

## POLICY 35. BICYCLE PATROLS

### A. Mandatory requirements

1. Prior to assignment to a bicycle team, each assigned deputy will be required to attend a Department-approved training class for law enforcement bicycle operations.
2. Deputies shall be familiar with and understand Article 4 – Operation of Bicycles, and Section 21200 of the California Vehicle Code, pertaining to the laws applicable to bicycle use and to the due regard for the safety of the public.
3. Bicycle deputies must be in the proper physical condition in terms of strength, stamina, and overall health to perform the physical duties of bicycle patrol.

### B. Procedure

1. When conducting bicycle patrol, deputies will comply with all laws and/or policies and procedures pertaining to the operation of the bicycle on the roadway or off the roadway.
2. General operating procedures
  - a. Bicycle patrol shall be conducted in teams of 2 or more. Under no circumstances should a deputy on bicycle patrol ride alone.
  - b. Deputies riding Department bicycles shall wear Department approved uniforms, including soft body armor (subject to the provisions of P&P 3.29), and shall wear at all times a regulation bicycle helmet. This both protects the officer from injury and sets a positive example for the public.
  - c. Bicycle deputies shall not hold onto or balance themselves on other motor vehicles, including police vehicles.
  - d. Bicycle deputies will obey all traffic laws pertaining to the operation of bicycles.
  - e. Bicycle deputies shall not allow themselves to be towed by motor vehicles.
  - f. Bicycle deputies will perform the same patrol duties as all other patrol officers except for those that cannot be performed on a bicycle.
  - g. Red-blue lights and/or a siren on patrol bicycles if available shall be used only to warn pedestrians and motorists of their presence. The California Vehicle Code makes no provisions for bicycles as “authorized emergency vehicles.”

3. Emergency operating procedures

- a. Bicycle deputies will not pursue any motor vehicle. Deputies operating bicycles may initiate enforcement action, but should avoid attempting to stop moving vehicles.
- b. Bicycle deputies will not make felony vehicle stops without the assistance of deputies in patrol vehicles.

4. Sidewalk procedures

- a. Section 555 of the California Vehicle Code defines a sidewalk as that portion of a highway, other than the roadway, set apart by curbs, barriers, markings or other delineation for pedestrian travel.
- b. Depending on the jurisdiction and type of area (business districts, etc.), riding a bicycle on a sidewalk may be unlawful, deputies assigned to bicycle duty should familiarize themselves with local regulations.
- c. Even if not expressly prohibited, to the greatest extent possible, Bicycle Deputies should operate their bicycles on the street.
- d. If the deputy needs to operate a bicycle on a sidewalk, it should be done in a manner that does not violate the right-of-way of pedestrians or other vehicles. Whenever riding on the sidewalk, deputies shall do so at a reduced speed.
- e. When responding to emergency calls, deputies should ride on the street.

5. Bicycle maintenance

- a. On a daily basis, bicycle deputies will conduct a safety check on their bicycles before riding and examine the following:

Tire pressure	Chain
Wheel rim/spokes	Wheel adjustment releases
Brakes	Seat adjustment
Gears/derailleurs	

- b. At the end of each shift, deputies shall wipe down their bicycles to remove any dirt and debris that could hinder the performance and/or the life of the bicycles. Any moisture should be wiped off to prevent rusting.
- c. On a monthly basis, the bicycles will be cleaned and checked for routine repairs. On a yearly basis, a full overhaul will be conducted on the bicycles.
- d. Stations with bicycle deputies shall have a service agreement with a local bicycle shop to perform the necessary maintenance and repairs.

- e. Stations with bicycle deputies shall have and update a bicycle maintenance log to document repairs for each bicycle.