

Procedure

9.11

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
10-1-02**

Eugene Police Department



Bicycle Team

9.11.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Bicycle Team is an ad hoc group of police officers trained to use bicycles on an as needed basis to provide another option for patrol and response to incidents. Bicycles provide greater access to congested areas or areas not readily accessible by motor vehicles, as well as allowing officers to perform patrol functions in a less detectable manner. Officers using bicycles also have greater opportunity for interaction with members of the community, thus furthering our community policing strategies.

PART I - Responsibilities and Procedures for All Personnel

- A. Operation of police bicycles
- B. Care of police bicycles
- C. Public assemblies and demonstrations
- D. Tactical use of bicycles

PART II - Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisors and Command Personnel

- A. Bicycle Team Supervisor(s)

9.11.2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL PERSONNEL

- a. Operation of police bicycles
 - 1. Except in cases of emergency, police bicycles will only be operated by officers who have passed a department-approved training course, and who are authorized by a Bicycle Team Supervisor to use a police bicycle.
 - 2. You must wear a bicycle helmet, gloves, and protective glasses when operating the bicycle.
 - 3. Comply with all applicable traffic laws, except where there is a statutory exemption from doing so.

4. Bicycle officers will comply with provisions of Chapter 10 of the Police Operations Manual regarding uniforms and equipment, except as otherwise authorized by the appropriate division manager or designee. Any exceptions authorized will apply only during those times the officer is assigned to operate a bicycle.
 5. Bicycles will not normally be ridden:
 - during heavy rain, snow, or icy conditions;
 - when the bicycle is damaged or in need of repair; or • at a speed or in a manner which endangers others or is not prudent for existing conditions.
 6. Secure the bicycle when it is not in use, and do not leave it unattended without securing it except in cases of emergency.
 7. Interact with the community, making positive contacts during the course of duty when it is feasible to do so.
- b. Care of police bicycles
1. Each bicycle officer has the primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of his or her assigned police bicycle and related equipment.
 2. Do not alter the appearance or components of the police bicycle without authorization from a Bicycle Team Supervisor.
 3. Clean the bicycle as often as necessary to maintain a professional appearance and report any needed maintenance to a Bicycle Team Supervisor.
- c. Public assemblies and demonstrations
1. Bicycle officers will normally act as first responders (in situations where police officers are needed to respond) as a low-level presence to better determine if and when any additional police response is necessary.
 2. Attempt to identify and establish rapport with leaders or organizers of the group and attempt to determine their intent and any proposed route of travel.
 3. Offer information to leaders, organizers, and/or participants regarding their rights and responsibilities, as well as what assistance or other actions they can expect from us.
 4. Apprise appropriate command officers of any pertinent information.
- d. Tactical use of bicycles
1. Because of the close proximity of bicycle officers to crowds under circumstances and in situations which are sometimes unpredictable, a police bicycle may be used when needed as a barricade in a crowd control environment, or to assist in guiding or directing persons into or out of a designated area.

2. In some situations, it may be necessary to use the police bicycle as a defensive impact weapon in accordance with *Policy 800 – Use of Force*.

9.11.3 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SUPERVISORS AND COMMAND PERSONNEL

- a. Bicycle Team supervisor(s)
 1. Oversee the operation of the Bicycle Team.
 2. Select Bicycle Team members and ensure that they receive adequate initial and on-going training.