



Sheridan Police Department
Policies and Procedures
22.6 Replaces 507.1
Chapter 22 – Special Events & Programs
Section 6 – Bicycle Patrol

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Signature:

The Sheridan Police Department utilizes bicycles to enhance the effectiveness of the department in providing law enforcement services to the community.

22.6.1 Bicycle Use

- A. Bicycle patrol will be employed to enhance enforcement efforts and provide more opportunities for direct community interaction including:
 - 1. Patrolling specific areas to enhance police visibility, and through that visibility to deter criminal activity;
 - 2. Patrolling special events;
 - 3. Patrolling areas where the bicycle is best suited and areas unsuited for conventional patrol vehicles;
 - 4. Patrolling areas in conjunction with an undercover operation to proactively address identified crime patterns and problems; and
 - 5. In any area or under any circumstances in which it is reasonably believed that bicycle patrol would be particularly effective.
- B. Traffic enforcement may be conducted by bicycle patrol officers; however, such enforcement is not the primary focus of the program and should only be conducted when:
 - 1. The officer can clearly identify themselves to the driver, and
 - 2. Enforcement will not unreasonably jeopardize safety.
- C. Officers working bike patrol are expected to handle all types of calls for service except those that by their nature cannot apply such as transporting prisoners.
- D. Bicycle officers will, as frequently as possible, initiate interaction with residents and business people, so as to develop a strong personal rapport aimed at effectively carrying out the mission and objectives of the department.
- E. While operating a police bicycle on public roads, officers will abide by the operational and equipment requirements of Wyoming Statutes and city ordinances.

22.6.2 Assignment and Training

- A. Assignment to bicycle patrol shall be voluntary and at the discretion of the shift supervisor. Officers must complete their trial service period before bicycle assignment.
- B. An assessment of manpower must be made prior to approval of the deployment of an officer on a bicycle.
- C. Officers shall receive introductory training prior to use of police bicycles.
- D. Those officers regularly participating in or expressing an interest in bike patrol may be provided advanced training depending on the availability of the class and department needs.

22.6.3 Uniforms, Equipment and Maintenance

- A. While operating the police bicycle, an officer will be in full bicycle patrol uniform, including bicycle helmet.
- B. The bike patrol uniform will consist of a polo shirt and windbreaker, bike pants or shorts, duty belt and comfortable solid black footwear. Riding gloves and glasses are highly recommended. Officers will only wear the bike patrol uniform during shifts they could reasonably expect to conduct bike patrol duties. Bike patrol uniforms will not be worn solely as a matter of comfort.
- C. The equipment on each police bicycle shall include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Headlight, taillight, and reflectors; and
 - 2. A saddlebag or storage compartment.
- D. No equipment upon department bicycles shall be modified without the permission of the patrol operations lieutenant.
- E. Each officer will conduct an inspection of the bicycle and attached equipment prior to going into service including mechanical conditions that might affect its safe operation.
- F. Any damaged or missing items will be reported through the chain of command to the patrol operations supervisor.
- G. Bicycles will be locked whenever the officer is away from the bicycle unless an emergency exists.
- H. When a police bicycle is transported by vehicle, a bicycle rack and bungee cord should be used.
- I. Officers assigned bicycle patrol may keep their assigned bicycle at their residence, but should ensure it is secured in a locked garage when not on duty. Officers without the ability to secure the bicycle at home shall leave their assigned bicycle at the police department.