

St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



DIRECTIVE TYPE: SPECIAL ORDER		INDEX NUMBER: SO0001
SUBJECT: POLICE MOTORCYCLES		
EFFECTIVE DATE JULY 19, 2001		AMENDS/RESCINDS: N/A
REVISIONS: 7/19/01, 7/21/06, 11/04/10, 5/15/13, 4/17/25		DISTRIBUTION: C-Traffic Unit

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures relating to the operation, control, care and maintenance of department motorcycles.

2.0 **GENERAL POLICIES:**

It is the policy of the St. Joseph Police Department to properly equip and maintain department motorcycles and ensure that only authorized and qualified personnel operate such vehicles.

3.0 **VEHICLE USAGE:**

- 3.1 Motorcycles will be used for traffic enforcement, parades, motorcades, and other assignments where their maneuverability makes them an asset.
- 3.2 Conditions and limitations of usage: Usage is limited by weather conditions such as extreme cold, wet or icy road conditions.
- 3.3 Authorization for usage: Authorization for usage shall be through the Chief of Police or their designee.
- 3.4 Qualifications for usage:
 - 3.4.1 Operator must be motorcycle qualified through the state of Missouri.
 - 3.4.2 Officers will be allowed a six-month period of operation for skill development at which time they will attend the next available Police Motorcycle Operators Training Course and shall be required to recertify annually.
 - 3.4.3 Failure to pass the Police Motorcycle Operators Training Course will result in the officer being removed from motorcycle duty until the course is successfully completed.

4.0 **VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE:**

Each motorcycle is assigned to an individual officer who is responsible for ensuring:

- 4.1 That routine maintenance is performed in accordance with the motorcycle manufacturer's recommended service schedule.
- 4.2 That any other repairs or maintenance that are not part of the motorcycle manufacturer's recommended service schedule shall be documented on a vehicle maintenance order and submitted to the traffic unit supervisor.
- 4.3 That the motorcycle is maintained in a clean condition.
- 4.4 That daily preventive maintenance is performed on the officer's personal equipment including:
 - 4.4.1 Helmet; correct size, headband and straps in good condition.
 - 4.4.2 Leather or approved synthetic gloves; no tears.
 - 4.4.3 Leather boots; soles in good condition.
 - 4.4.4 Rain gear; no tears and no mildew.
- 4.5 That a daily pre-ride inspection is performed including:
 - 4.5.1 Tires & wheels; check for wear and proper inflation, also check for broken spokes or damaged rims.
 - 4.5.2 Fluid levels; check oil, brake fluid, gasoline, and inspect areas for signs of leaks.
 - 4.5.3 Brakes; check front and rear brakes for proper operation.
 - 4.5.4 Cables; check clutch and throttle cables for wear or friction.
 - 4.5.5 Electrical components; check all lights, inspect for loose wiring. Check siren and air horn for proper operation.
 - 4.5.6 Miscellaneous check for loose nuts and bolts. Check special police equipment, i.e. radio, radar, etc. for secure mounting and operation.

5.0 DEPARTMENT ISSUED OFFICER EQUIPMENT

Each officer assigned to motorcycle duty will receive an initial issue of special equipment, which is provided for the safety of the officer. Officers shall ensure that the equipment is maintained in a serviceable and clean condition. Department issued equipment includes the following items:

- 5.1 Leather boots, black in color, designed to provide protection to the foot, ankle and calf area of the leg. This item is required to be worn during police motorcycle operation.
- 5.2 Helmets, D.O.T. approved for motorcycle usage. This item is required to be worn during police motorcycle operation.
- 5.3 Motorcycle rain suit, two-piece design.
- 5.4 Approved jacket (heavy weight), black in color, with kidney pad and badge tab as part of required construction.
- 5.5 Leather gloves.

6.0 OFFICER PROVIDED EQUIPMENT

While not issued by the department, the individual officer is responsible for some additional safety items, and some additional safety items are optional for purchase by the officer. Officers shall ensure that the equipment is maintained in a serviceable and clean condition and is suitable for motorcycle usage.

- 6.1 Approved jacket (lightweight), black in color, with kidney pad, and badge tab as part of construction (optional).

- 6.2 Glasses or goggles with shatterproof lenses. This item is required to be worn during police motorcycle operation.
- 6.3 Protective gloves; this item is required to be worn during police motorcycle operation.
- 6.4 Turtleneck sweater, black in color.
- 6.5 Other optional equipment may be utilized upon approval of the Chief of Police or their designee.

7.0 MOTOR OFFICER SAFETY

- 7.1 Officers should wear the issued heavy weight or optional lightweight leather jacket as much as it is practical in relation to the temperature when operating police motorcycles. Jackets constructed with an outer shell of any material other than leather may be authorized for use while operating a police motorcycle. For certain events or training, the traffic unit supervisor may require that the leather jacket be worn.
- 7.2 Officers should be aware of hypothermia and dehydration problems, and take appropriate action if symptoms occur.
- 7.3 Officers should be aware of the limitations of the motorcycle, and not override their abilities to operate a motorcycle.
- 7.4 Officers shall immediately report any unsafe condition that exists regarding the motorcycle or related equipment to the traffic unit supervisor. The motorcycle or related equipment shall not be used until the unsafe condition has been corrected.
- 7.5 During inclement weather the motorcycle officer shall evaluate the existing conditions and use a four-wheel police motor vehicle when appropriate. The traffic unit supervisor may require the use of a four-wheel police motor vehicle by motorcycle officers when the existing conditions are detrimental to safe motorcycle operations.

Paul Luster, Chief of Police

Date