

**NIAGARA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**GENERAL ORDER**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/07/2013	SUBJECT: <b>BICYCLE PATROL</b>	Number 344.10 (NYSLEAP O-43.6)
RESCINDS: 04/01/2008		Number of pages 3

**I. Purpose:**

- A. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of bicycles by Officers.

**II. Policy:**

- A. The use of bicycles in police patrol offers certain advantages over the traditional motorized vehicle patrol. The close contact of officers on bicycle patrol with the citizens within the patrol area tends to promote enhanced community relations. Also, the quiet approach of a properly trained bicycle patrol officer presents tactical advantages in certain situations. The Department recognizes these advantages, as well as the limitations of bicycle use in Public Safety functions.
- B. It is the policy of the Niagara Falls Police Department to utilize bicycle patrol by specially assigned and trained officers.

**III. Procedures:**

**A. Objectives of Bicycle Patrol:**

- 1. To respond to calls.
  - a. These responses include but are not limited to domestic disturbances, alarms, fights in progress, larcenies, burglaries, medical emergencies, drug activity and any other known offenses.
- 2. To promote community relations by establishing open communications between the Department and all citizens and visitors.

**B. Instructions, Conditions and Limitations of Usage:**

1. Bicycles used by Department personnel shall be conspicuously marked, identifying them as Police Bicycles.
  2. Officers should use good judgment when on bicycle patrol, keeping in mind that motorists do not always easily see bicyclists and that darkness and/or inclement weather may adversely affect visibility and handling of the bicycle.
- C. Bike Uniform:
1. Each day an officer wears the bike uniform they must utilize a Departmental bike for their duties. Approval from their supervisor to wear the bike uniform must be obtained before reporting for duty.
- D. Authorization for Use of Bicycles:
1. Trained officers shall utilize a bicycle for patrol when directed by their supervisor.
- E. Communications Notification:
1. Officers shall notify communications that they are on a bicycle for dispatch and response purposes.
- F. Qualifications and Training:
1. Officers must complete Department approved police bicycle training, taught by certified bicycle instructors, before patrolling on their own.
- G. Maintenance of the Bicycles:
1. The YAD Captain will assign an officer to be responsible for bicycle and equipment maintenance.
  2. Each operator will be required to sign out a bicycle and complete a daily inspection prior to its use. Any deficiencies which cannot be corrected "on the spot" should be reported. Special attention should be given to proper adjustments, worn parts, defects and conditions which may affect the safe operation of the bicycle.
- H. Equipment:
1. It is recommended that Officers engaged in bicycle patrol carry the following equipment:
    - a. A tail light

- b. Bicycle helmet and gloves to be worn at all times while riding.
- c. Tire repair kit
- d. At least one water bottle and cage mounted on bicycle

I. List of Authorized Persons:

- 1. A list of officers, in the Department, who have successfully completed an approved police bicycle training course and are authorized to engage in bicycle patrol on their own, will be maintained by the Administrative Division.