



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Police Motorcycles

Eff. Date 01/13/2017

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of the motorcycle and related equipment, including its use as an emergency vehicle, in accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 346.03, and to promote the safety of officers and the public.

Procedure

I. AUTHORIZATION

Members of the department are authorized to operate an MPD motorcycle for enforcement purposes if they possess a valid driver's license endorsed for motorcycle operation and have successfully completed an authorized police motorcycle operators training course. Motorcycle operators must attend and successfully complete annual motorcycle in-service training to maintain certification.

II. USE OF MOTORCYCLES

Police motorcycles are fully marked Authorized Emergency Vehicles (AEV). They are assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Safety Team (TEST), used primarily for enforcement, education and community engagement. Motor officers may be available as back-up to other officers, however, should not be used for general patrol duties unless in response to a true emergency. This does not preclude the use of a motorcycle in special assignments when approved by a supervisor. The officer assigned to a motorcycle shall use due regard when making a decision to respond to emergency calls for service in consideration of the unique characteristics of the motorcycle.

III. EMERGENCY OPERATION OF POLICE MOTORCYCLE

- A. Police motorcycle operators shall operate the motorcycle in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin State Statute 346.03, as well as the MPD SOP regarding Emergency Vehicle Operation.
- B. In all cases, when an officer elects to exercise the exemptions provided to Police vehicles under Wisconsin State Statute operators must exercise due regard.

C. VEHICLE PURSUITS

Motorcycles are not intended to be, nor should they be considered, pursuit vehicles. MPD Police motorcycles are authorized to be involved in pursuits subject to the following restrictions:

- 1. Motor Officers shall **only** engage in a vehicle pursuit when the officer has probable cause to believe that any person in the vehicle has committed (or attempted to commit) a felony involving the use (or threatened) use of force and a high probability exists that the suspect, if not immediately apprehended, may cause death or great bodily harm to another. Officers may terminate and discontinue pursuit when the act of pursuit, in and of itself, creates an

unreasonable danger of death or great bodily harm to the public, officers, or the suspect.

2. Motorcycles engaged in a pursuit shall drive with due regard and follow MPD SOP "Emergency Vehicle Operation Guidelines".
3. Due to the increased vulnerability to the operator of a police motorcycle, any pursuit initiated by the motorcycle operator shall be replaced with a marked squad as soon as possible.
4. A motorcycle officer who has turned over the primary pursuit to a marked squad shall not continue to be involved in the pursuit unless otherwise directed by the supervisor monitoring the pursuit.

IV. MOTORCYCLE INSPECTION

Motorcycle operators shall, at the start of their tour of duty, inspect the motorcycle for cleanliness and proper operation. Any deficiencies should be corrected prior to operation.

V. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

All operators of police motorcycles shall use the following safety equipment:

1. DOT and MPD approved safety helmet.
2. Eye protection.
3. Approved leather boots.

(Reviewed Only: 12/26/2017)