



Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



13.050 – Policing by Mountain Bike

Original Effective Date: 02/01/2016

Revised Effective Date: 05/01/2025

This policy pertains to the use of mountain bicycles by the Seattle Police Department.

For information about the use of using a bicycle as a force tool or in a crowd event, please see manual section [8.300 – Use of Force Tools](#) or [14.090 – Crowd Management, Intervention, and Control](#).

13.050-POL-1 Training & Equipment

1. Bicycle Sworn Employees Must Complete Basic Mountain Bicycle Patrol Training

Precinct captains will ensure that sworn employees assigned to a bicycle squad keep their skills current with ongoing in-service training, annual refreshers, and may designate training days to work on specific skills.

The Education & Training Section (ETS) maintains a list of sworn employees qualified and trained to ride a police mountain bicycle.

2. Sworn Employees Must Maintain the Physical Fitness Level Required for Bicycle Squad Assignment

3. Each Bicycle Sworn Employee Will Be Equipped with Department-Approved Cycling Clothing and Gear

Bicycle sworn employees will be equipped with the following:

- Cycling helmet, gloves, shoes designed for their pedal type, and shorts (see the [Uniform Reference Catalog](#))
- Safety glasses
- Raingear
- Regular duty gear required for uniformed patrol

4. Police Bicycles Will Be Equipped Based on the Generally Accepted Standards for Police Bicycles and Maintained Through the Community Response Group

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The bicycles used by the department will comply with [SMC 11.44.160 \(Lamps and Reflectors on Bicycles\)](#).

The bicycle coordinator may approve additional equipment.

5. Sworn Employees Will Perform Safety Checks on Their Bicycles Before and After Each Shift

Sworn employees will report any damage to a department bicycle mechanic.

Sworn employees who perform maintenance and repairs on bicycles must be certified through an appropriate bicycle school or manufacturer.

6. Sworn Employees Will Transport Bicycles in a Carrier Designed for This Purpose or in Such a Manner as Not to Damage the Bicycle or the Vehicle Transporting the Bicycle

13.050-POL-2 Operations

1. Precincts Captains and Sworn Employees Assigned to Bicycle Squads Will Determine When the Use of Bicycle Patrol is Appropriate and Safe

The bicycle patrol will operate year-round. It is at the discretion of the precinct captains and sworn employees to determine if weather conditions make bicycle operations unsafe or impractical.

2. Bicycle Sworn Employees Will Not Usually Be Dispatched to Calls But Will Respond to Calls in Their District, When Feasible

3. Sworn Employees are Responsible for the Safe Operation of Their Bicycle

Sworn employees will follow all applicable rules of the road, except when necessary to affect a law enforcement purpose (e.g., crowd management, emergency response, etc.).

Sworn employees will ride with due regard for the safety of all people under all circumstances.