

# Bicycle Patrol Unit

## 452.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office has established the Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU) for the purpose of enhancing patrol efforts in the community. Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility in congested areas and their quiet operation can provide a tactical approach to crimes in progress. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and effective operation of the patrol bicycle.

## 452.2 POLICY

Patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control, or special events. The use of the patrol bicycle will emphasize their mobility and visibility to the community.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to office needs and as staffing levels allow.

Requests for specific deployment of bicycle patrol deputies shall be coordinated through the Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor or the Shift Sergeant.

## 452.3 SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

Interested sworn personnel, who are off probation will be selected by the Sheriff or his designee. Personnel shall be evaluated by the following criteria:

- (a) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance.
- (b) Special skills or training as it pertains to the assignment.
- (c) Good physical condition.
- (d) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation.
- (e) Any other criteria the Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor determines is important.

### 452.3.1 BICYCLE PATROL UNIT SUPERVISOR

The Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor will be selected from the rank of sergeant by the Patrol Division Chief or his/her designee.

The Bicycle Patrol Unit supervisor shall have responsibility for the following:

- (a) Organizing bicycle patrol training.
- (b) Inspecting and maintaining inventory of patrol bicycles and program equipment.
- (c) Scheduling maintenance and repairs.
- (d) Evaluating performance of bicycle deputies.
- (e) Coordinating activities with the Patrol Division.
- (f) Other activities as required to maintain the efficient operation of the Bicycle Patrol Unit.

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### **452.4 TRAINING**

Participants in the program must complete an initial department approved bicycle-training course after acceptance into the program. Thereafter bicycle patrol deputies should receive yearly approved training to improve skills and refresh safety, health and operational procedures. Failing to attend annual training could result in suspension from the unit until the training is attended. The initial training shall minimally include the following:

- Bicycle patrol strategies.
- Bicycle safety and accident prevention.
- Operational tactics using bicycles.

### **452.5 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

Deputies shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the department bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet, riding gloves, protective eyewear and approved footwear.

The bicycle patrol unit uniform consists of the standard short-sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt with department badge and patches and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts, or a department approved jumpsuit.

Optional equipment includes jacket in colder weather, turtleneck shirts or sweaters when worn under the uniform shirt, and a radio head set and microphone.

Bicycle patrol deputies should carry the same equipment on the bicycle patrol duty belt as they would on a regular patrol assignment.

Deputies will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms, citation books and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol.

### **452.6 CARE AND USE OF PATROL BICYCLES**

Deputies may be assigned an equipped patrol bicycle and detachable gear bag. With the bicycle patrol unit supervisors approval, deputies may use their properly equipped personal bicycle.

Bicycles are considered vehicles and therefore are subject to all laws, regulations, and privileges applicable to other vehicles operated upon the highway (RCW 46.04.670).

Bicycles utilized during hours of darkness for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with front lights and rear reflectors or lights, and brakes satisfying the requirements of RCW 46.61.780.

Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol should be equipped with a rear rack and/or saddle bag(s) sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls including report writing, vehicle storage and citations.

Each bicycle gear bag should include a first aid kit, tire pump, repair tool and tire tube.

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Bicycle deputies shall conduct an inspection of the bicycle and equipment prior to use to insure proper working order of the equipment. Deputies are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).

If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle deputy, an IOC describing the repair work needed will be completed and forwarded to the program supervisor.

Each bicycle will have maintenance performed by a department approved repair shop/technician as needed.

At the end of a bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.

Deputies shall not remove, modify or add components to a patrol bicycle except with the expressed approval of the bicycle supervisor, or in the event of an emergency.

Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a trunk or on a patrol car push-bumper is discouraged.

Bicycles shall be properly secured when not in the deputy's immediate presence.

### **452.7 DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITY**

Deputies must operate the bicycle in compliance with applicable codes under normal operation. Deputies may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness when such operation reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and/or tactical considerations. Deputies must use caution and care when operating the bicycle without lighting equipment.

It shall be the policy of this office that all other bicycle operation shall be in compliance with the rules of the road except when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator. An emergency response or pursuit shall be conducted only with emergency lights and siren and under the conditions required by RCW 46.61.035 and with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons using the highway as required by RCW 46.61.035(4).