



# ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## GENERAL ORDER

**NUMBER:** 40.01

**TITLE:** Police Motorcycles

**SERIES NUMBER:** 40

**SERIES TITLE / SUBJECT:** Law Enforcement Operations

**TOPICS/ REFERENCE:** Pursuit, Special Purpose Vehicle, Use of Motorcycles

**APPENDICIES:** None

**ORIGINAL / EFFECTIVE ISSUE DATE:** March 31, 2003

**DATE OF LAST REVISION:** May 01, 2013

**THIS ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL REVISED OR RECINDED**

**CALEA STANDARDS:** 33.6.1

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**Policy:**

It shall be the policy of the Rockford Police Department to promote the safe and efficient use of motorcycles for traffic enforcement, traffic direction, crash reduction and as a community relation's tool. Implementation of motorcycles will enhance the operational function of the Department and at the same time provide assistance to the day-to-day functions of the Traffic Division.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for the safe and efficient use of motorcycles for police traffic enforcement service. This General Order will also provide an understanding of police motorcycles and guidance for their proper use, as well as establishing all phases of motorcycle operations.

These guidelines are not meant to be all-inclusive, since each incident must be dealt with on an individual basis, but are intended as broad guidelines to assist the employees and supervisors involved.

This Order is comprised of the following numbered sections:

- I. DEFINITION
- II. ORGANIZATION, SELECTION AND TRAINING
- III. OPERATION
- IV. EQUIPMENT
- V. SERVICE
- VI. STORAGE
- VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

## VIII. REVIEWS, REVISIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

### I. Definition:

Motorcycle: for the purpose of this policy, refers to a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor (Illinois Vehicle Code, Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 625 5/1-147)

### II. Organization, Selection and Training:

- A. The Chief of Police maintains the ultimate authorization for motorcycle usage in various situations. In his absence or by delegation, the Commander of Field Services Bureau shall have overall command of the motorcycle unit. The Traffic Division Sergeant will supervise the day-to-day operations.
- B. Assignment to the Traffic Division is criteria for eligibility to operate the motorcycles. The Department will determine the number of officers required to operate the fleet of motorcycles. The Commander of Field Services Bureau along with the Traffic Division Sergeant will make recommendations of motorcycle officers, with the Chief of Police having the final approval.
- C. License & Training.
  - 1. Selected officers must possess a valid Illinois Class M license to operate a motorcycle. The Department shall pay the cost for this license change.
  - 2. Selected officer(s) shall complete a Department approved motorcycle field course school and be certified from the school.
  - 3. Motorcycle officers shall complete a yearly safety refresher course. The Traffic Division Sergeant shall ensure all motorcycle officers complete this course.
  - 4. The Traffic Division Sergeant shall maintain an up to date list of authorized motorcycle operators.

### III. Operation:

- A. The Commander of Field Services Bureau and/or the Traffic Division Sergeant shall determine the days for motorcycle usage. Determination is based on weather conditions and other factors affecting the use of motorcycles. Factors excluding the use of motorcycles includes:
  - 1. Rain,
  - 2. Snow,
  - 3. Ice.
- B. The use of a motorcycle in a vehicular pursuit is prohibited. A police motorcycle driver will not initiate, pursue, street parallel or caravan with a police pursuit.
- C. Motorcycle officers will not transport prisoners or provide a ride for anyone as a passenger.
- D. Motorcycle officers will utilize all emergency equipment when initiating a traffic stop or responding to an emergency situation.

## IV. Equipment:

- A. The Department shall provide equipment to each motorcycle officer. It is the responsibility of each officer to maintain their equipment and notify the Traffic Division Sergeant of any concerns. Every motorcycle officer shall wear and maintain the following equipment when operating a motorcycle:
  - 1. Helmet,
  - 2. Breechers (pants),
  - 3. Boots,
  - 4. Gloves (winter & summer issue),
  - 5. Safety glasses.
- B. The motorcycle shall have the following equipment on the vehicle:
  - 1. Decals containing the Department's name, logo and the vehicle number,
  - 2. Emergency lights and siren,
  - 3. Police radio,
  - 4. Public address system,
  - 5. Radar unit,
  - 6. Emergency reflectors,
  - 7. Helmet radio headset,
  - 8. First aid and airway kits in the carrying side compartment,
  - 9. Flares and mini-traffic cones.

## V. Service:

- A. Complete and thorough inspections of the motorcycles will enhance the performance of the motorcycle and avoid injury to the officer and others.
  - 1. The motorcycle officer shall conduct an inspection of the cycle prior to use. The motorcycle officer will complete a motorcycle inspection sheet. The motorcycle officer will forward completed sheets to the Traffic Division Sergeant.
    - a. Each motorcycle officer is responsible for keeping the motorcycle clean and washed.
    - b. Motorcycle officers will immediately report damage resulting from a fall, collision, or any other means to the on-duty supervisor.
  - 2. The Traffic Division Sergeant shall conduct monthly maintenance checks of the motorcycle.
  - 3. The Department shall maintain a scheduled maintenance agreement with the dealership providing the motorcycles.

## VI. Storage:

- A. Proper storage and security of the motorcycle will allow for quality control. Officers will utilize the designated parking stalls located in the Public Safety Building basement.
- B. Only motorcycle officers and mechanics are authorized to move the motorcycles.

## VII. Effective Date:

- A. The Department's policy on Police Motorcycles became effective on March 31, 2003.

VIII. Reviews, Revisions and Cancellations:

- A. This General Order will be reviewed annually by the Supervisor of the Traffic Division and, when necessary, revised or cancelled in accordance with the procedures for reviewing written directives established in General Order *10.01 – Written Directives*.
- B. Any employee with suggestions for revisions and/or improvements to this order are encouraged to submit their ideas to the Commander of Field Services Bureau.

BY ORDER OF

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Chet Epperson  
Chief of Police