

Newspaper clippings:

Retired State Police

Association of Pennsylvania Inc.

I understand that there was a debate on your blog relative to police pursuits. While not seeing this myself, I thought I would send you some articles gathered relative to police pursuits. While having my own opinions relative to pursuits, I will not go into any of them. The best way to prevent pursuits is to punish the offenders so that the it deters future pursuits.

Chambersburg Public Opinion

3 of 13 Pennsylvania State Police chases that ended in death in 2007 were in Franklin County By VICKY TAYLOR Staff writer

Police chases capture headlines and catch criminals, but they also can cause deaths, as can be seen in recent statistics from Pennsylvania State Police.

Although state police were involved in 9 percent fewer vehicle pursuits in 2007 than in 2006, pursuit deaths were up from 12 to 13 during the same periods, according to State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller.

Three of those fatal pursuits happened in Franklin County.

On March 2, 2007, Benjamin Noonan, 19, was killed after he wrecked the stolen van he was driving at the southbound Interstate 81 off-ramp. Police said the chase had begun in Cumberland County that day.

On Oct. 15, Kenneyetta Edwards, 21, of Fayetteville, was killed when he lost control of his motorcycle on a curve on Fifth Avenue in Chambersburg while fleeing from state police and hitting a car. The driver of the car was injured.

Terry Allen Ebersole III, 22, of Greencastle, was killed Dec. 21 after he lost control of his vehicle while being pursued by police on Williamson Road just north of Greencastle.

So far this year, one person -- a Waynesboro man -- has died while fleeing police in Franklin County, but there have been several such pursuits.

Robert L. Bennett died after his car crashed while he was fleeing from Washington Township Police Department on Old Route 16 in Rouzerville.

Many chases end with the arrest of the fleeing motorists, such as the chase in Huntingdon County in August 2006 in which Franklin County.

Jail escapee Scott North was captured. North was driving a car belonging to a murdered Amberson man and fled after first stopping for a state trooper but taking off when the trooper began questioning him.

He was charged this month with the murder of Carl Ryder, the man whose car he was driving at the time of his capture.

In some cases the person being chased by police gets away, such as the case last year of a man driving a stolen car that was pursued by Shippensburg Police.

Police said the car reached speeds of up to 100 mph before crashing into a field off Municipal Drive. The car's driver eluded police by fleeing on foot through a nearby mobile home park.

Police in Pennsylvania were involved in 1,931 vehicle pursuits during 2007, a decrease of nearly 9 percent from 2006. Thirteen of those chases ended in the death of the person being pursued.

The state's Vehicle Code requires state police to compile an annual police pursuit report. The report is available at <http://ucr.psp.state.pa.us>.

Fatalities in police pursuits have increased steadily since 2003, when four people were killed, according to the annual pursuit reports.

## Pennsylvania State Police Year 2008 Press Releases

### Police Pursuits In Pennsylvania Drop 9 Percent

HARRISBURG (May 15, 2008) - Law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania went on nearly 200 fewer vehicle pursuits in 2007, State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller announced today.

Officers were involved in 1,931 vehicle pursuits during the year, a decrease of nearly 9 percent from the 2,115 reported pursuits the previous year.

Miller said 13 individuals being pursued by police were killed in related crashes last year, which was one more than the prior year.

The statistics are contained in the 2007 Pennsylvania Police Pursuit Report, which is compiled by State Police and can be accessed through the Police Pursuit Reporting System link at

<http://ucr.psp.state.pa.us>.

Other information from the 2007 report:

No police or uninvolved persons were killed as the result of pursuits in 2007 or 2006.

652 of the pursuits resulted in crashes, with 218 of those crashes resulting in injuries.

Nearly half of all the pursuits (943) were initiated because of traffic violations, including speeding. The other most common reasons for police to initiate pursuits were stolen or suspected stolen vehicles (296); felony criminal offenses (289), and driving under the influence or suspected DUI (234).

1,387 pursuits resulted in the apprehension of the fleeing motorist.

"Under state law, every police department in Pennsylvania must have a written emergency vehicle-response policy governing procedures under which an officer should initiate, continue or terminate a pursuit," Miller said. "By law, the policies are confidential."

The Vehicle Code defines a pursuit as an "attempt by a police officer operating a motor vehicle to apprehend one or more occupants of a vehicle when the

driver  
of the vehicle is resisting the apprehension by maintaining or  
increasing his  
speed or by ignoring the police officer's audible or visual signal to  
stop."

Since 1996, the Vehicle Code has required State Police to compile and  
publish  
pursuit reports.

Police agencies in Pennsylvania report their pursuit data directly to  
State  
Police through the Pennsylvania Police Pursuit Reporting System, which  
is an  
Internet-based system maintained by the State Police Bureau of Research  
and  
Development.

Cpl. Christopher Bendl, the department's police pursuit coordinator,  
said the  
report is designed to provide statistical information to police agencies  
to  
help them evaluate their pursuit policies and to help identify training  
successes and deficiencies. The report does not attempt to explain  
increases  
or decreases in any of the categories and does not break down the  
statistics by  
department, municipality or county, he said.

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