
Purpose

The Bemidji Police Department recognizes the many advantages of police patrol bicycles. This type of law enforcement patrol allows for greater engagement with the public. It also enables unique crime prevention strategies not possible in a patrol vehicle.

Policy

It is the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to utilize the bicycle patrol unit to promote positive engagement with the public and ensure public safety.

Scope

This policy governs the bicycle patrol unit and use of bicycle equipment.

Procedure

I. Assignment to Bicycle Patrol:

- A. Officers will be assigned to the bicycle patrol unit by the chief of police through an open solicitation of those interested when the need exists. Officers still in a probationary period will not be eligible for the unit.

II. Uniforms and Equipment

- A. All equipment that is exclusive to the bicycle patrol unit will be provided by the department upon assignment. Officers are responsible for replacement of equipment that is worn, incorrect size or damaged through misuse.
- B. Officers shall wear a department issued helmet and protective eyewear when patrolling, training or operating a BPD bicycle.
- C. Officers will wear approved polo-type shirts, navy blue long pants/ navy blue shorts, black socks, black shoes, and jackets. Officers may wear approved clothing as they see fit during inclement weather.
- D. Officers are encouraged to wear issued padded cycling glove to prevent injuries.
 - a. Officers must recognize that gloves may affect their ability to accurately fire their weapons. Officers must qualify with their duty weapons while wearing cycling gloves.
- E. The nylon duty belt must include; pistol, taser, magazine pouch, handcuffs, radio.
- F. Officer must wear their department issued bullet resistant vest.

III. Training

- A. All officers assigned to the bicycle patrol unit must complete an approved training program.

IV. Use of Bemidji Police Bicycles

- A. The use of the police bicycle during a work shift will be at the discretion of the shift supervisor. No officers will take a bicycle without first getting supervisor approval.
- B. Officers will notify dispatch when they are on bike patrol.
- C. Officers will select the custom attribute for bike patrol for each incident they become involved in during patrol or public relations activities.
- D. Officers will be allowed to ride alone during daylight hours, and will ride in pairs during nighttime hours.
- E. Each bike is equipped with a second set of handcuffs to lock the bicycle when not in use or left unattended.
- F. If the officer must return to patrol duty in a marked squad car they may remain in their bike patrol uniform for the remainder of the shift.
- G. The Bemidji Police Department Bicycle may be used as a physical barrier during crowd control or other police related activities.
- H. Officers must comply with Minnesota Statute § 169.222 regarding operation of a bicycle during normal patrol activities.
 - a. Officers are expect from the requirements of 169.222 while actively engaged in enforcement activities as provided under subdivision 11.

IV. Care of Bemidji Police Bicycles

- A. Before each use, officers should conduct an inspection of the bike to ensure that all components are securely attached and the bike is in good working order.
 - a. Any needed repairs should be brought to the attention to the bike patrol sgt.
- B. At the conclusion of the shift, the bikes should again be inspected to assure the bike is ready for the next tour of duty.
- C. Intentional abuse of misuse of the department bicycles is prohibited.

Reference or Revision Date:

A. REFERENCE:

- a. Minnesota Statute § 169.222

B. REVISION DATE: