



DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS

CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER 77  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/98  
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REVIEW DATE: 3/2005  
I.D. NUMBER: 366

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Chief of Police

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**BICYCLE PATROL**

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**A. POLICY STATEMENT**

As part of its Community Policing and law enforcement efforts, the Concord Police Department utilizes bicycle patrols, which operate under the direction of the Field Operations Commander. The bicycle patrol is designated as a primary duty assignment and is used to augment the downtown foot patrol. Officers may also function in a part-time, volunteer role in order to augment the efforts of the patrol bureau. Sworn personnel who are assigned to or volunteer for bicycle patrol must first receive department provided training.

**B. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this General Order is to establish a policy for the authorized use of a police bicycle, the deployment, training, and equipment appropriate for assigned officers, and the responsibilities of the department bicycle patrol coordinator.
2. Assignment to the bicycle patrol, as a primary duty assignment, shall occur under the provisions of Procedure No. 28.

**C DEPLOYMENT**

1. Officers assigned to the bicycle patrol as their primary duty assignment shall patrol the downtown business district and any other areas designated by his/her supervisor as their area of responsibility.
2. Officers normally assigned to regular patrol duty may ride the police bicycle on a voluntary basis.
  - .1 The officer shall obtain approval from his or her supervisor prior to deployment.
  - .2 Some practical applications may include, but are not limited to:
    - .01 Conditions where increased mobility is needed.
    - .02 Patrol of areas not easily accessed by police vehicles (i.e. parks, apartment complexes, heavily commercialized areas, etc.).
    - .03 Enforcement activities requiring an inconspicuous police presence with the ability to respond quickly.
3. Bicycles should not be used in the rain or when the surface of the road is wet due to weather conditions.
4. Bicycles may be utilized during the hours of darkness at the discretion of the shift supervisor.
  - .1 A one-time authorization may be made in instances when the bicycle is to be ridden as part of an employee's duty assignment.

**D. TRAINING**

1. All officers must successfully complete the bicycle patrol proficiency training before they are authorized to utilize a bicycle in any activity associated with the Police Department, regardless of prior training or experience.
2. Training for officers who ride the police bicycle on a voluntary basis shall be on the officer's own time. An officer may shift-adjust at the discretion of his or her supervisor in order to attend bicycle training.
  - .1 Officers who will ride the police bicycle as part of their primary duty assignment may train during regular duty hours.
3. The proficiency training will be conducted by the department bicycle patrol instructor.
  - .1 Officers shall demonstrate familiarity and proficiency with all equipment associated with the safe and effective operation of a police bicycle.
  - .2 It shall be the responsibility of the department bicycle patrol instructor to determine whether or not the trained officer is proficient in the operation of the police bicycles.
  - .3 The proficiency training will minimally include but not limited to:
    - .01 Familiarization with the mandatory safety equipment.
    - .02 Familiarization with the shifting and the braking system.
    - .03 Slow speed balancing, maneuvering and turning.
    - .04 The proper technique of riding over a curb.
    - .05 Threshold braking technique.
    - .06 Practical riding in traffic.
    - .07 Proper method of transporting and securing the bicycle.
    - .08 Repairing a flat tire.
  - .4 An exception to the proficiency training may be made for personnel who have successfully completed a POST approved course of instruction in bicycle patrol.
    - .01 Officers having completed a POST approved course of instruction in bicycle patrol shall go through an in-house orientation that will familiarize the individual(s) with the Concord Police Department's bicycle patrol program, including proper storage, maintenance, transport and deployment of department bicycles.

**E. EQUIPMENT**

1. Officers shall only wear uniforms and equipment authorized in General Order No. 38.
2. Officers shall wear the following safety equipment at all times while operating the bicycle:
  - .1 A black ventilated bicycle helmet (meeting ANSI standard) with white "POLICE" decals on each side. A black helmet with "POLICE" stenciling on each side is optional for cool weather.
  - .2 Sunglasses (clear lens required for low light conditions) or eye glasses.
  - .3 Black bicycling gloves. Black full finger bicycling gloves are optional for cool weather.

3. All the bicycles used by the Concord Police Department shall be approved by the Chief of Police and the bicycle patrol coordinator. No other type of bicycle shall be used and no other equipment shall be added to the bicycle without approval.
  - .1 Standard equipment: Police mountain bike outfitted with police bike rack back. Bicycles shall be equipped with rechargeable headlight and flashing red tail light when operated during the hours of darkness or in limited visibility conditions.
  - .2 Optional Equipment: Red and blue emergency light with siren. Clipless pedals may be installed on bicycles used as part of an officer's primary duty assignment.
  - .3 In the event of a mechanical failure or damage to a bicycle, it shall be the officer's responsibility to notify the bicycle patrol coordinator as soon as practical.
4. All bicycles shall be secured in the designated storage area at the end of the shift or assignment.

**F. DEPARTMENT BICYCLE PATROL COORDINATOR**

1. The department bicycle patrol coordinator is responsible for the following:
  - .1 Coordinate the bicycle patrol proficiency training and up-date in-service training records.
  - .2 Maintain a list of officers qualified for bicycle patrol.
  - .3 Conduct routine inspections and maintenance of the bicycles.
  - .4 Maintain an inventory of all bicycles and equipment.