



POLICY & PROCEDURE

HOLMEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT:	BIKE PATROL	NUMBER:	14.1
		ISSUED:	03/15/2018
SCOPE:	All Department Personnel	REVIEWED:	03/15/2018
DISTRIBUTION:	Policy & Procedure Manual	<input type="checkbox"/> RESCINDS	
		<input type="checkbox"/> AMENDS	
REFERENCE:		WILEAG 4th EDITION STANDARDS:	

Purpose

The Holmen Police Department has established the bicycle patrol unit for the purpose of aiding the community with patrol services. Bicycle patrol has been shown to be an effective way to increase officer visibility. Bicycles are quiet and can offer a tactical advantage to crimes in progress. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safe and effective operation of the patrol bicycle.

Policy

If man Power is available, patrol bicycles may be used for regular patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control or special events. The use of the patrol bicycle will enhance the officer's mobility and visibility in the community.

Bicycles may be deployed to any area at all hours of the day or night, according to department needs and as staffing levels allow.

Request for specific deployment of bicycle patrol officers shall be coordinated through the Chief or Lieutenant.

Uniforms & Equipment

Bicycle officers shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the police bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet and approved footwear. Riding gloves and protective eyewear are strongly encouraged.

The bicycle uniform consists of the standard short sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt with department badge and patches, and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts. Officer with approval may wear un-identifying uniform clothing if working in a tactical or undercover assignment.

Optional equipment includes a jacket in colder weather or turtleneck shirts, radio head set and microphone.

Bicycle patrol officers shall carry the same equipment on the bicycle patrol as they would on a regular patrol assignment.

Officers will be responsible for obtaining the necessary forms and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol

Care and use of patrol bicycles

- (a) Officer will be assigned a specially marked and equipped patrol bicycle with attached gear bag.
- (b) Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol will have “Police” decal affixed to each side of the crossbar or the bike’s saddlebag. Bicycles shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors and front and rear lamps. Lamps and reflectors must meet legal requirements.
- (c) Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with a rear rack for attached gear, bags, and/or saddle bags sufficient to carry the necessary equipment for handling routine patrol calls.
- (d) Each bicycle gear bag should contain the proper paperwork for patrol, first aid kit, tools, pump, tube, and security lock.
- (e) Each bicycle will be equipped with a steady or flashing blue and red warning light that is visible from the front, sides or rear of the bicycle. This lighting may be used at the officer’s discretion.
- (f) Bicycle officers must do an inspection of the bicycle and equipment before each use and return. Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning.)
- (g) If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle officer, a repairs request will be noted to the Chief or Lieutenant.
- (h) At the end of the bicycle patrol shift, the bicycle will be returned clean and ready to use for the next shift.
- (i) Officer will not modify the bicycle other than adjusting the seat, handle bars, and peddles for use.
- (j) Bicycles will be properly secured when not in the officer’s immediate presence.

Officer Responsibilities

Officers must operate the bicycle in compliance with Wisconsin law under normal operation. Officers may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness when such operation reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating the bicycle without lighting equipment. During any operation of a bicycle, the exemptions granted to an officer when operating an authorized emergency vehicle do not provide relief from the duty to drive or ride with due regard for the safety of all persons nor do they provide

protection from the consequence of reckless disregard for the safety of others. (Wis. Stat. § 346.03(5))

Officers are exempt from the rules of the road under the following conditions (Wis. Stat. § 346.03(3)):

- (a) In response to an emergency call
- (b) While engaged in rescue operations
- (c) In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law