

**GENERAL ORDER**  
FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



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SUBJECT: BICYCLE PATROL  
CANCELS ORDER DATED: 7-1-12

NUMBER: 530.4  
ISSUE DATE: 10-1-13

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I. PURPOSE

The use of bicycles by Fairfax County Police officers is recognized as a valuable addition to the various transportation and patrol methods currently in use. This General Order establishes the policies and procedures applicable to the use of police bicycles.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department to implement the use of bicycles by officers whenever such methods will result in an improved level of service to the community. Police bicycles shall be operated in accordance with all applicable state laws, county ordinances, General Orders and bicycle patrol guidelines. Police bicycles are to be operated with due regard for the safety of the officer and the public. This policy is applicable to all officers operating police bicycles.

III. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- A. Officers and supervisors assigned to bicycle units who have not completed an approved bicycle training program shall attend the next available Fairfax County Police bicycle training or similar program that is approved by the Criminal Justice Academy. Prior to the operation of a police bicycle, an Initial Assignment Bicycle Familiarization form shall be completed and the officer shall have a working knowledge of all applicable state laws, County ordinances, and General Orders. Newly assigned officers shall be initially assigned to ride with an experienced bicycle officer, preferably an instructor. Officers not assigned to bicycle units shall not operate a police bicycle prior to completing an approved training program.
- B. Police bicycles shall not be operated on any interstate highway. Police bicycles shall not be operated on any other highway where the speed limit is over 55 m.p.h., except to ride directly across such highway.
- C. A minimum of two bicycle officers should be assigned for maximum safety and effectiveness during any routine patrol or other operation.
- D. Helmets shall be worn at all times when the bicycle is in operation.

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- E. If police bicycles are left unattended in a public place, they shall be secured unless an emergency prevents it. In that case the bicycles should be secured as soon as possible.
- F. Officers escorting prisoners shall walk the bicycles.
- G. Vehicle accidents involving police bicycles shall be reported and investigated in accordance with General Order 501.1.
- H. Damage to bicycles that occurs other than through motor vehicle accidents shall be reported to the immediate supervisor.
- I. When bicycle officers ride at night, the headlamp and rear light shall be used in accordance with law.

IV. UNIFORMS

- A. The bicycle uniform is a special duty uniform which shall be worn in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure 04-002. It shall not be worn to court. It shall not be worn for off-duty employment or at ceremonial functions without the approval of the station commander or designee. Bicycle officers shall have a field uniform readily available in case reassignment is necessary.
- B. The ballistic vest shall be worn at all times, in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure 04-002.
- C. The station commander shall have the discretionary authority to allow the wearing of other approved uniform and equipment items as necessary to meet operational needs.

V. REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

- A. The chief mechanic is responsible for maintaining the bicycle equipment beyond the daily maintenance level. These duties include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Repair equipment within the means provided by the station.

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2. Make recommendations to the supervisor for sending equipment out for repair.
  3. Make recommendations for dead-lining equipment.
  4. Maintain the service log. Officers, other than the chief mechanic, who make repairs on police bicycles shall make the appropriate entries in the service log.
- B. Officers operating the bicycle shall be responsible for the daily maintenance of the bicycle and shall conduct a pre-tour and a post-tour inspection. Deficiencies shall be brought to the attention of the bicycle supervisor, chief mechanic, assistant station commander or station commander.
- C. Police bicycles requiring maintenance and/or repairs beyond the capability of the chief mechanic may be taken to a private bicycle repair shop, utilizing procedures established by the Financial Resources Division. Maintenance and/or repairs that are covered under a warranty and/or service agreement should be taken to the designated repair shop.

VI. EQUIPMENT

- A. The following equipment shall be carried in each police bicycle's side carrier, or upon the officer's person:
1. Traffic vest
  2. First aid supplies
  3. Lock (one per team) - handcuffs may be used instead
  4. Flashlight
  5. Departmental forms
  6. Spare tube and tire changing tools
- B. Bicycle patrol officers shall be familiar with the operation of all equipment used by the unit.
- C. Officers shall only utilize those bicycles authorized by the Department. Officers shall not operate, remove or alter police bicycles or equipment without the approval of the bicycle supervisor or station commander.
- D. During periods when police bicycles and equipment are not in use, they shall

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be placed in secured storage at the district station or other secure facility.

- E. The use of the bicycle repair/supplies budget shall be in accordance with the procedures established by the Financial Resources Division.

VII. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCE


VLEPSC  
OPR.  
01.08

This General Order becomes effective October 1, 2013, and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED BY:

APPROVED BY:

  
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Chief of Police

  
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County Executive