

# **MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **GENERAL ORDER**

Subject: <b>POLICE MOTORCYCLES</b>	General Order: 1234
Effective Date: April 28, 2001 Revision Date: September 29, 2010	Distribution: All Sworn Personnel

### **I. PURPOSE**

This general order establishes procedures for the operation of police motorcycles and the use of motorcycles during enforcement and patrol duties.

### **II. POLICY**

Police motorcycles are deployed to enhance community traffic safety and vehicle code compliance. Motorcycles are primarily used to focus on vehicle code violations and to improve the perception of police presence and enforcement effectiveness in residential and congested areas of the Township.

### **III. PROCEDURES**

A. Department motorcycles shall only be operated by officers trained for police motorcycle patrol or persons expressly authorized by the Chief of Police.

1. Enforcement or patrol activity will not be conducted prior to completion of an approved police motorcycle operator training course.
2. Motorcycle officers are required to possess a valid State of Michigan motorcycle endorsement on their operator's license.

B. Hours of Operation and Road Conditions

1. Motorcycle operation shall be limited to daylight hours.
2. During periods of inclement weather, wet roadways, or other unsafe operating conditions, motorcycles shall not be driven. Officers shall be assigned to a patrol car for completion of their shift when these conditions exist.
3. Motorcycles shall not be operated off the traveled roadway except to patrol surfaced pedestrian pathways that are not normally accessed by a regular police patrol car.
4. Motorcycles may be assigned to lead parades or conduct dignitary escorts. However, leapfrog and dignitary escorts will not be conducted in excess of the posted or prima facie speed limits.

5. Assignment to events in other communities is subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. Operation of police motorcycles when assigned to such events will conform to this general order.
- C. Motorcycles shall not engage in emergency runs or vehicular pursuits.
- Exception: Emergency responses are permitted by motorcycles when a regular patrol unit is not readily available or would have an extended response time. In addition, the officer must have reasonable grounds to believe that an immediate response is necessary and that a delayed response is likely to result in death, injury, or the escape of a criminal following the commission of a serious felony.
- D. Officers assigned to motorcycle patrol and/or selective enforcement details may be interrupted from those duties to:
- Provide assistance at personal injury accidents.
  - Provide back up for felony traffic stops.
  - Respond to a report of an armed robbery, murder, or other life threatening call.
  - Provide backup for other Meridian Police units when no other unit is available.
  - As directed by the shift supervisor based upon police service needs.
- E. Officers operating police motorcycles must be attired in police uniform and safety equipment including helmet, gloves, eye protection and boots. Safety glasses (or an appropriate substitute) are required when officers operate police motorcycles.
- F. Vehicle Equipment Supply - In addition to the regularly installed emergency lighting, siren, radio, radar, etc., motorcycle officers are responsible to ensure the following equipment and supplies are available prior to commencing patrol:
- First aid kit
  - Bloodborne pathogens kit
  - CPR mask and protective gloves
  - Traffic flares
  - Traffic safety vest
- G. A pre-ride inspection must be conducted prior to daily operation. If the equipment is not in proper working order or repair, the vehicle shall not be operated prior to replacement or repair of the defect.
1. Motorcycle officers are responsible to ensure their assigned motorcycle is maintained in a safe and clean condition and ready for patrol use.


Instructions applicable to the written notice and repair of regular police vehicles also apply to motorcycles.

2. Any towing arrangements must be completed by a wrecker service properly equipped for motorcycles.
  3. Officers shall not alter police motorcycles (equipment or markings) without the prior approval of the Chief of Police or his designee.
  4. When motorcycles are parked unattended, the front forks shall be locked.
- H. Patrol will typically be conducted in a solo patrol mode. Officers should avoid riding in pairs or in tandem except as specialized assignments may require.
- I. Motorcycles shall not be used for court appearances other than during the course of regularly scheduled work hours.
- J. Passengers shall not be transported on police motorcycles.

#### **IV. CANCELLATIONS**

None

Authorized by:



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David Hall, Chief of Police

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