

Louisville Metro Police Department

<h2>Standard Operating Procedures</h2>	SOP Number: 12.18
	Effective Date: 07/10/10 Prv. Rev. Date: 05/23/16 Revised Date: 09/07/23
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 21.3
Chapter: Special Response	
Subject: Bicycle and Electric Standup Vehicle (ESV) Patrol	

12.18 BICYCLE AND ELECTRIC STANDUP VEHICLE (ESV) PATROL (KACP 21.3)

12.18.1 POLICY

The Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) will maintain a Bicycle and Electric Standup Vehicle (ESV) Patrol for the purposes of patrolling areas that are not conducive to other patrol vehicles. Bicycles and ESVs are extremely effective for congested urban areas, parks, special events, and other areas not easily accessed or patrolled by other police vehicles. Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers can maneuver quickly and quietly in a large crowd without unnerving people by their presence. The Bicycle and ESV Patrol not only enforces laws, but helps to foster a positive relationship with the community.

The ESV is a three (3)-wheeled, all-electric standup personal mobility vehicle equipped with headlights, red and blue lights, and a siren system. Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will have the same duties and responsibilities normally assigned to officers who are on patrol, except for those calls where a response on a bicycle or ESV is unsafe, impractical, or as directed by a commanding officer.

12.18.2 DEPLOYMENT

Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will perform patrol duties year-round, except in certain conditions. Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will be mindful of certain conditions that could compromise their health (e.g., extremely cold or extremely hot and humid conditions). Bicycles and ESVs will not be deployed when weather and/or environmental conditions pose an undue hazard to the officer's health and safety, or when a commanding officer determines that conditions are unsafe/hazardous for riding. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Thunderstorms and active lightning in the area
- Severe weather warnings
- Snow, sleet, and/or ice covered streets and sidewalks

In periods of inclement weather, Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will return their bicycles/ESVs to their division. At that time, officers will receive direction and assignment from an on-duty commanding officer.

12.18.3 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Officers will comply with all applicable laws regarding traffic operations. Officers will perform their duties with due regard for the safety of people and property. Officers will ride in a safe manner consistent with their training.

Departmental bicycles and ESVs will only be operated by certified departmental personnel who have completed approved training or personnel authorized by a commanding officer.

Officers will utilize bicycle/ESV and uniform equipment (e.g., headlight, taillight, helmet, gloves, etc.), in addition to hand signals, to promote safety and visibility. The lighting system will be used after dusk when the rider is in any place open to vehicular or pedestrian traffic, except in situations that require a tactical response.

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12.18.3 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES (CONTINUED)

Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will not initiate motor vehicle traffic stops or pursuits and will not be used to block traffic.

Bicycles and ESVs will not be used to carry passengers.

When a bicycle or ESV officer makes an arrest while on patrol, they may request assistance from a patrol officer to transport the suspect to Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC). Once this is accomplished, the assisting unit will return to normal patrol. The arresting officer is responsible for completing the arrest citation and/or any applicable paperwork.

12.18.4 UNIFORM

Officers who are assigned to the Bicycle and ESV Patrol will wear the approved departmental Class A, B, C, or E uniform and equipment (refer to SOP 4.3, SOP 4.4, SOP 4.5, and SOP 4.7). If Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers are not riding due to inclement weather, injury, or reassignment, the Class E uniform will not be worn.

The wearing of body armor will be in compliance with departmental policy (refer to SOP 4.11).

12.18.5 EQUIPMENT

Officers will wear the following equipment, at all times, when riding departmental bicycles and ESVs (refer to SOP 4.7):

- Departmentally-approved safety helmet
- Departmentally-approved cycling gloves
- Departmentally-approved eye protection
- Departmentally-approved radio

Safety helmets will be replaced according to the manufacturer's recommendations, after impact, or after five (5) years, whichever comes first. Safety helmets will be provided to Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers by the department. Safety helmets will be replaced by the department, when needed.

Departmental bicycles will be equipped with the following:

- White headlight, red taillight, and reflectors (for riding at night or in other dim conditions for visibility)
- Equipment pouch/saddle bag (including relevant arrest/citation forms)

Departmental ESVs will be equipped with the following:

- Two (2) Power Modules
- LED emergency lighting package

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12.18.5 EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

- Key controlled on/off switch
- Storage pack (including relevant arrest/citation forms)

12.18.6 MAINTENANCE

Officers will inspect bicycles/ESVs and their equipment before each use and report any problems to their immediate supervisor. Officers will keep the bicycles and ESVs in safe operating condition. Bicycles and ESVs will not be used if questions regarding safety exist.

Prior to the beginning of each tour of duty, officers will inspect the following:

- Bicycle/ESV and personal safety equipment (including headlight, taillight, reflectors, helmet, gloves, etc.)
- Chain and gears/sprockets (bicycles)
- Handlebar alignment and seat height (bicycles)
- Wheels and spokes (bicycles)
- Tire condition and inflation
- Brakes
- Battery charge level (ESVs)
- Emergency equipment (ESVs)

Bicycles and ESVs will be kept clean and in good appearance. At the end of each tour of duty, officers will confirm that the bicycle or ESV is clean and free of any dirt, mud, or vegetation. Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will not expose the bicycle/ESV to unreasonable hazards or abuse, except in situations that pose a threat to the personal safety of any person.

Repairs that are beyond the capabilities of the officer will be completed by an approved vendor. ESVs will be serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Bicycles and ESVs are considered departmental vehicles and any damage must be reported pursuant to SOP 4.18.

12.18.7 SECURITY/STORAGE

Bicycles and ESVs will be secured whenever the operator is away from them, unless circumstances exist which prevent the officer from doing so (e.g., crime in-progress, assistance, etc.). Bicycles will be secured with a departmentally-approved locking device. ESVs will be secured by turning the key to the locked position and removing the key. Bicycles and ESVs will be kept in a secured area when not in use.

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12.18.8 TRAINING FOR BICYCLE AND ESV PATROL OFFICERS

Bicycle and ESV Patrol officers will be assigned at the discretion of the appropriate division commander. Bicycle officers must complete the LMPD Police Mountain Bike In-Service Training class or the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) class and comply with safety equipment requirements (refer to SOP 4.7). ESV officers will complete departmentally-approved training and comply with safety equipment requirements (refer to SOP 4.7).