

**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

No. 750

Supersedes: NA

Effective: August 1, 2015

Page: ALL Section: ALL

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Dated: July 17, 2015

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**POLICE MOTORCYCLE OPERATIONS**

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- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the safe and efficient use of police motorcycles by the Upper Merion Township Police Department. This policy will provide guidance for how we will employ police motorcycles to accomplish a police purpose. The specific use of the police motorcycle will need to be evaluated on the risk of operation versus the benefit achieved by the Upper Merion Township Police Department. For this reason, the police motorcycle will be used predominantly for policing activities in Upper Merion Township. Any request for the use of the police motorcycle outside of Upper Merion Township will be evaluated on the risk/benefit decision matrix.
  
- II. **POLICY:** It shall be the policy of the Upper Merion Township Police Department to promote the safe and efficient use of motorcycles for traffic enforcement, traffic direction, crash reduction, selective enforcement, and as a community relation's tool where appropriate.
  
- III. **CROSS-REF:** Policy #700, Emergency Vehicle Operation  
Policy #200, Traffic Enforcement
  
- IV. **DEFINITIONS:**  
  
Motorcycle: for the purpose of this policy, refers to a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.
  
- V. **ORGANIZATION, SELECTION AND TRAINING:**  
  
A. The Patrol Lieutenant shall have overall command of the motorcycle unit. The Traffic Safety Sergeant will supervise the day-to-day operations.

B. Members of the Traffic Safety Unit will be the only operators of the police motorcycles. TSU motorcycle operator will be a voluntary assignment and is not a requirement for all members of the Traffic Safety Unit.

C. License and training:

1. Selected officers must possess a valid Class M license to operate the motorcycle.
2. Selected officers shall successfully complete an initial operator course of instruction as determined by the department before operating the police motorcycle.
3. Motorcycle officers must complete a re-certification course as determined by the department at least once every three years.
4. The Traffic Safety Unit Sergeant shall maintain an up to date list of authorized motorcycle operators and their certification.

## VI. **OPERATION**

1. The traffic safety sergeant shall determine the days for motorcycle usage. Determination is based upon the weather conditions and other factors affecting the use of motorcycles.
2. This section has been redacted – procedurally sensitive
3. Motorcycle officers will never transport prisoners or passengers.
4. Motorcycle officers will utilize all emergency equipment when initiating a traffic stop or while responding to an emergency situation.
5. Motorcycle officers will not engage in any form of out-riding or leap-frogging.

## VII. **EQUIPMENT**

A. The department shall provide equipment to each motorcycle officer. It is the responsibility of each officer to maintain their equipment and to notify the traffic safety sergeant of any concerns. Every motorcycle officer shall wear and maintain the following equipment when operating a police motorcycle.

1. Helmet
2. Britches (pants)
3. Department issued footwear
4. Gloves

5. Department approved eye protection

VIII. **SERVICE**

A. Complete and thorough inspections of the motorcycles will enhance the performance of the motorcycle and avoid injury to the officers and others.

1. The motorcycle officer shall conduct an inspection of the cycle prior to each use. The officer will complete a motorcycle inspection sheet. The inspection log will be maintained by the traffic safety sergeant. Each officer is responsible for keeping the motorcycle clean and washed.

2. The department shall maintain a scheduled maintenance agreement with the township garage for minor repairs and a certified repair shop for major repairs and annual safety inspections.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Thomas M. Nolan

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Captain James M. Early

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All police officers  
Township Manager  
File