General Order

Houston Police Department

ISSUE DATE:

NO.

April 25, 2017

600-34

REFERENCE: Supersedes all prior conflicting Circulars and Directives, and General Order 600-34, dated June 2, 2016

SUBJECT: HIGH-RISK VEHICLE APPROACHES

A supervisor shall make the scene of all high-risk traffic stops.

This General Order applies to all classified employees.

1 BACKGROUND

POLICY

The department has identified three vehicle approach situations posing a high risk:

- a. Attempting apprehension of armed or possibly armed suspects.
- b. Attempting apprehension subsequent to a fresh pursuit when some or all of the occupants remain inside the vehicle.
- c. Attempting apprehension subsequent to a fresh pursuit when the suspect has exited the vehicle but remains in close proximity to the vehicle.

Armed suspects in a vehicle have a superior tactical position with respect to officers attempting an approach. In addition, an approaching officer's line of sight may be disrupted by window tinting or the vehicle itself. The inability to view the occupants of a vehicle poses an extreme hazard to approaching officers as well as vehicle occupants.

Additionally, when a potentially armed suspect has exited a vehicle but remains in close proximity to the vehicle, the suspect poses a substantial risk of reentering the vehicle or utilizing the vehicle to gain a tactical advantage, thereby placing the officer in a compromised and potentially dangerous situation.

2 HIGH-RISK VEHICLE APPROACH SITUATIONS

High-risk vehicle approach situations are when suspects in a vehicle are being confronted by officers and any of the following apply:

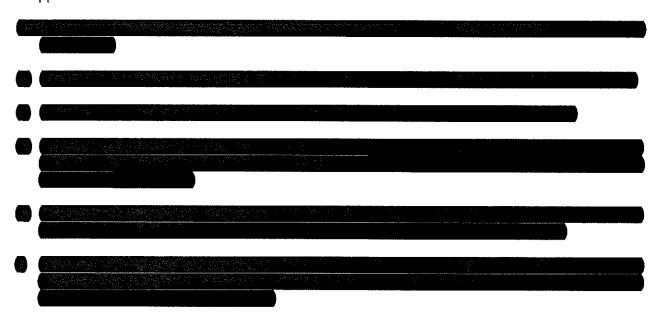
a. Suspects are believed to possess deadly weapons.

- b. Suspects are believed to have been involved in criminal activity involving the use of deadly weapons.
- c. Suspects have engaged officers in fresh pursuit as defined by General Order 600-04, Motor Vehicle Pursuits.

It is not necessary for the suspects to remain in a vehicle to be considered a high-risk vehicle approach situation (see section 1 item (c)).

3 PROCEDURES

In the above situations officers shall adhere to the following guidelines after the vehicle has stopped:



4 RELATED GENERAL ORDERS

- 200-16, Firearm and Soft-Impact Weapon Discharges
- 500-01, Effecting Arrests and Searches
- 500-02. Handling and Transporting Prisoners and Other Persons
- 600-04. Motor Vehicle Pursuits
- 600-05, Special Threat Situations
- 600-11, Foot Pursuits
- 600-17, Response to Resistance
- 800-07, Criteria for Submitting Incident Reports

Chief of Police