>+4</b>

### Reasons for a Pursuit

In 2022, there were seven (7) vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer observed the driver commit a traffic violation and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. Failure to stop for an officer is a separate violation and fleeing from an officer in a vehicle is a State Jail Felony. This number is up from the three (3) pursuit initiated for traffic violations last year.





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In 2022, there were four (4) vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer became aware the driver had just committed a Misdemeanor Offense and then the driver failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is up from the two (2) pursuits initiated for Misdemeanor Offense's last year.

In 2022, there was one (1) vehicle pursuit initiated because the officer became aware the driver had just committed a Felony Offense and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is the same as the one (1) pursuit initiated for Felony Offense's last year.

In 2022, there were zero (0) vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer became aware that the driver was wanted on an outstanding Misdemeanor or Felony Warrant and then the driver failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is the same as the zero (0) pursuits initiated for outstanding Misdemeanor or Felony Warrants last year.

In 2022, there was zero (0) vehicle pursuit initiated because the officer observed the driver in suspicious circumstances and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. Officers have the authority to stop and question persons who are found in suspicious circumstances and the officer has reasonable suspicion to suspect criminal activity. This number is the same as the zero (0) pursuit initiated for suspicious circumstances last year.

In 2022, there was zero (0) vehicle pursuit initiated because the officer had reasonable suspicion to suspect the driver may be impaired due to alcohol or drugs and the driver then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number zero (0) pursuits initiated for reasonable suspicion to suspect the driver may be impaired due to alcohol or drugs is the same as last year.

In 2022, there were two (2) vehicle pursuit initiated by another agency that came into the city limits of Angleton and the driver failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is down by two (2) pursuits initiated by another agency last year.

## Pursuit Terminations

Pursuits can be terminated at any time by the pursuing officer or any Supervisor when they believe the danger posed to the citizens is greater than the need to apprehend the offender. This "voluntary termination" may





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better protect the citizens than the continuation of a dangerous pursuit for minor offenses. The table below provides information on how pursuits were terminated.

Type Termination	2021	2022	Difference
Voluntary Termination - Officer	0	5	+5
Voluntary Termination - Supervisor	1	1	0
Stopped - Arrested	6	4	-2
Stopped - Fled on foot - Escaped	0	0	0
Stopped - Fled on foot - Captured	1	4	+3
Accident - Violator Involved in Accident	0	0	0
Accident - Police Involved in Accident	1	0	0
Spike Strips	0	0	0
PIT Maneuver	0	0	0
Rammed	1	0	0
Firearm	0	0	0
Roadblock	0	0	0
Escaped - Not Located	0	0	0
Escaped - Captured Later	0	0	0

## Damage and Injury

In 2022, there was zero (0) pursuit which had some damage or injury associated with the incident as a result of the pursuit.

## Policy Violations

The department policy on vehicle pursuits is reviewed at least annually with officers to ensure they are aware of when they should or should not pursue a vehicle. After each pursuit, the pursuit must be reported on the Pursuit Report Form, which is forwarded through the officer's immediate supervisor, professional standards,





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patrol commander, and to the Chief of Police. If a violation of policy is identified, the Chief may decide on an appropriate response, which may include additional training or even disciplinary actions if necessary.

In 2022, there was zero (0) policy violations identified regarding a pursuit initiation or termination.

## Summary and Recommendations

There were no significant changes in vehicle pursuit policy or procedures in 2022. There were fourteen (14) reported vehicle pursuits in 2022 compared to the ten (10) reported vehicle pursuits in 2021. The overall vehicle pursuits increased by a total of four (4). Each reported vehicle pursuit was reviewed by a Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Commander, Professional Standards, and the Chief of Police. This review process is objective and thorough. All fourteen (14) vehicle pursuits complied with Angleton Police Department policy and procedure. The department should continue annual emergency vehicle operations training (high speed and precision). The department should continue receiving annual training on vehicle pursuit policy and procedures (Directive 07.13.1).

## Command Review:

### Any Actions to be Taken:

The vehicle pursuit policy should be annually reviewed to ensure the department is up to date on latest best practices.

All sworn personnel shall continue to receive training on vehicle pursuit policy and emergency vehicle operation.

Chief of Police

2-6-23

Date

