


FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: BICYCLE PATROL		NUMBER: 533	
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 9, 2023	REVIEW: January, 2026		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: PATROL BUREAU			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 530.4 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised:	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 33.6.1			
	VLEPSC:			

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines and procedures for the use of police bicycles.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) to utilize bicycles whenever such usage results in enhanced levels of police service to the general public. The use of bicycles by officers may provide a valuable addition to various transportation and patrol methods currently in use. Police bicycles shall be operated with due regard for the safety of all officers and the general public, and in accordance with all applicable state laws, county ordinances, FCPD policies and procedures, and bicycle patrol guidelines.

III. GENERAL PROCEDURES

A. **Requirements:** Officers shall only utilize bicycles authorized by the Department for use in police operations. Only those officers and supervisors who have successfully completed a Department approved bicycle training program shall be permitted to use bicycles during police operations. Prior to operating a police bicycle, utilizing officers shall demonstrate knowledge of all applicable state laws, county ordinances, and FCPD policies and procedures as well as demonstrate sufficient levels of operational proficiency with the police bicycle. Newly assigned bicycle officers shall be assigned to ride with experienced bicycle officers until completion of a Department approved training program.

B. **Restrictions:** The following restrictions apply to use of the police bicycle:

1. **Highways:** Police bicycles shall not be operated on any interstate highway, or any roadway where the speed limit exceeds 55 miles per hour, except as necessary to cross a highway or during exigent circumstances.

2. **Number of Bicycle Units:** No less than two (2) bicycle officers should be assigned to any police patrol operation for officer safety purposes.
 3. **Helmets:** Helmets shall be worn by operators at all times while operating police bicycles.
 4. **Security:** Police bicycles left unattended in public places shall be immediately secured absent exigent circumstances. Whenever police bicycles are not being used for police operations, they shall be securely stored at a district station or other secure County facility.
 5. **Prisoner Escorts:** Officers escorting prisoners shall walk their bicycles.
 6. **Damages:** Any damage that occurs to a police bicycle shall immediately be reported to an on-duty supervisor. Vehicle accidents involving police bicycles shall be reported and investigated in accordance with FCPD General Order 506, Police Vehicle Crashes.
 7. **Lighting:** Whenever officers utilize police bicycles in the darkness, they shall activate the headlamp and rear light.
- C. **Uniforms:** Operators of police bicycles shall wear Department-approved special duty uniforms and ballistic vests in accordance with [FCPD Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) 04-002](#). Bicycle uniforms shall not be worn to court, for off-duty employment, or at ceremonial functions without the approval of the station commander or their designee. Bicycle operators shall have a field uniform readily available to them in case reassignment becomes immediately necessary. Station commanders shall have discretionary authority to allow the wearing of other approved uniforms as necessary to meet operational needs.
- D. **Equipment:** Police bicycle patrol officers shall familiarize themselves with the operation of all equipment used by the unit. No officer shall remove or alter police bicycles or issued equipment with the approval of a bicycle supervisor or station commander. The following equipment shall be carried in each police bicycle side saddle carrier or upon the operator's person during operations:
1. Traffic vest.
 2. First-aid supplies.
 3. One lock per team (Handcuffs may also be used).
 4. Flashlight.
 5. Necessary Department forms.
 6. Spare tube and tire-changing tools.

IV. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- A. District Station Logistic Technicians (SLT) or their designee shall be responsible for maintaining bicycle equipment beyond that of daily maintenance levels. These duties include, but are not limited to, the following procedures:
1. Repair of equipment within the means provided by the district station.
 2. Recommendations to a supervisor for contracted repair needs.
 3. Recommendations for dead-lining equipment as necessary.
 4. Maintenance of a service log.
- B. Officers who operate bicycles shall be responsible for daily maintenance on the bicycle and shall conduct pre and post-tour inspections. Any equipment deficiencies shall be brought to the direct attention of the bicycle supervisor, SLT, or a district station commander. Any employee who personally repairs a police bicycle shall note the repair in the station service log.
- C. Police bicycles that required maintenance or repairs beyond the capabilities of the SLT may be taken to a privately-owned bicycle repair shop in accordance with all Financial Resources Division procedures. Repairs and maintenance for a bicycle under warranty or service agreement should be taken to the designated repair facility.

General Order 533 becomes effective on the above date and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED BY:



Chief of Police

APPROVED BY:



County Executive