



# Angleton Police Department

Protecting with Purpose , and Serving with Pride



Guadalupe Valdez  
Chief of Police

## Angleton Police Department

2021



## Department Vehicle Pursuit Analysis





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## Vehicle Pursuit Analysis for 2021

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Angleton Police Department's Vehicle Pursuits for calendar year 2021. 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: 7.13.1, 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 determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment, or supervision.





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## Vehicle Pursuit Comparison 2020/2021

There was a total of ten (10) Reported Vehicle Pursuits this year compared to 13 last year. This represents a difference of three (3) vehicle pursuits.

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

	2020	2021	Difference
Traffic Violation Only	5	3	-2
Misdemeanor Offense	3	2	-1
Felony Offense	2	1	-1
Outstanding Warrant	0	0	0
Suspicious Activity	2	0	-2
Suspected Intoxication	0	0	0
Agency Assist	1	4	+3
<b>Total</b>	13	10	-3

### Reasons for a Pursuit

In 2021, there were three (3) 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 down from the five (5) pursuit initiated for traffic violations last year.

In 2021, there were two (2) vehicle pursuits initiated because the officer became aware the driver was wanted for a Misdemeanor Offense and then the driver failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is down from the three (3) pursuits initiated for Misdemeanor Offense's last year.





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In 2021, there was one (1) vehicle pursuit initiated because the officer became aware the driver was wanted for a Felony Offense and then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is down from the two (2) pursuit initiated for Felony Offense's last year.

In 2021, 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 2021, 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 down from the two (2) pursuit initiated for suspicious circumstances last year.

In 2021, 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 drive then failed to stop when signaled by the officer. This number is the same as the zero (0) pursuits initiated for reasonable suspicion to suspect the driver may be impaired due to alcohol or drugs last year.

In 2021, there were four (4) 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 up by three (3) 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 better protect the citizens than the continuation of a dangerous pursuit for minor offenses. The table below provides information on how pursuits were terminated.





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Type Termination	2020	2021	Difference
Voluntary Termination - Officer	0	0	0
Voluntary Termination - Supervisor	1	1	0
Stopped - Arrested	6	6	0
Stopped - Fled on foot - Escaped	0	0	0
Stopped - Fled on foot - Captured	0	1	+1
Accident - Violator Involved in Accident	4	0	-4
Accident - Police Involved in Accident	0	1	+1
Spike Strips	1	0	-1
PIT Maneuver	0	0	0
Rammed	0	1	+1
Firearm	0	0	0
Roadblock	0	0	0
Escaped - Not Located	0	0	0
Escaped - Captured Later	1	0	-1

## Damage and Injury

In 2021, there was one (1) pursuit which had some damage or injury associated with the incident as a result of the pursuit.

There was a patrol unit that incurred approximately \$8,000.00 in damages to the front end from a collision that occurred during the vehicle 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, 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.





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In 2021, there was two (2) policy violations identified regarding a pursuit initiation or termination.

The two (2) policy violations identified were by the primary unit in the pursuit. In two separate pursuits, this same employee used offensive tactics and rammed a suspect's vehicle. After the first violation, the employee was demoted from the rank of Sergeant to Patrol Officer. On the second pursuit, the officer used an offensive tactic again and rammed the suspect vehicle. The employee resigned during an administrative investigation. All other vehicle pursuits were in compliance with the pursuit policy.

## Summary and Recommendations

There were no significant changes in vehicle pursuit policy or procedures in 2021. There were ten (10) reported vehicle pursuits in 2021 compared to the thirteen (13) reported vehicle pursuits in 2020. The overall vehicle pursuits decreased by a total of three (3). 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 but two (2) vehicle pursuits complied with Angleton Police Department policy and procedure. There should be continued annual training on vehicle pursuit policy and procedures (Directive 7.13.1).

The department shall continue to conduct an annual driving course for all worn personnel.

## Command Review:

### Any Actions to be Taken:

The vehicle pursuit policy should be reviewed as a refresher to all sworn staff for further clarification and discussion.

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Chief of Police

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Date

