



BICYCLE PROGRAM

Enforcement Division
Policy Number: LE 5.02.00

Effective Date: 2/1/08

POLICY

Certified peace officers (CPOs), with sergeant or supervisor approval, may use bicycles on a voluntary basis to carry out their law enforcement duties.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. **Captains shall:**
 1. Select CPOs to participate in the bicycle program.
 2. Supervise and command the use of bicycles by CPOs in their region.
 3. Assign a lieutenant or sergeant to coordinate bicycle operations within assigned areas.
 4. Coordinate bicycle patrol operations with the needs of local law enforcement and assist them as necessary.
 5. Procure, issue, collect, manage all bicycle equipment assigned to district offices within the captain's region.
 6. Oversee CPO bicycle training and the maintenance of related records.
- b. **Lieutenants shall** permit, modify, or cancel a CPO's authorization to participate in bicycle patrol.
- c. **Sergeants shall** permit, modify, or cancel a CPO's authorization to participate in bicycle patrol.
- d. **Bicycle Patrol Participants shall** conduct their normal duties as CPOs, but shall be ready and able to participate in bicycle patrol duty, if necessary.

PROCEDURES

- a. **Choosing CPOs to Participate in the Bicycle Program.**
 1. CPOs chosen for the bicycle program by the captain should possess the following qualities:
 - self motivation;

- the ability to work with little to no supervision;
- the ability to work with other CPOs, including members of other law enforcement agencies;
- physical fitness, or the ability to perform extended duties on a bicycle;
- a professional appearance;
- proficiency in public relations;
- commitment to the bicycle program;
- willingness to patrol on a bicycle in adverse weather and conditions; and
- the ability to adapt rapidly to changing situations and environments without guidance or supervision.

b. Bicycle Program Training.

1. CPOs chosen to participate in the bicycle program will successfully complete a bicycle course certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). If a CPO has previous bicycle experience with another agency and can show proof of certification by a TCLEOSE-certified bicycle course, a supervisor may determine that the CPO does not need to take an additional bicycle certification course. The supervisor will make this determination based on the competency and skill of the CPO.
2. The captain or his or her designee will schedule the bicycle course.
3. The captain or his or her designee will arrange continuing training as needed for all CPOs participating in the bicycle program.

c. Proper Uniform and Accessories.

1. The TABC will issue a bicycle, bicycle helmet, and water bottle as funding permits to participants in the bicycle program.
2. CPOs on bicycle patrol will wear:
 - a black, gray, or white bicycle helmet that is approved by the American National Standards Institute (A.N.S.I.) or Snell and that has "POLICE" written in contrasting black or white letters on both sides of the helmet;
 - a polo or button-down shirt in either navy or black with "POLICE" on the back in reflective letters at least 2 ½ inches tall;
 - shorts or pants in the same color as the shirt;
 - low to mid-cut, black or other neutral-colored athletic shoes with matching laces and without ornate designs or logos;
 - socks that are either mid-calf or low-cut and have no designs, logos, or stripes;

- duty gear that is either nylon or leather, but not a mix of both nylon and leather;
 - cycling gloves in a conservative color; and
 - a ballistic vest.
3. CPOs on bicycle patrol may wear:
- padded bicycle shorts underneath shorts or pants, as long as they do not extend below the lower hem of the shorts;
 - protective eyewear—either sunglasses or clear protective lenses—that is conservative and has no logos, emblems, unusual shapes, or bright colors;
 - sweatbands, as long as they are worn high enough under the helmet that they are not visible.
4. During cold or wet weather, CPOs on bicycle patrol may additionally wear a jacket with matching pants, both made out of wind and water resistant material with “POLICE” on the back in reflective lettering at least 2 ½ inches tall;
5. During cold or wet weather, CPOs on bicycle patrol may additionally wear black or other neutral colored boots with matching laces and without ornate designs or logos.

d. Bicycle Specification.

1. Bicycles used for bicycle patrol will:
- be black, dark blue, or silver with “POLICE” on both sides of the frame tube;
 - have all-terrain tires suitable for on or off-road use;
 - be equipped with a bag rack that will accommodate a black equipment bag; the equipment bag will have “POLICE” on both sides in reflective lettering;
 - have battery-operated strobe lights mounted on the front and rear of the bicycle; the front strobe may be red or white and the rear strobe must be red; both strobes must be visible from 500 feet;
 - be equipped with a high intensity headlight, if the bicycle is used in the dark.
2. CPOs may modify these bicycle specifications or add equipment to a bicycle only with the approval of the supervising captain.

e. Proper Use of Bicycle.

1. CPOs will ride their bicycles in a responsible manner and will minimize risk to themselves and others.
2. A CPO will secure his or her bicycle if the CPO is going to be away from it for any amount of time, except in emergency circumstances.

f. Care and Maintenance of Bicycle.

1. CPOs will maintain and clean all bicycle equipment.
2. Prior to and after any ride, CPOs will perform routine maintenance of police bicycles including, but not limited to the lubrication of the chain and bearings and inspection of proper brake and de-railer operation.
3. CPOs will inform the captain or his or her designee of any necessary major repairs. The captain or his or her designee will arrange for a certified police bicycle mechanic or a contract maintenance facility to make any major repairs.
4. A bicycle not assigned to a CPO is the duty of the captain or his or her designee to properly care for and maintain.
5. The captain or his or her designee will keep bicycle maintenance records.

g. Assignment of CPOs to Bicycle Patrol Duty.

1. Each captain or his or her designee will determine the deployment of CPOs authorized to participate in bicycle patrol according to the district's needs.
2. The captain or his or her designee will consider the following guidelines when deploying CPOs to bicycle patrol:
 - Bicycle assignment will be a two-officer assignment. A CPO from a local law enforcement agency can serve as the secondary officer on assignments.
 - Bicycles will not be deployed upon freeways, interstates, or any high-volume, high-speed roadway.

h. Inclement Weather.

1. In the event of inclement weather, the supervisor or senior bicycle patrol participant will determine whether to continue bicycle patrol operations.
 2. The supervisor will consider:
 - the severity of the weather;
 - temperature;
 - surface condition of the roadways; and
 - the duration of the inclement weather.
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