



SASKATOON _____
POLICE SERVICE

TO: Jo Custead, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Troy Cooper
Office of the Chief

DATE: 2023 May 5

SUBJECT: 2022 Evade Police Incidents

FILE #: 10,040

ISSUE:

Incidents where an operator of a vehicle flees or drives in a manner to evade police creates a concern for the Saskatoon Police Service due to the risk to the public, persons, and officers involved. The reasons for a subject to not stop for police can be non-criminal or criminal. Criminal events can vary from violent acts such as home invasions, robberies and assault to property offences including possession of stolen vehicles, as well as impaired driving.

Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) Policy and Procedure establishes that the primary concern for officers involved in an evade police incident is the protection and safety of the public. The Evade Police Review Committee ensures that all evade police incidents are reviewed to ensure that the actions of our members were conducted in a manner that is as safe as possible, lawful and reflective of SPS policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

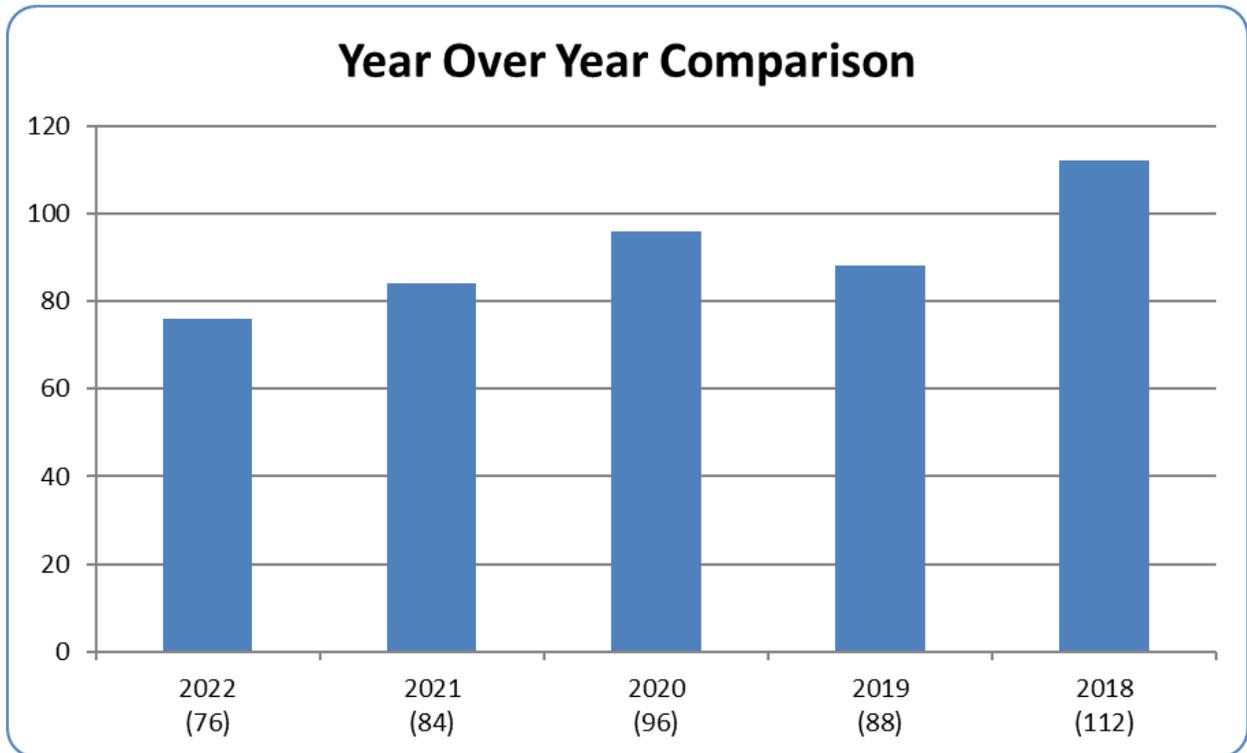
That this report is received as information.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

This report focuses on the core theme of Crime and Safety, with specific attention to maintaining core-policing operations and addresses community concerns that affect public safety.

