



PURSUIT TALKGROUP COMMUNICATION & USE

I. **PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy and procedure for use of the interagency pursuit talkgroup by PSAPs and law enforcement officers who are engaged in a vehicle pursuit. This procedure may be utilized for vehicle pursuits originating in and/or traveling between Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties.

II. **DEFINITIONS:**

SLATER: The St. Louis Area Emergency Trunked Radio system owned and maintained by the St. Louis County Emergency Communications Commission (ECC).

III. **POLICY:**

A. **PURSUIT:**

This pursuit procedure shall be followed when one of the following conditions exist:

1. A law enforcement officer initiates the pursuit;
2. A supervisor from the initiating agency requests activation of the pursuit talkgroup; or
3. When authorized by the on-duty PSAP supervisor, when it is known that at least one additional agency operating on a different talkgroup has joined the pursuit and previous requests to activate this talkgroup have not been made.

B. PLAIN LANGUAGE:

PSAPs and law enforcement officers will use “plain language” when the pursuit talkgroup is activated. Plain language ensures clear, concise and effective communication.

C. CALL SIGNS:

Law enforcement officers utilizing the PURSUIT talkgroup shall identify themselves with their agency’s name, e.g. “Ballwin” or “Florissant” or “Eureka.” Immediately following the agency name, the calling law enforcement officer will self-identify using their department serial number (DSN), e.g. “St. Louis County 2844” or “Olivette 228.”

D. TALKGROUP ASSIGNMENT:

1. The PURSUIT talkgroup may be used for patching purposes when initiating a pursuit. The primary PSAP of the officer initiating the pursuit may patch the home/main talkgroup to the PURSUIT talkgroup to simulcast real-time information of the pursuit. This will allow the initiating law enforcement officer to continue operating on his/her home talkgroup during the beginning of the pursuit.
2. If a pursuit is initiated and the PURSUIT talkgroup is already in use by another agency for a separate pursuit, the second PSAP will assign another talkgroup, such as SLCLAW 1 or SLCLAW 2 for use.
3. The PURSUIT talkgroup will only be utilized for the communications between the primary PSAP and the pursuing officers. This talkgroup will not be used for communications between PSAPs, except when coordinating the transfer of pursuit communications to another PSAP.
4. PSAPs with officers assisting in the pursuit should refrain from transmitting on the PURSUIT talkgroup to ensure continuity of communications.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. PRIMARY PSAP:

The PSAP which initiates the pursuit is designated as the Primary PSAP for all pursuing officers, regardless of their agency affiliation. The primary PSAP is responsible for police dispatch communications during the pursuit until such time as the pursued subject is detained, the primary PSAP officially transfers the

pursuit to another dispatch agency, or the pursuit is terminated.

B. ROUTINE AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS:

1. When the PURSUIT talkgroup has been activated, the PSAP may elect to have all other on-duty units not involved in the pursuit switch their radio traffic to an alternate talkgroup for the duration of the pursuit or until the main talkgroup is no longer patched for pursuit purposes.
2. Should the pursuit exceed 5 minutes in length, it is recommended the primary PSAP have the pursuing officers switch to the PURSUIT talkgroup and disconnect the patch. This will allow the main talkgroup to resume normal operations.
3. When an agency that does not use SLATER talkgroups are involved with a pursuit, it is recommended that the POINT-to-POINT talkgroup/channel be utilized to communicate from PSAP-to-PSAP. When a PSAP using a SLATER talk group wishes to update non-SLATER agencies of the pursuit status, this action shall be completed via Point-to-Point.

C. ACTIVATION ANNOUNCEMENT(S):

Prior to patching a main dispatch talkgroup to the PURSUIT talkgroup, dispatch will simultaneously announce on the PURSUIT talkgroup (or alternate talkgroup to be utilized) and on Point-to-Point that the interagency pursuit radio procedure has been activated. The announcement will include the agency activating the procedure, the talkgroup being utilized, the current location/direction of the pursuit, and charges on the pursued subject.

e.g. "Maryland Heights to all surrounding agencies, be advised we are activating the pursuit talkgroup and have patched Maryland Heights to the PURSUIT talkgroup. Maryland Heights 235 is currently in pursuit of a newer model red Ford Mustang partial Missouri license Sam Eight David (S8D), pursuit is currently southbound on I-270 passing Hwy 364 at approximately 80mph, subject is wanted for an armed robbery that occurred earlier this date in Florissant."

D. PURSUIT PROGRESS UPDATES:

Pursuing police units, and preferably the second police unit in the pursuit at the time, should broadcast the progress of the pursuit, if possible. Officers should discontinue their participation in a pursuit if they lose radio contact with the primary PSAP.

E. TRANSFER OF PSAP RESPONSIBILITIES:

In most cases, the primary PSAP will retain police dispatch responsibilities for the duration of the pursuit. In the event that the primary PSAP chooses to transfer pursuit communications to another PSAP; the primary PSAP should utilize both the PURSUIT talkgroup and Point-to-Point to request a PSAP with units actively involved in the pursuit assume primary responsibilities. The current primary PSAP must confirm that another PSAP has assumed primary responsibility before disengaging from use of the PURSUIT talkgroup or must confirm that the pursuit is no longer active before disengaging from the PURSUIT talkgroup.

F. PURSUIT TERMINATION:

When a pursuit has concluded, the primary PSAP must announce on the PURSUIT talkgroup the end of the pursuit and verify that no other PSAP is assuming responsibility for the pursuit prior to clearing the PURSUIT talkgroup. The primary PSAP must use an alert tone, announce the channel to be clear, and must announce the name of the PSAP clearing the channel.

e.g. "Attention all agencies, Chesterfield Police Department unit 5C13 (5 Charles 13) is terminating the pursuit. Any agency wishing to assume primary responsibility please advise" (wait 10 seconds). If no response, use alert tone, then announce "the PURSUIT talkgroup is secure, authority of St. Louis County Communications."

G. REGIONAL PURSUITS

When a pursuit involves agencies capable of transmitting and receiving on the Pursuit channel from outside of St. Louis County, operations will be conducted per agreement(s) made between ECC and representatives of the other coordinating counties.

V. MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

This policy is covered under the MOU signed previously by each public safety user and outside agency user on the SLATER system.

Approved by the Emergency Communications Commission on _____

*Director,
Emergency Communications Network*

*Chairman,
Emergency Communications Commission*