

Asheville Police Department Policy Manual

Chapter: 11 - Special Operations

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Introduction

The Asheville Police Department's Bicycle Response Team (BRT) is equipped to respond to demonstrations, civil disorders/riots, natural disasters, or other catastrophic events, or any other events where necessary to support the department's operations.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department (APD) to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, and protect the rights of persons and property during events of civil unrest. The department respects citizens' right to peaceably assemble and exercise free speech as provided by law.

Definitions

Bicycle Response Team (BRT): a team of bike-certified police officers who have been specifically trained to use their department bicycles in the tactics of crowd management. BRT officers train with and complement the tactics of Crowd Control Team (CCT) officers.

Civil Disorder/Riot: any public disturbance involving acts of violence by assemblages of three (3) or more persons, which causes an immediate danger of or results in damage or injury to the property or person of any other individual (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.2/12 USC § 231).

Crowd Event: an event with a large group of people in attendance, including sporting events, festivals, concerts, and demonstrations.

Demonstration: generically used to include a wide range of First Amendment activities that require or may require law enforcement traffic control, crowd management, crowd control, crowd dispersal, or enforcement actions in a crowd situation.

Rules and Procedures

1104.1 Team Mission and Responsibilities

- A. The mission of the department's Bicycle Response Team (BRT) is to support department operations and protect lives and property by maintaining community order.
- B. The department's Bicycle Response Team is composed of specially trained personnel equipped for crowd management. The BRT operates under the Patrol Operations Division.

1104.2 Team Organization

- A. The Bicycle Response Team (BRT) is led by the BRT Commander, as appointed by the chief of police. The BRT Commander is responsible for the regular operational and administrative duties of the team.
- B. In the absence of the BRT Commander, the [designated](#) BRT team leader will carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Commander.
- C. The Patrol Operations Division Commander is responsible for the operational command of the team. In the absence of the Patrol Operations Division commander, the Patrol Executive Officer will assume operational oversight when a designee is not named in advance.

- D. Administrative requests and reports will be submitted to the Patrol Executive Officer for review.
- E. The BRT Commander is responsible for the following:
 - 1. Implementing, organizing, and documenting training for BRT members.
 - 2. Maintaining a list of all equipment issued for use by the BRT.
 - 3. Quarterly documented inspections of non-issued BRT equipment.
 - 4. Maintaining an accurate roster of all active BRT personnel.
 - 5. Accounting for all BRT-issued equipment during event demobilization.
 - 6. Coordinating and ensuring the completion of all appropriate reporting following BRT actions, such as use of force reports, injury exposure reports, etc.
- F. Removal of personnel from the BRT is at the discretion of the chief of police or designee.

1104.3 Member Selection

- A. Officers will be assigned to the BRT [at the discretion of the Patrol Operations Division commander](#). [Assignments will be](#) based on the Asheville Police Department's need for staffing and maintaining a sufficient number of trained BRT personnel.
- B. Assignment to the BRT is an appointed assignment.

1104.4 Training

- A. The BRT commander will implement training consistent with national standards for submission to the Patrol Executive Officer and Patrol Operations Division commander for approval.
- B. The BRT will train [at least sixteen \(16\) hours annually over no fewer than two separate days](#). Training may be increased or decreased depending upon the needs of the department, with the approval of the police executive staff. [33.6.1 b]
- C. The Bicycle Response Team and Crowd Control Team units will train both separately and together; see [Policy 1104 - Crowd Control Team](#).

- D. All BRT members must attend and pass a basic police cyclist certification course before being assigned to the team. [33.6.1 a]
- E. Members of the BRT **must** attend a bicycle response team certification course before or as soon as practical after being assigned to the team.

1104.5 Equipment

- A. BRT members will be provided with personal protective equipment and the tools and equipment necessary for the safe and effective completion of all assigned tasks.
 - 1. While on duty, all BRT members will have all issued BRT equipment immediately accessible and will report directly to incident staging locations as directed upon BRT activation.
 - 2. BRT members will ensure all issued equipment remains in proper working order.
 - 3. Issued equipment will not be altered in any manner unless approved by the BRT Commander.
 - 4. Issued equipment will include one gas mask, one gas mask carrier, one gas mask cartridge (filter), **one pair of gloves, one hydration pack, one pair of eye protection**, and one bike helmet; this includes the APD bike officer uniform of the day (long sleeve shirt required).
- B. Respirator fit testing will be completed annually for employees issued a respirator in adherence to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements.
- C. Issued equipment will be inspected and the inspection documented on officer inspection reports by their direct supervisor; this includes gas masks and any bicycles assigned to officers.
- D. All stored general BRT equipment (bicycles, lights, etc.) will be inspected quarterly by the BRT commander.

1104.6 Activation

- A. In a situation that requires immediate attention, the BRT Commander and watch commander have the authority to place the BRT on stand-by. Activations of the BRT must be approved by the Patrol Operations Division commander **or designee**.

- B. Activation of the BRT will follow mobilization procedures in [SOP 3013 – Public Order Operations](#).
- C. The BRT Commander will maintain a roster of all active BRT personnel and ensure all related databases are updated accordingly; this will provide a rapid analysis of available BRT resources.
- D. BRT personnel will respond to the designated staging location as directed upon notification of an incident.
- E. Activation of BRT personnel is strongly encouraged to be accompanied by a contingent of CCT personnel.

1104.7 Team Operations

- A. Members of the BRT will not be tasked with the [deployment](#) of less-lethal munitions.
- B. Members must follow all guidelines in [Policy 402 – Response to Resistance](#).
- C. Specific procedures related to team operations are located in [SOP 3013 – Public Order Operations](#).

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML' followed by a stylized surname.

Michael Lamb
Chief of Police