



<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>STOPPING SUSPECT VEHICLES</b>		
<b>Policy #:</b>	OP 4.36.3	<b>Last Updated:</b>	2022-01-27
<b>Issued By:</b>	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	<b>Approved By:</b>	SURREY POLICE BOARD
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**RELATED POLICIES**

OP 2.1 *Use of Force*

OP 2.4 *IIO Notification*

OP 4.36.1 *Emergency Vehicle Operation*

OP 4.36.2 *Police Pursuits*

OP 4.36.5 *Police Involved Collisions*

OP 8.7 *Use of Force Reporting (SBOR)*

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1. To ensure that Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members determine that the need to apprehend a suspect outweighs the potential risk to public safety when attempting to stop or prevent a suspect vehicle from fleeing from the police.

1.2. To provide Members direction and limitations on the use of various techniques and equipment designed to prevent or stop a suspect vehicle from fleeing from police.

**2. SCOPE**

2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

**3. POLICY**

3.1. Members may only use vehicle stopping and disabling techniques and devices authorized by the Chief Constable.

- 3.2. Except in exigent circumstances described in s. 4.10 below, only Members trained and qualified in the use of specific vehicle stopping techniques and equipment may use approved devices and techniques.
- 3.3. The use of vehicle disabling devices and techniques pose a significant potential risk to the safety of the public, Members, and the suspect(s). When using vehicle stopping techniques and devices, Members must have reasonable grounds to believe that the risk of harm to the public, Members, and the suspect(s) from the use of these devices and techniques is less than the risk of harm to the public, other Members, and the suspect should these devices and techniques not be used.
- 3.4. The use of Boxing and Pinning, Ramming, and Tactical Vehicle Takedown techniques constitute a use of force and therefore are necessary, and that these techniques constitute a reasonable level of force required in the circumstances to apprehend a suspect.

#### **4. PROCEDURE**

##### **Covert Vehicle Disabling**

- 4.1. To prevent a stationary suspect vehicle from fleeing from the police, Member(s) may use covert vehicle disabling techniques when:
  - i. a Member has reasonable grounds to believe a suspect has committed an offence for which the person may be arrested without warrant;
  - ii. there are reasonable grounds to believe that a suspect may attempt to flee in a vehicle and in doing so would pose a significant safety risk to the public;
  - iii. the Member has been trained in the use of covert vehicle disabling techniques;
  - iv. the Member believes that the vehicle can be disabled safely; and
  - v. a Supervisor has authorized the use the technique.

##### **Tire Deflation Devices**

- 4.2. To terminate a pursuit, or stop a mobile suspect vehicle from fleeing, when reasonably safe to do so, Member(s) may use the deployment of Tire Deflation Devices (commonly known as “Stop Sticks”) when:
  - i. a Member has reasonable grounds to believe a suspect has committed an indictable offence for which the person may be arrested without warrant;
  - ii. a lower level of force would not be effective;
  - iii. a higher level of force would not be appropriate;
  - iv. the Member(s) have been trained in the use of Tire Deflation Devices;
  - v. the device can be deployed safely; and
  - vi. a Supervisor has authorized the use of the technique.
- 4.3. Members must not deploy Tire Deflation Devices to stop a motorcycle or vehicles whose stability may be significantly negatively affected upon coming into contact with the device.

