



Apex Police Department General Order



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| Title Motorcycle Patrol | Order Number 1009-20 |
| Effective Date: November 30, 2020 | Amends: 1009-13 |
| CALEA Standard: 41.1.3 | Rescinds: |
| Reference: NCGS 20-4.01(49) | Pages: 4 |
| Forms: F1009 – Motorcycle/Rider Equipment & Safety Inspection Form | |

Motorcycle Patrol

Purpose

To establish guidelines for the use of motorcycle patrol by the Apex Police Department.

Policy

It is the policy of the Apex Police Department to use motorcycle patrol to augment and enhance traditional traffic enforcement and vehicle patrol. Motorcycle patrol can also promote a closer relationship with the community through easier access to police personnel.

Motorcycle officers will obey all applicable provisions of motor vehicle laws, and will set an example for responsible motorcycle operation.

Assignment

1. The department's motorcycle fleet is assigned to the Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) and is under the supervision, authority, and responsibility of the Patrol Division Commander through the Special Operations Commander.

Selection

1. Applicants are selected for the specialized position of Motorcycle Officer through a specialized assignment posting process in accordance with General Order 312 - *Allocation and Distribution of Personnel*.

2. Motorcycle Officers will be selected based upon work history, productivity, previous evaluations, and characteristics to include:
 - Self-motivation
 - Ability to comply with safe work practices
 - Need for minimal supervision
 - Maturity and professionalism
 - Positive attitude

3. To be considered for the position of Motorcycle Officer, candidates must: (41.1.3 (b))
 - Be a sworn officer
 - Have a minimum of two years of general law enforcement experience
 - Have received a rating of "Successful" or higher on their most recent performance evaluation
 - Agree to serve as a Motorcycle Officer for a minimum period of two years
 - Have a valid motorcycle driver endorsement from the State of North Carolina
 - Be in appropriate physical condition to safely perform the duties and responsibilities of a Motorcycle Officer
 - Possess effective interpersonal skills and the willingness to interact with citizens as part of traffic education and community policing programs
 - Be recommended by their supervisor and chain of command
 - Have passed or be able to pass an approved police motorcycle training program within a specified period prior to or after being selected as a Motorcycle Officer

Authorization, Conditions, and Limitations of Use (41.1.3 (a))

1. Only sworn officers of the Apex Police Department who are trained and authorized by the Chief of Police, or authorized repair/service mechanics, may operate the police motorcycle.
 - Motorcycle Officers will not allow an unauthorized person to operate the police motorcycle.

2. The police motorcycle will be used primarily for traffic enforcement and crash response and/or investigation.

3. The police motorcycle may also be used to support the Administrative, Criminal Investigations, or Patrol Divisions during traffic safety events, community events, funeral details, and for other purposes as authorized by the Patrol Division Commander.

4. The police motorcycle will not be used regularly during hours of darkness but may be used during traffic safety and community events, or during traffic checkpoints with the approval of the TSU supervisor.

5. Use of the police motorcycle can be effective in areas of high traffic congestion and in areas with limited access by traditional patrol cars. Examples of such areas are:
 - Commercial districts

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- Major arterial streets and highways
 - Town of Apex greenways
 - Town of Apex parks system
 - Apartment complex parking lots
 - Residential neighborhoods
 - Special events
6. Motorcycle Officers will coordinate with the TSU supervisor to determine the locations in which to concentrate traffic enforcement emphasis. A review of traffic complaints and wrecks should be used to deploy Motorcycle Officers.
 7. In addition to traffic enforcement, Motorcycle Officers will use problem-oriented policing tactics and directed patrol activities to address general and specific problems occurring in their assigned areas. Motorcycle Officers should strive to reduce recurring complaints.
 8. Motorcycle Officers will recognize and respond appropriately to the limitations caused by adverse weather conditions. If at any time the Motorcycle Officer recognizes limitations to patrolling during inclement weather, he/she will notify the TSU supervisor or, if not working, the on-duty supervisor and resort to automobile patrol.
 9. Motorcycle patrol is prohibited during icy road conditions.

Motorcycle Inspections and Maintenance (41.1.3 (c))

1. Each Motorcycle Officer is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of his/her assigned motorcycle and equipment.
2. Prior to use, the vehicle operator will conduct an inspection to ensure proper operation and that all required equipment is present and operationally ready.
 - If a problem is discovered that the officer is not authorized to repair, the Support Services Supervisor will be notified.
 - The operator will complete his/her daily inspection in RMS.
3. Monthly, a formal inspection will be conducted on the assigned motorcycle and documented on form F1009 – *Motorcycle/Rider Equipment & Safety Inspection Form* in accordance with General Order 604 – *Inspections*.

Equipment (41.1.3 (d))

1. Police motorcycles will be equipped with an operational blue light and siren, public address system, RADAR, and a Wireless Push-to-talk Button (radio). (41.3.1)
2. The following supplies will be kept on the motorcycle at all times when in use:
 - First aid kit
 - CPR Mask

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- Bio-Hazard Kit
- Hazmat book
- Wireless Push-to-talk Button
- Tuning forks

3. Motorcycle officers will wear the approved uniform as outlined in General Order 306 – *Appearance and Uniform Regulations*. Motorcycle Officers will dress appropriately for existing weather conditions to operate the police motorcycle safely.

Arrest Situations

1. When a Motorcycle Officer makes a custodial arrest, assistance from another officer will be needed to transport the suspect to the Wake County Detention Center. Once the suspect has been transported and properly secured, the assisting unit may return to service.

Text in “Green” denotes a significant change in policy

BY ORDER OF:



John W. Letteney
Chief of Police