



**Stockton Unified School District Department of
Public Safety
Procedure**

**Richard M. Barries, Interim Police Chief
High Risk Stops
February 2021**

High Risk Stop Procedure

Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance and consistency with high risk vehicle stops. All high risk stops are subject to supervisor review and direction. Officer and public safety should be taken into consideration when making these high risk stops.

Considerations

The following considerations should be made when a high risk stop is initiated.

- Reason for the stop
- Availability of back-up units
- Availability of outside agencies/resources
- Location of the stop
- Time of day
- Outside lighting
- Surrounding areas
- The direction that the involved vehicles are facing
- Safe positioning of patrol vehicles

Types of calls or incidents that may require a high risk stop include:

- Calls that involve violence
- Calls that involve the use of a weapon or the threat of a weapon
- The apprehension of fleeing suspects
- Stolen vehicles

This list is not intended to be an all-inclusive list and there may be other needs for a high risk stop.

Notification



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The primary officer, the officer initiating the high risk stop, will notify dispatch that a high risk stop is being initiated. The primary officer will notify dispatch of the vehicle's description which includes the vehicle's license plate, make, model, color, and number of occupants. Dispatch will then notify the Shift Supervisor of the pending stop.

Procedure

The primary officer will select a safe area to conduct the stop. When appropriate, the officer will wait for additional officers before making the stop. The primary officer will use his overhead emergency lights and siren to initiate the stop.

The officer should park his vehicle directly behind the suspect vehicle. The first back-up unit to the scene, the secondary officer, should park his vehicle next to the primary officer's patrol vehicle. Any additional units should park near or behind the secondary officer's vehicle. Officer safety and public safety shall be considered when positioning patrol vehicles.

Each officer shall then exit their vehicles, stand inside the driver's door area of their vehicles and point their department issued firearms at the suspect vehicle. Depending on the surrounding area and reason for the stop, a department issued rifle may be used in lieu of a handgun.

The primary officer should then give commands to each of the vehicle's occupants. The commands should be given to one person at a time beginning with the driver. When applicable, the vehicle's public address system (P.A.) should be used.

The commands given to each person are given to safely remove one occupant out of the vehicle at a time. The commands should consist of directing the occupants to place their hands in the air, removing their seatbelt, opening the vehicle's door, stepping out of the vehicle while facing away from the officers, lifting the shirt to expose the waistband, turning in a circle to provide a view of the entire waistband, stopping and stepping back to the sound of the officer's voice, and continuing walk backward until told to stop.

Once the driver enters the area where the secondary officer can communicate with the suspect, the secondary officer should take over the commands and order the driver to



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step back to a safe area. Once in this area, the secondary officer, or another back-up unit, shall take the driver into custody by handcuffing the subject and placing him in the rear of a patrol of one of the back-up units.

After the driver is removed the same procedure will then be applied to all remaining occupants.

After the all the visible occupants are removed from the vehicle, the primary officer shall call for any remaining occupants to exit the vehicle. The command to exit should be repeated several times to give the opportunity for any hidden occupants to make themselves known. Once there is no response, the officers on scene will then form a team and safely clear the suspect vehicle of any further occupants. Upon the scene being rendered safe, officers shall notify dispatch via radio that the scene is secure.

Supervisor Responsibilities

The Shift Supervisor or field supervisor shall monitor the stop until it has been stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing units into or out of the stop if necessary. If, in the supervisor's judgment, the circumstances require additional units to be assigned to the stop, the supervisor may do so.

The Shift Supervisor or the field supervisor should consider the following:

- The necessity of the stop
- The location of the stop
- Traffic and roadway conditions
- The location of the responding units
- Any road closures that are needed to block traffic from the area

It is the supervisor's responsibility to terminate a high risk stop that, in his/her judgment is inappropriate due to the circumstances.

The Shift Supervisor or field supervisor should direct any available resources to assist to ensure the safe completion of the stop.

The Shift Supervisor or field supervisor shall complete the Use of Force procedure after the situation is stabilized.