



# Tulsa Police Department

This policy statement and the procedures thereunder are intended for Police Department use only. The policies, procedures, and regulations are for internal Police Department administrative purposes and are not intended to create any higher legal standard of care or liability in an evidentiary sense than is created by law. Violations of internal Police Department policies, procedures, regulations, or rules form the basis for disciplinary action by the Police Department. Violations of law form the basis for civil and/or criminal sanctions to be determined in a proper judicial setting, not through the administrative procedures of the Police Department.

**Policy #** 101C

**Effective Date** 10/01/2021

**Policy Name** Vehicle Containment

**Approved Date** 09/21/2021

**Approved by** *Wendell Franklin, Chief of Police*

**Previous Date** 08/15/2003

## PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

To update the policy format.

## POLICY:

Vehicle containment tactics are authorized only on those rare occasions when officers can objectively establish that by not stopping or containing a vehicle using low-speed collision (10 MPH or lower) with a police vehicle, the use of even greater force would in all probability occur. Officers must always be aware of possible safety concerns when utilizing this tactic. Officers will only use vehicle containment with strict regard for the safety of themselves, other officers, and citizens. The Tulsa Police Department does not authorize bumping, ramming, or the use of deadblocks.

Officers may use a police vehicle or vehicles to block-in or contain a suspect vehicle. This tactic will primarily be used as a means to prevent a stationary vehicle from moving or to stop a vehicle moving slowly (10 MPH or less) in which contact would cause minimum damage to either vehicle.

Vehicle containment is considered a seizure under the Fourth Amendment of the *United States Constitution* and Article II, Section 30 of the *Oklahoma Constitution*. Consequently, vehicle containment may be used only when an officer has a lawful reason to detain the driver or other occupant in the vehicle.

**SUMMARY:** Procedures for vehicle containment.

**APPLIES TO:** All police personnel

## DEFINITIONS:

**BUMPING/RAMMING** – an intentional maneuver causing a collision between two vehicles, at least one of which is traveling faster than 10 MPH.

**DEADBLOCK** – the total blockade of a street or highway, leaving no path of escape.

**SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE** – a vehicle traveling at speeds estimated at 10 MPH or lower.

**VEHICLE CONTAINMENT** – the use of a police vehicle or vehicles to block the movement of an occupied vehicle; or an intentional maneuver causing collision between two slow-moving vehicles; or a slow-moving vehicle (10 MPH or lower) with a stationary vehicle, in an effort to contain and/or stop that vehicle.

## PROCEDURES:

1. A police vehicle or vehicles may be used to block-in or contain a vehicle when:
  - a. The vehicle is at rest.
  - b. The vehicle is traveling at 10 MPH or less.

2. Vehicle containment tactics may be used to contain a stopped or slow-moving vehicle.
3. When possible, obtain supervisory approval prior to using vehicle containment tactics. It is not necessary to obtain approval when using a vehicle to block-in a vehicle which is at rest.
4. When a vehicle containment tactic is used, complete a Use of Force Report. The report should include the circumstances that initiated the need for vehicle containment and a diagram of the incident/collision.
5. If personal injury or property damage results from the use of vehicle containment:
  - a. Notify the officer's immediate supervisor, shift commander (or Staff Duty Officer), and division commander as soon as possible.
  - b. Complete an *Operator's Traffic Collision Report* in accordance with 31-119, City Vehicle Collisions/Damage, if required.
  - c. Request Public Safety Communications (PSC) dispatch an advanced traffic investigator to the scene.
  - d. The advanced traffic investigator will complete an Official *Oklahoma Traffic Collision Report* in accordance with 31-110B, *Personal Injury/Fatality Traffic Collisions*.
6. If serious personal injury or substantial property damage results, notify the Internal Affairs Unit (IA) as soon as possible.

#### **REGULATIONS:**

1. Officers shall take every precaution to avoid involving innocent citizens or their property when using vehicle containment tactics.
2. Officers shall not use vehicle containment tactics if it would result in a head-on collision.
3. Officers shall not use vehicle containment tactics in pursuit situations.
4. Vehicle containment tactics shall only be used when officers can objectively establish that the use of greater force will occur if the vehicle is allowed to continue and there is a lawful reason to detain the driver or other occupant in the vehicle.
5. Deadblocking a street or highway is prohibited.

#### **REFERENCES:**

Fourth Amendment of the *United States Constitution*  
Article II, Section 30 of the *Oklahoma Constitution*  
110B, *Personal Injury/Fatality Traffic Collisions*  
119, *City Vehicle Collisions/Damages*