

# FWC Division of Law Enforcement Interim Policy Memorandum IPM 18-01

**DATE:** May 7, 2018

**TO:** All Sworn Members

**FROM:** Colonel Curtis Brown  
Director, Division of Law Enforcement

**SUBJECT:** Bicycle Patrol

This Interim Policy Memorandum replaces IPM 12-05 - *Bicycle Patrol* and provides guidance to Division members by establishing policies and procedures for the use of bicycles in support of the Division's law enforcement patrol mission. The guidance provided herein shall remain in effect until these policies and procedures are revised, rescinded, incorporated in an existing written directive, or promulgated in a new written directive.

## **Policy**

- A** The Division recognizes that the ability to patrol state parks, greenways and trails, wildlife management areas, and other public and private lands by bicycle creates distinct advantages for the agency, among them:
  - (1)** Ability to move quickly and quietly through various terrains not easily accessed by other means (walking trails, dim roads, firebreaks, locked gates, piers, beaches, etc.)
  - (2)** Effective tool for search and rescue and disaster response when foot or vehicle-based patrol is impractical
  - (3)** Opportunity for an enhanced use of a member's senses (sight, smell, and hearing) while on patrol
  - (4)** Additional opportunities for community-oriented policing interaction with constituents and stakeholders
- B** It is the policy of the Division to encourage the use of a bicycle for patrol when appropriate and in accordance with all applicable written directives.
- C** It is the policy of the Division that only those members who received the appropriate training are permitted to conduct bicycle patrols.
- D** Bicycles shall be operated in accordance with S. 316.2065, F.S.

## **Responsibilities**

- A** Members are responsible for maintaining bicycles and all associated equipment and accessories in accordance with General Order 33, Operation of Division Equipment.
- B** Supervisors are responsible for utilizing and deploying available bicycles for patrol and special details as necessary to meet operational requirements. This includes the use of bicycles as part of Resource Protection Service (RPS) details and in support of covert investigations when appropriate.
- C** Members and supervisors shall exercise discretion in determining whether or not to use a bicycle on patrol when excessively high or low temperatures or other weather conditions may make the use of bicycles inadvisable or hazardous.

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- D** Members with assigned patrol bicycles are responsible for the proper storage, security, and maintenance of the equipment.

### **Procedures**

- A** Members shall carry and use a functional portable radio when on bicycle patrol.
- B** Members shall wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet that meets the standards of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the standards of the Snell Memorial Foundation (1995 Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling), or any other nationally recognized standards for bicycle helmets.
  - (1)** This requirement may be waived if approved by a supervisor if operationally appropriate.
  - (2)** Helmets shall be conservative in color and design and may feature an approved FWC logo decal and/or badge decal.
- C** Any accessories or equipment added to patrol bicycles shall not interfere with the safe operation of the bicycle and shall be:
  - (1)** in accordance with established operational requirements,
  - (2)** of low profile, and
  - (3)** approved by the immediate supervisor.