



City of Racine Police Department
Policy and Procedure

Number: 1927

Subject: Police Motorcycle Operations		
Date Issued: 07-11-03	Effective Date: 08-05-11	Revision Number: 2

POLICY:

The Racine Police Department believes the use of the police motorcycle will enhance the image and visibility of our agency. This procedure will ensure there are no unnecessary risks taken by operators of those police motorcycles. This procedure is designed to set limits as to who may operate it as well as under what circumstances it may be operated.

All operators of the Department motorcycles need to understand that the motorcycles must be operated with due regard to the safety of members of the community as well as the safety of the operator at all times. A crash involving a police motorcycle will fall under the review of the Accident Review Board (ARB) just as any other crash involving a Racine Police Department motor vehicle.

DEFINITIONS:

Qualified Motorcycle Operator - a sworn member of the Racine Police Department that has previously successfully completed the Police Motorcycle Operators Course from a qualified instructor. The Chief of Police must designate this operator as a member of the Department Motorcycle Officer team.

Motorcycle Liaison Officer - is the sworn member designated by the Patrol Division Commander as the person responsible for the safe operation and recordkeeping inherent to the operation of a police motorcycle. This member also should be a "qualified motorcycle operator" as defined above. This member should have an understanding about the issues unique to the operation of police motorcycles.

PROCEDURE:

The following guidelines must be adhered to with regards to the operation of the department police motorcycles:

**QUALIFIED
MOTORCYCLE
OPERATOR:**

1. Shall utilize the police motorcycle as the primary patrol during his or her workshift - weather permitting.
 - a. Only after having inspected the motorcycle for:
 - 1) Functional horn, headlamps, brake lights, directional signals, emergency lights and siren.
 - 2) Appropriate tire pressure and tires free from excessive wear, cuts, or bulges.
 - 3) Safe brakes.
 - 4) Oil levels within factory specifications.
 - 5) Proper adjustments to chain and belts. Motorcycle operators shall not make changes to the chain or belts; if loose; the motorcycle should be written up and put out of service.
 - 6) Loose nuts, fluid leaks that can be fixed prior to going in service.
 - b. Should the inspection show any defects that make the cycle unserviceable, the cycle should be deadlined and written up with the appropriate defects indicated.
 - c. If the cycle is still safe to operate, and has minor issues that can be addressed later, those issues shall be detailed in a memorandum for follow-up by the motorcycle liaison officer.

2. Shall always wear the approved motorcycle operator's uniform and special equipment:
 - 1) D.O.T approved safety helmet
 - 2) Protective lenses/goggles (still required even though the motorcycle may have an approved windshield)
 - 3) Boots that provide over-ankle protection and support
 - 4) Gloves
3. Shall only be considered a primary pursuit vehicle, when the police motorcycle operator observes a felony occur and there are no other squads in the area able to initiate the pursuit.
 - a. Once additional squads become available, or the pursuit exceeds a safe operating speed or set of conditions, the motorcycle operator's portion of the pursuit must be terminated.
 - b. At the point the motorcycle operator's portion of the pursuit is terminated, appropriate documentation should be completed.

**MOTORCYCLE
LIAISON
OFFICER:**

1. Shall be responsible for managing the care and upkeep (beyond normal driving care issues) of the police motorcycles in the department's inventory.
2. He or she shall be responsible for coordinating with Training, the initial and annual re-certification of the qualified motorcycle operators.
3. He or she shall maintain any logbooks related to the care and maintenance of the department controlled motorcycles, working with the maintenance contractors responsible for cycle repairs.
4. He or she shall be responsible to the Patrol Division Commander on matters directly related to the department's police motorcycle operation program.
5. This member may be a primary or secondary user of the cycle during police operations.

**PATROL
DIVISION
COMMANDER:**

1. Shall oversee the police motorcycle operation and annually evaluate the needs of the program as well as review and assign new operators as necessary.
2. Shall ensure the performance appraisal done semi-annually on each participant in the police motorcycle program, adequately reflects their involvement.

**RELATED
PROCEDURES:**

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