

Bicycle Patrol Unit

421.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Colorado State University Police Department has established the Bicycle Patrol Unit for the purpose of enhancing patrol efforts in the community. Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas. A bicycle's quiet operation can provide a tactical approach to crimes in progress. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and effective operation of the patrol bicycle.

421.2 POLICY

Patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control or special events. Its mobility and visibility in the community are hallmarks of its usefulness.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to Department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the Bicycle Patrol Unit Supervisor or the Shift Supervisor.

421.3 SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

Interested certified personnel, who are off probation, may submit a request to apply to the Bicycle Unit Supervisor or apply when an opening is announced. Interested personnel shall be evaluated by the following criteria:

- (a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance
- (b) Special skills or training as they pertain to the assignment
- (c) Good physical condition
- (d) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation when staffing allows and weather permits.
- (e) Willingness to bike in cold temperatures
- (f) Willingness to do 4 hours of BEEP Overtime a month
- (g) Willingness to ride a minimum of 8 hours per month

421.3.1 BICYCLE PATROL UNIT SUPERVISOR

The Bicycle Patrol Unit Supervisor will be selected by the Operations Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The Bicycle Patrol Unit Supervisor shall have responsibility for the following:

- (a) Organizing bicycle patrol training
- (b) Inspecting and maintaining inventory of department bicycles and program equipment
- (c) Scheduling maintenance and repairs

Bicycle Patrol Unit

- (d) Evaluating the performance of bicycle officers
- (e) Coordinating activities/special events with the Operations Division Commander
- (f) Inspecting and documenting, no less than every three months, that bicycles not in active service are in a serviceable condition
- (g) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of the unit

421.4 TRAINING

Participants in the program must complete and receive IPMBA certification from a department approved bicycle-training course after acceptance into the program. Thereafter, bicycle patrol officers should receive yearly in-service training to improve skills and refresh safety, health and operational procedures.

421.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Officers will be issued their assigned bicycle and department approved uniforms after they have received their International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) certification. Officer's shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the department bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet, riding gloves, protective eyewear and approved footwear.

The Officer will be issued a key that gives them access to the bike storage room. Officers will be issued a Camelbak hydration backpack with a Camelbak bladder. It will be the responsibility of the officer to maintain and keep the hydration bladder sanitized for use.

Officer's will supply their own footwear, protective eyewear, padded riding shorts/pants and riding gloves.

The bicycle patrol unit uniform consists of the standard short-sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt with department badge and patches, and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts. Officers are allowed to wear black tennis or shoe approved by the Bicycle Unit Supervisor.

Optional equipment includes a jacket in colder weather. Insulated clothing is permitted when worn under the uniform shirt. Officers will be permitted to wear a black Balaclava for warmth.

Bicycle patrol officers shall carry the same equipment on the bicycle patrol duty belt or external vest carrier as they would on a regular patrol assignment.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol. Officers will supply their own forms binder and citation holder.

Officers will inform the Bicycle Patrol Unit Supervisor of any equipment that is in need of repair or replacement.

Bicycle Patrol Unit

421.6 CARE AND USE OF PATROL BICYCLES

Officers will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle and associated equipment.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be primarily black or white with a "Police" decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bike's saddlebag or attached gear bag. Every such bicycle shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors, front and rear lamps. Lamps and reflectors must meet legal requirements.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with a rear rack for attached gear bags and/or saddle bags sufficient to carry the necessary equipment for handling routine patrol calls, including report writing, vehicle storage and citations.

Each bicycle gear bag shall include a first-aid kit, CPR mask, and lock. These items are to be with the bicycle every time the bike is in use.

Each bicycle shall be equipped with flashing, red and blue signal lights that are visible from the front, sides or rear of the bicycle (CRS § 42-4-213).

Bicycle officers shall conduct an inspection of the bicycle and equipment prior to use to ensure proper working order of the equipment. Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).

If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle officer, an email explaining the issue will be completed and sent to the Bicycle Patrol Unit Supervisor.

Each bicycle will have scheduled maintenance every six months, to be performed by a repair shop/technician that is approved by the Department.

At the end of a bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty and placed in the appropriate bicycle storage area.

Officers shall not modify the patrol bicycle, remove, modify or add components except with the express approval of the Bicycle Patrol Unit Supervisor or in the event of an emergency.

Vehicle bicycle racks are available should the officer need to transport the patrol bicycle. Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a trunk or on a patrol car push-bumper is discouraged.

Bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the officer's immediate presence.

421.7 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers should operate the bicycle in compliance with Colorado law, unless their duties require otherwise. Officers may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness only when it reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating the bicycle without lighting equipment or in violation of routine rules of the road.

Colorado State University Police Department
Policy Manual

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