

St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



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SUBJECT: Police Bicycles		
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REVISIONS CONTINUED:		DISTRIBUTION: B (Sworn Personnel)

I. PURPOSE

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

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the St. Joseph Police Department to properly equip and maintain the Department bicycles. Only trained or authorized persons may use the bicycles. If a Department bicycle is used for any reason other than police related work, one of the trained and authorized police officers must be present.

A. Bicycle Usage

1. Bicycles will be used for traffic enforcement, surveillance, parades, and general patrol work, when their usage would be an advantage over other types of vehicles.
2. Bicycles will not be used in extreme cold, heavy rain, or snow and icy road conditions.
3. Authorization for usage shall be through the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
4. In order to become an authorized bicycle officer, an officer must successfully pass a 32 hour training course, or be cleared to use the bike by the Training Instructor, based on the Instructor's personal knowledge of the officer's riding skill level.

B. Vehicle Equipment Maintenance

1. Several different officers share each bicycle. It is their responsibility to clean and maintain the bike.
2. Routine preventive maintenance is performed each time the bike is used:
 - a. Bicycle will be cleaned and chain will be lubricated;
 - b. All cables, nuts, and bolts will be inspected for wear and tightness;
 - c. All mounted equipment will be inspected;

- d. All shared equipment such as tire pumps, lights, “Allen” wrenches, and tools will be returned to the locker at the end of a shift; and
 - e. A check will be made of the wheels and brakes.
 - 3. Any repairs that can be made at the time of inspection will be made at once by that officer. There shall be no “robbing” of parts from another bike to repair the one to be used.
 - 4. Any bike found in non-working condition shall be shopped, and a repair request form submitted to the Officer-in-Charge of the unit.

C. Authorized Equipment

- 1. A safety helmet is provided and required for the riders by the Department. All other authorized equipment is supplied by the officer:
 - a. Gloves;
 - b. Water bottle;
 - c. Shorts (black or dark navy)
 - d. Department approved shirts (optional) for summer wear; and
 - e. A whistle

D. Bicycle Officer Safety

- 1. The following are mandatory Department safety requirements:
 - a. Officers shall wear helmets and gloves when operating bicycles;
 - b. Body armor shall be worn at all times (GO0102 II.B.3);
 - c. Officers shall be aware of heat exhaustion, dehydration, and heat stroke related to the operation of the bike in hot conditions;
 - d. Officers shall be aware of both the bicycle’s limitations and their own while operating a department bicycle;
 - e. Officers shall never operate the bike in a manner that they haven’t successfully trained and practiced on in the past;
 - f. At any time during a pursuit, the bike shall be abandoned if riding conditions become unsafe;
 - g. Officers shall immediately report an unsafe condition that exists regarding the bicycle to the Officer-in-Charge of the unit; and
 - h. During times when lights are required, the bicycle shall be equipped with a lighted headlight and taillight. Lights may not be used during certain service calls in which officers must maintain low visibility for their own safety.

Chris Connally, Chief of Police

Date