DISCUSSION:

Evade Police Summary		
Category	2022	2021
Evade Police Incident No Pursuit	96	87
Evade Police Incident with Pursuit	76	84
Evade Police Incident Termination	39	61
Evade Police Incident Air Support Unit Supported	26	17



Key Findings:

- In 2022 the SPS reported 96 incidents where it was perceived by a police officer that a driver was evading police but based on the conditions at the time a continued vehicle pursuit was not warranted. SPS policy provides members with criteria to assist in making the decision to pursue. These criteria can include but are not limited to risk to the public, manner of driving, weather, road conditions, identification of the driver, criminal or non-criminal event.
- In 2022 the SPS were involved in 76 evade police incidents resulting in a pursuit. The number of pursuits has decreased by 10% in comparison to 2021.
- The SPS has observed a consistent decline (32%) in evade police incidents with pursuit since 2018.

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

- In 2022 over half (51%) of the evade police incidents with pursuit were terminated by the primary officer involved or the Officer in Command. SPS policy provides members with criteria to assist in making the decision to terminate a pursuit. These criteria can include but are not limited to risk to the public, manner of driving, weather, road conditions, identification of the driver, criminal or non-criminal event.
- In 2022 the Air Support Unit supported 34% of our evade police incidents. This is an increase of 14% in comparison to 2021. In these incidents once the pilot and flight officer have assumed the primary position, ground units terminate their role as a pursuit vehicle with the intent to cause the suspect driver to return to normal driving behaviors.

Evade Police Incident with Pursuit Profile		
Category	2022	2021
Within the City Boundaries	68	72
Average Duration in City Boundaries	2 Minutes, 28 Seconds	3 Minutes, 8 Seconds
Exceed City Boundaries	8	12
Average Duration Exceed City Boundaries	34 Minutes, 57 seconds	20 Minutes, 36 seconds
Stolen Vehicles	38	34

Key Findings:

- In 2022 the majority (89%) of evade police incidents with pursuit remained within the city boundaries. The average duration was 2 minutes and 28 Seconds.
- In the limited cases (11%) where the evade police incident with pursuit exceeded the city boundaries the duration substantially increased to 34 minutes and 28 seconds. As a general rule, evade incidents that leave the city boundaries are terminated or ASU is engaged as the primary unit monitoring the subject vehicle until it has stopped or until the RCMP are in a position to assume responsibility for the incident.
- In 2022 half of evade police incidents involved a vehicle that had been reported stolen. Annually, the SPS provides messaging and education campaigns to the public, focusing on not leaving keys in vehicles or leaving vehicles running and unattended.

Outcomes		
Category	2022	2021
Evade Police Incidents Subject Arrested	66% (50 incidents)	65% (55 incidents)
Youth Arrested	10	0
Adults Arrested	88	79
Subject Vehicle Damaged	33	33

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

Key Findings:

- In 2022 there were 50 evade police incidents that resulted in the arrest of at least one subject. There were 98 persons who were arrested as a result of an evade police incident.
- The majority of persons involved in evade police incidents were adults (89%).
- In 2022, 33 evade police incidents resulted in the subject vehicle being damaged.
- There was only one evade police incident that resulted in serious injuries and no incidents that resulted in death.
- Evade police incidents were found to be compliant with SPS policy 91% of the time in 2022, an increase in compliance of 6 % from 2021.

CONCLUSION:

In the collective view of the Evade Police Committee, officers are educated and extremely aware of their role and responsibilities during evade incidents. The officers are mindful of the high standard and continuous engagement review held by this Committee. The safety of the public, the suspect, as well as members of the SPS will continue to be our highest priority when balancing the need to apprehend offenders.

Written by: Tyson Lavalley, Acting Inspector, Patrol C/D
Chair, Use of Force Board

Approved by: A/Superintendent Dale Solie, Patrol
Deputy Chief Cam McBride, Operations

Submitted by: Troy Cooper, Chief of Police