



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES & PROCEDURES



Subject: <b>State Police Motor Team</b>		Policy Number: <b>OPR: 32</b>
Revision Number: <b>3</b>	Effective Date: <b>11/28/2023</b>	Original Issue Date: <b>12/01/2014</b>

### 1) PURPOSE

- a) The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and procedures for the application and selection process for membership into the New Mexico State Police Motor Team, and guidelines for its deployment and utilization.

### 2) POLICY

- a) It is the policy of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS) to maintain a highly flexible motorcycle patrol team to provide an agile traffic vehicle with the purpose of traffic enforcement, dignitary protection, special events, and public safety escorts.

### 3) APPLICABILITY

- a) This policy applies to all commissioned New Mexico State Police personnel of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

### 4) REFERENCES

- a) NONE

### 5) DEFINITIONS

- a) **Certified Motor Instructor** – a Commissioned DPS employee certified by The Law Enforcement Motor Standard or equivalent to instruct and certify officers to operate a motorcycle while in the performance of their duties.
- b) **Motor** – Department-owned motorcycle used in routine patrol operations, traffic enforcement, community relations, traffic safety education programs, and dignitary/funeral escorts.
- c) **Motor Officer** – a Commissioned DPS employee licensed and certified to operate a motor during the performance of his/her duties.

### 6) OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- a) **Operations - Escort Procedures**



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- i) Motor patrol personnel will be called upon to perform special functions. Proper planning for these functions is critical. The following procedures will apply in planning and carrying out these functions.
  - (1) All Motor Team members shall receive at a minimum eight (8) hours of escort training from a certified police motorcycle instructor.
  - (2) During Motor Team escorts, all members will follow procedures and techniques learned during training.
- ii) Motors are not to be operated without the use of approved safety equipment. This equipment will be specifically designed for use during the operation of a motor. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - (1) A properly secured motorcycle helmet.
  - (2) Gloves.
  - (3) Eye protection.
  - (4) Boots.
- iii) Motors will not be utilized during periods of inclement weather.
- iv) Motors will not be used to carry passengers or transport prisoners.
- v) Only commissioned DPS employees currently on the DPS Motor Team, with a motorcycle endorsement, and who are certified through the Law Enforcement Motor Standard or equivalent, are to operate a motor.

### **b) Selection, Qualification, Training, and Dismissal**

- i) Selection
  - (1) Selection for motor officers will come from within the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. Officers who work in a covert capacity that places the officers safety in jeopardy are prohibited from being assigned to the Motor Team.
  - (2) All applicants must have a minimum of two (2) years of patrol experience and have successfully completed the department FTO program. Patrol experience may include time spent in patrol with other agencies prior to becoming a commissioned State Police officer.
  - (3) Must provide officer evaluation forms for the last two years of service, if applicable.
  - (4) Applicants must be able to stand over the motorcycle while it is in an upright position and have both feet on the ground.
  - (5) Applicants must be able to properly upright a department motorcycle while it's lying on its side as demonstrated by the instructor.



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(6) All newly selected motor officers will be on a one (1) year probationary period.

ii) Qualification

(1) The officer will be required to show proof of, or obtain, their motorcycle endorsement prior to the beginning of motor school.

(2) The officer will be required to successfully complete the Law Enforcement Motor Standard course.

(a) If the officer fails to pass the initial practical riding test, the officer will be granted up to, but not to exceed, four (4) hours of remedial training.

(b) If the candidate still cannot pass the practical riding test they will be removed from the Motor School.

iii) Training

(1) Training will be held for motor officers as directed by the Motor Team Commander and/or the Special Operations Commander. All training will be held as the budget allows.

(2) All monthly Motor Team training will be mandatory. All excusals must be approved by the Special Operations Commander.

(3) Motor officers require a high degree of professionalism and skill to operate a motor. All members of the Motor Team will be required to conduct recertification training on an annual basis. Members, who do not pass the initial re-certification course, will be given up to four (4) hours of uninstructed remedial training. Upon completion of the remedial training, one (1) additional opportunity will be provided to pass the re-certification course.

(a) If the member fails to pass the re-certification course, the officer will be decertified to operate a Motor and will be recommended for removal from the Motor Team at the discretion of the New Mexico State Police Chief or Designee.

iv) Dismissal

(1) Membership and participation as a part of the team is considered a privilege, not a promotion. To maintain team integrity and the highest level of standards, all members are subject to disciplinary action and may be removed from the team, without cause, by the Chief of the State Police or Designee. Reasons for removal or suspension from the team may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Failure to attend special assignments.



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- (b) Failure to attend training unless excused.
- (c) Failure to pass a certification or re-certification course.
- (d) Failure to maintain a motorcycle endorsement.
- (e) Failure to maintain team standards.
- (f) Failure to meet district duties and responsibilities.