### **Boxing and/or Pinning a Suspect Vehicle**

- 4.4. "Boxing" is the safe positioning of police vehicles around a stationary or slow-moving suspect vehicle to limit or prevent the movement of the suspect's vehicle.
- 4.5. "Pinning" is the use of a police vehicle to safely make physical contact with, and contain, the suspect vehicle.
- 4.6. To prevent the driver of a suspect vehicle from fleeing from the police, and when reasonably safe to do so, Members may use Boxing and/or Pinning techniques when:
- i. a Member has reasonable grounds to believe a suspect has committed an offence for which the person may be arrested without warrant;
  - ii. a suspect vehicle is stopped or moving at slow speeds;
  - iii. the Members have been trained in Boxing and/or Pinning a suspect vehicle; and
  - iv. a Supervisor has authorized the use of the technique.
- 4.7. Unless authorized by a Supervisor, Members must not attempt a second Boxing and/or Pinning if the first attempt is unsuccessful.
- 4.8. A Supervisor must not authorize a second attempt at Boxing and/or Pinning or a Police Pursuit of the suspect vehicle unless there is a new serious offence for which a Police Pursuit would be justified (see OP 4.36.2 *Police Pursuits*).
- 4.9. Members involved in a Boxing and/or Pinning technique where force was used against the suspect vehicle, must complete a PRIME Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SBOR) Use of Force template, regardless of whether the Boxing and/or Pinning technique was successful in stopping the vehicle.

### **Ramming Suspect Vehicle**

- 4.10. To terminate a Police Pursuit or stop a dangerous suspect from fleeing from the police, when justified in exigent circumstances, Member(s) may use a police vehicle to ram and disable a suspect vehicle when:
- i. there are compelling and exigent circumstances threatening public safety;
  - ii. there are no other reasonable means of stopping the suspect vehicle available;
  - iii. the Member(s) know that the suspect(s) has committed, is about to commit, or is committing, a serious criminal offence involving imminent threat of grievous bodily harm or death to any person; and
  - iv. a Supervisor has authorized the use of the technique.
- 4.11. Members involved in the ramming of a suspect vehicle, where force was used against the suspect vehicle must complete a PRIME SBOR Use of Force template.

### **Tactical Vehicle Takedown (TVT)**

- 4.12. Members may conduct a Tactical Vehicle Takedown (TVT) of a suspect vehicle when:
- i. there are compelling and exigent circumstances threatening public safety;

- ii. there are no other reasonable means of stopping the suspect vehicle available;
- iii. the Member(s) know that the suspect(s) has committed, is about to commit, or is committing, a serious criminal offence involving imminent threat of grievous bodily harm or death to any person;
- iv. the Members have been trained in the use of the TVT technique; and
- v. a Supervisor has authorized the use of the technique.

4.13. Members involved in the TVT of a suspect vehicle must complete a PRIME SBOR Use of Force template.

#### **Supervisor Responsibilities**

4.14. The Supervisor authorizing the use of any technique or device to stop a suspect vehicle must immediately inform the Duty Officer of injuries to any person or property damage resulting from any attempt to stop or disable a suspect vehicle.

4.15. If a Reportable Injury, Serious Harm or death occurs as the result of a Member's(s') attempt to stop or disable a suspect vehicle, the Duty Officer must notify the IIO Liaison Officer (as per OP 2.4 *IIO Notification*).

4.16. If a death occurs as a result of a Member's(s') attempt to stop or disable a suspect vehicle, the Duty Officer must immediately notify the Chief Constable through the chain-of-command.

#### **Damage to Vehicles**

4.17. If any damage to a police vehicle or another civilian's vehicle occurs as a result of a Member's(s') attempt to stop or disable a suspect vehicle, the Supervisor must ensure that the Collision Investigation Unit is informed to attend the scene.

4.18. Member(s) involved in a collision will comply with police-involved reporting requirements (see OP 4.36.5 *Police Involved Collisions*).

## **APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS**

“Boxing” means the safe positioning of police vehicles around a stationary suspect vehicle to prevent the movement of the suspect’s vehicle.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Pinning” means the use of a police vehicle to safely make physical contact with, and contain, the suspect vehicle.

“Reportable Injury” means as it is defined in the *Police Act*, any of the following: “an injury caused by discharge of a firearm; an injury requiring emergency care by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner and, transfer to a hospital; or any injury described by s. 184(2)(c) of the *Police Act*.”

“Serious Harm” means as defined in the *Police Act*, “injury that may result in death, may cause serious disfigurement, or may cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of any limb or organ.”

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of the SPS.

## **APPENDIX B: REFERENCES**

*Motor Vehicle Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996 c. 318

*Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*, B.C. Regulation 26/58

*Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation*, B.C. Regulation 133/98