



<b>University of Pennsylvania Police Department</b> 4040 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19104		 
<b>Directive:</b> 22	<b>Subject:</b> Police Motorcycles	<b>Effective Date:</b> 03/18/1996
<b>Order of:</b> Maureen S. Rush, Superintendent of Police		<b>Amended Date:</b> 05/26/2021

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines, policy and criteria for the use of Department motorcycles and to establish the duties and responsibilities of the various members and organizational segments responsible for motorcycle program operations.

## II. Policy

It is the policy of the Department to utilize motorcycles to augment the patrol function by providing an expedient response to vehicular accidents, enforcing the motor vehicle laws of the Commonwealth, and for other such incidents that may require the mobility and other unique capabilities of motorcycles.

## III. Scope

This directive shall affect all officers assigned to the UPPD Motorcycle Unit.

## IV. Procedures

### A. Authorized Use and Operation

1. Official Duties: Motorcycles shall be used only in the performance of official Departmental duties.
2. Laws and Regulations: Motorcycles shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and Department policies and regulations.
3. Motorcycle Operation: Motorcycles shall be used to perform regular duties, and other duties at the discretion of the Shift Commander or designee.
4. Inclement Weather: Motorcycles shall not be operated during periods of inclement weather, in extremes of heat or cold, or, when in the opinion of the Shift Commander or designee, unfavorable road conditions make the operation of a motorcycle unsafe. For the purpose of this directive, inclement weather or unfavorable road conditions shall include,

but not be limited to: snow-covered highways or shoulders, icy pavements, driving rain, fog, snow, or other atmospheric conditions which restrict visibility to less than 1000 feet.

5. Hours of Operation: Motorcycles shall be deployed on all tours, except during the hours of 3:00am to 7:00am, unless approved by the Shift Commander or designee.
6. Vehicle Pursuits: Motorcycles will not engage in vehicle pursuits.
7. Storage: When not in use, department motorcycles shall be stored in the garage of the UPPD Headquarters Building.

## **V. Assignment**

1. Motorcycle Assignment
  - a. Assignment to motorcycle duty shall be limited to officers who have successfully completed the required certification/re-certification training.
  - b. Officers normally assigned to motorcycle duty shall not be assigned to perform part of a shift in a patrol car except in cases of inclement weather, motorcycle maintenance or emergency, unless directed to do so by the Shift Commander or designee.
2. Duties
  - a. Due to the special skills and hazards involved in motorcycle operation, motorcycle operators shall be assigned to motorcycle patrol duties at least 50 percent of the time, weather permitting between March 15 and November 15. This shall not preclude the temporary assignment of motorcycle patrols to special enforcement programs, special events, and the like.
3. Selective Enforcement
  - a. In accordance with departmental policy, motorcycle patrols shall be assigned to areas where vehicular/pedestrian traffic requires selective enforcement during periods of high traffic activity.
4. Responsibilities
  - a. Motorcycle patrols shall be assigned as primary patrol units and shall be responsible for the investigation and reporting of vehicular accidents involving injuries or significant property damage, as well as traffic control, motorist assists, and the like.
5. Cleaning and Maintenance

- a. Motorcycle operators shall be afforded a reasonable amount of time during the course of their shift to perform any cleaning and maintenance that may be required for their motorcycle.

## B. Selection and Training

### 1. Qualifications

- a. Motorcycle operators will be selected from qualified volunteers. Volunteers for duty must:
  - 1) Be in good physical condition
  - 2) Possess or have the ability to obtain a Class M Driver's License
  - 3) Successfully complete the required departmental training.

### 2. Training

- a. All training for UPPD motorcycle operator candidates shall be conducted by certified instructors at an accredited and reputable organization. Training will include, but not be limited to, instruction in the proper operation of police motorcycles and related mechanical skills. In-service training shall be conducted at the direction of the Shift Commander or designee. Motorcycle operator candidates who fail to successfully complete certification shall be dismissed from the motorcycle unit.

## C. Equipment

### 1. Authorized Equipment

- a. Only authorized equipment shall be carried on or affixed to each motorcycle. No modifications shall be made to the motorcycles OR equipment without written authorization from the assigned unit commander or designee.

### 2. Equipment Carried on Motorcycles

- a. The following department-issued equipment shall be carried on all motorcycles:
  - 1) Reflective traffic safety vests;
  - 2) Additional equipment, such as first aid and resuscitation kits, utility blankets and measuring tapes, may also be carried if storage space permits.

### 3. Operator-Worn Equipment

- a. Motorcycle operators shall wear the following equipment while on duty:

- 1) Helmets (certified safe for motorcycle operation)
  - 2) Eye Protection
  - 3) Gloves
  - 4) High boots or puttees.
- b. The above mentioned operator-worn equipment shall be inspected and approved by the department prior to regular use.

D. Compliance

Violations of this directive, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action.

E. Officers Assigned to Other Agencies

Officers of this department assigned to or assisting other law enforcement agencies will be guided by this directive.

F. Application

This directive constitutes departmental policy, and is not intended to enlarge the employer's or employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims insofar as the employer's or employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of policy will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.