### **c) Duties and Responsibilities**

#### **i) Motor Team Commander**

- (1) The appointment of the Motor Team Commander will be proposed by the Special Operations Bureau Commander and approved by the Chief. The Motor Team Commander will be a member selected from within the ranks of the current Motor Team.
- (2) Have direct supervision of motor officers during assignments.
- (3) Develop goals and objectives for the Motor Team.
- (4) Ensure that all motor officers receive initial and continuing training on motorcycle operations, as well as training on policy and procedures covering department motorcycles.
- (5) Receives and evaluates requests for the Motor Team based on the need and availability of motor officers.

#### **ii) Motor Officer**

- (1) Reports to the Motor Team Commander or event supervisor for daily or long-term assignments.
  - (a) Operates their assigned motor to perform their primary duty.
  - (b) Members will make every effort to ride a minimum of four (4) hours a week to stay proficient.
  - (c) If it is determined that any Motor Team member is consistently not riding, the Motor Team Commander may require that member to re-certify before they are allowed to continue riding in any capacity on a motor.
- (2) Responsible for the daily maintenance and storage of their motors including, but not limited to:
  - (a) Cleanliness.
  - (b) Proper fluid levels.
  - (c) Proper tire pressure.
  - (d) Functionality of all emergency equipment.
  - (e) Other pre-ride checks designated by the manufacturer.



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- (f) Store their motor in a garage or in their assigned trailer, to avoid excessive wear and tear caused by weather conditions.

### iii) Motor Training Officer

#### (1) a. Qualifications

- (a) A recommendation from the commander of the Motor Team.
- (b) Be certified by the State of New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy as a Motorcycle Operations Instructor.
- (c) Successfully completed a course of instruction on police motorcycle operations from The Law Enforcement Motor Standard, or equivalent program, recognized by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy to train and certify a police officer as a motor officer.

#### (2) Responsibilities

- (a) Training Officers will forward all training records to the Motor Team Commander on all officers who complete such training.
- (b) All training officers will complete and maintain certification as an instructor for all types of police motorcycles used by the department and that they are proficient with current standards and curriculum.

### d) Motorcycle Fleet Crashes

- i) Crashes or incidents that occur during a training event will immediately be reported to the Special Operations Bureau Commander who will determine if it will be reported as a fleet per policy. The determination of a fleet due to damage that exceeds \$1500.00, or any injury obtained outside of training, will be decided by the Special Operations Bureau Commander.
- ii) All other crashes or incidents will be reported in accordance with *ADM: 18 Fleet Crashes*.

### e) Uniforms and Equipment

- i) In addition to uniform requirements in *ADM: 24 Uniforms, Grooming, and Equipment*, all officers shall carry, either on the motorcycle or on their person, the following items:
  - (1) Reflective vest.
  - (2) Department-issued Lidar.
  - (3) Department-issued Digital Camera and/or Cell Phone.



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- (4) Traffic accident and traffic law enforcement forms (i.e. Tracs, paper forms).
- ii) All officers shall possess gloves of any type that are conservative in color. Proper clothing for any anticipated weather conditions.
  - iii) Officers shall wear either dress riding boots when wearing class (A) uniform breeches or over-the-ankle lace-up boots when wearing class (A) straight-leg pants. When wearing fatigue uniform, lace-up boots with rubber soles will be worn. Long-sleeve shirts are recommended while on patrol in district, but not mandatory.
  - iv) During cooler temperatures the mock turtleneck shirt can be worn in conjunction with the cold weather pants and jacket, but it is not mandatory.
  - v) Officers may wear a “doo-rag” under their helmets. This “doo-rag” can be worn for a short period of time as headgear until the transition to the “Class A” hat can be made.
  - vi) All officers shall wear eye protection (helmet visor or glasses). If glasses are worn, they are required to be safety approved with metal or plastic frames of a conservative style and color.
  - vii) DOT Certified and approved helmets are mandatory. Helmets shall be worn at all times with the chinstrap fastened when operating a motorcycle. The helmet or chinstrap is not to be modified.
  - viii) Upon successfully completing motor school, members are authorized to wear the motor team patch on the right sleeve of the Class A uniform.
  - ix) Motor Team members who successfully complete their probationary period are eligible to be awarded the Motor Team Pin. The Motor Team Pin will be awarded at the discretion of the Motor Team Commander.
  - x) It is the goal of the team to keep equipment in a constant state of readiness and to be accountable for all issued equipment.

**7) ATTACHMENTS**

a) NONE

**8) APPROVAL**

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*U. J. [Signature]*

New Mexico State Police Chief

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*11/28/23*