
NUMBER: 4.07

EFFECTIVE DATE:
REVISION DATE:

JULY 1991
DECEMBER 1999
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SUBJECT: POLICE MOTORCYCLES

4.07.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide a guideline for field supervisors and motorcycle officers in the maintenance, operation and deployment of police motorcycles used by the Wheat Ridge police department for enforcement duties.

4.07.02 POLICY

- A. Effective immediately, the officers and supervisor assigned to the motorcycle detail shall follow the established guidelines for maintenance, operation and deployment of the police motorcycle.

4.07.03 PROCEDURE

A. Operation of the Police Motorcycle

1. Police officers shall operate the motorcycle in accordance with state law and department policy regarding the operation of police vehicles.
2. The motorcycle shall be operated by officers properly trained in the operation of the police motorcycle, including a minimum of forty (40) hours of extensive police motorcycle training given by a certified instructor.
3. Yearly re-certification consisting of a minimum of eight (8) hours of training in the operation of the police motorcycle shall also be required.
4. Motorcycle officers shall follow the vehicle pursuit policy directives as it relates to motorcycles.
5. Police officers will not ride when temperatures drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or when weather conditions and road surfaces create hazardous conditions. The discretion of the on duty field supervisor shall prevail in making a determination of hazardous conditions for motorcycles.
6. Motorcycles will be operated in accordance with applicable departmental directives and standard operating procedures.
7. Motorcycles shall be considered "**marked emergency response vehicles**"; however, certain restrictions on their use will be specified in related policy directives.

B. Maintenance of the Police Motorcycle

1. Basic maintenance such as oil changes, washing and waxing of the unit, and general appearance of the motorcycles are to be performed by the operator.

2. The operator shall insure that the manufacturer's recommended maintenance is properly completed by competent persons, at the specified recommended mileage.
3. When not in use, the motorcycle is to be stored in the operator's locked garage.
4. No addition to, removal from, or alterations to, the motorcycle will be made without prior approval from the traffic unit sergeant.

C. Use of Police Motorcycle

1. The police motorcycle shall be primarily used as a crime and traffic team unit for the purpose of accident reduction and selective traffic enforcement endeavors.
2. The motorcycle will not be utilized for routine patrol activities unless directed by proper, higher authority.
3. The motorcycle may be used for special events when deemed appropriate, or at the discretion of the chief of police.

4.07.04 SELECTION OF POLICE MOTORCYCLE OPERATORS

- A. To be eligible for selection as a police motorcycle operator, a police officer must have successfully completed the one year initial probationary period.
- B. Personnel who are selected for the program will be assigned to the crime and traffic team.
- C. Voluntary application for consideration is required.
- D. Prospective applicants must display or demonstrate the following:
 1. Strong interest and commitment to the program.
 2. High job proficiency and maturity as a police officer.
 3. Commitment to engage in regular, rigorous training.
 4. Indicate a willingness to forego transfer for a minimum of two years.
 5. Obtain a favorable recommendation from a supervisor.
 6. Must have a valid motorcycle endorsement and a minimum of two (2) years' motorcycle riding experience.

4.07.05 UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

- A. The wearing of department issued and approved helmets is mandatory.
- B. The wearing of gloves, eye protection and boots is mandatory.
- C. The motorcycle operator uniform will consist of uniforms and equipment items specified by directives and current procedures.