



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



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**SUBJECT: STATE POLICE MOTOR TEAM**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and procedures for the application and selection process for membership into the New Mexico State Police Motor Team, and guidelines for its deployment and utilization.

**2.0 POLICY**

It is the policy of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS) to maintain a highly flexible motorcycle patrol team to provide an agile traffic vehicle with the purpose of traffic enforcement, dignitary protection, special events, and public safety escorts.

**3.0 APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all commissioned New Mexico State Police personnel of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

**4.0 REFERENCES**

NONE

**5.0 DEFINITIONS**

- A. Certified Motor Instructor** – a Commissioned DPS employee certified by Northwestern University or equivalent to instruct and certify officers to operate a motorcycle while in the performance of his/her duties.
- B. Motor** – Department owned motorcycle used in routine patrol operations, traffic enforcement, community relations, traffic safety education programs, and dignitary/funeral escorts.
- C. Motor Officer** – a Commissioned DPS employee licensed and certified to operate a motor during the performance of his/her duties.

**6.0 PROCEDURE**

**A. Operations - Escort procedures**

- 1. Motor patrol personnel will be called upon to perform special functions. Proper planning for these functions is critical. The following procedures will apply in planning and carrying out these functions.
  - a. All Motor Team members shall receive at a minimum eight (8) hours of escort training from a certified police motorcycle instructor.
  - b. During Motor Team escorts, all members will follow procedures and techniques learned during training.

2. Motors are not to be operated without the use of approved safety equipment. This equipment will be specifically designed for use during the operation of a motor. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - A properly secured motorcycle helmet;
  - Gloves;
  - Eye protection; and
  - Boots.
3. Motors will not be utilized during periods of inclement weather.
4. Motors will not be used to carry passengers or transport prisoners.
5. Only commissioned DPS employees currently on the DPS Motor Team, with a motorcycle endorsement, and who are certified through the Northwestern University motor course or equivalent, are to operate a motor.

**C. Selection, Qualification, Training, and Dismissal**

1. Selection

- a. Selection for motor officers will come from within the uniform bureaus of the law enforcement divisions of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.
- b. All applicants must have a minimum of two (2) years patrol experience and have successfully completed the department FTO program. Patrol experience may include time spent in patrol with other agencies prior to becoming a commissioned State Police officer.
- c. Must provide officer evaluation forms for the last two years of service, if applicable.
- d. Applicants must be able to stand over the motorcycle while it is in an upright position and have both feet on the ground.
- e. Applicants must be able to properly upright a department motorcycle while it's lying on its side as demonstrated by instructor.
- f. All newly selected motor officers will be on a one (1) year probationary period.

2. Qualification

- a. The officer will be required to show proof of, or obtain, his/her motorcycle endorsement.
- b. The officer will be required to successfully complete the Northwestern University Police Motorcycle Training course.
  - i. If the officer fails to pass the initial training the officer may be granted up to, but not to exceed, three (3) days to pass the practical riding test.
  - ii. If the candidate still cannot pass the practical riding test he/she will be released from the Motor Team.

3. Training

- a. Training will be held for motor officers as directed by the Motor Team Commander and/or the Special Operations Commander. All training will be held as budget allows.
  - b. Motor officers require a high degree of professionalism and skill to operate a motor. All members of the Motor Team will be required to conduct re-certification training on a bi-annual basis. Members, who do not pass the initial re-certification course, will be given two (2) additional opportunities to pass prior to the completion of the bi-annual training. Members who do not pass the bi-annual re-certification test will not be allowed to participate on assignments nor patrol on their assigned motors until he/she has completed remedial training and has passed the re-certification test.
    - i. Members, who do not pass the re-certification course at the bi-annual training, will have thirty (30) days to schedule an appointment with one of the certified instructors to perform remedial training. Following remedial training, the member will have one (1) opportunity to pass his/her re-certification test. Remedial training will be conducted no less than seven (7) days from the date of the initial re-certification course failure.
    - ii. If the member fails to pass the re-certification course, the officer will be recommended for removal from the Motor Team.
4. Dismissal
- a. Membership and participation as a part of the team is considered a privilege not a promotion. To maintain team integrity and the highest level of standards, all members are subject to disciplinary action and may be removed from the team, without cause, by the Chief of the State Police. Reasons for removal or suspension from the team may include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - i. Failure to attend special assignments;
    - ii. Failure to attend training unless excused;
    - iii. Failure to pass a certification or re-certification course;
    - iv. Failure to maintain a motorcycle endorsement;
    - v. Failure to maintain team standards; and/or
    - vi. Failure to meet district duties and responsibilities.

### **D. Duties and Responsibilities**

- 1. Motor Unit Commander
  - a. Shall be appointed by the Chief of the New Mexico State Police
  - b. Have direct supervision of motor officers during assignments.
  - c. Develop goals and objectives for the Motor Team.
  - d. Ensure that all motor officers receive initial and continuing training on motorcycle operations, as well as training on policy and procedures covering department motorcycles.
  - e. Receives and evaluates requests for the Motor Team based on need and availability of motor officers.

2. Motor Officer

- a. Reports to the Motor Team Commander or event supervisor for daily or long term assignments.
  - i. Operates their assigned motor to perform their primary duty if weather and
  - ii. Members will make every effort to ride a minimum of four (4) hours a week to stay proficient.
  - iii. If it is determined that any Motor Team member is consistently not riding, the Motor Team Commander, assistant commanders, or motor training officer(s) may require that member to re-certify before he/she is allowed to continue riding in any capacity on a motor.
- b. Responsible for the daily maintenance and storage of their motors including, but not limited to:
  - i. Cleanliness;
  - ii. Proper fluid levels;
  - iii. Proper tire pressure;
  - iv. Functionality of all emergency equipment;
  - v. Other pre-ride checks designated by the manufacturer; and
  - vi. Store their motor in a garage or in their assigned trailer, to avoid excessive wear and tear caused by weather conditions.

3. Motor Training Officer

- a. Qualifications
  - i. A recommendation from the commander of the Motor Team.
  - ii. Be certified by the State of New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy as a Motorcycle Operations Instructor.
  - iii. Successfully completed a course of instruction on police motorcycle operations from Northwestern University, or equivalent program, recognized by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy to train and certify a police officer as a motor officer.
- b. Responsibilities
  - i. Training Officers will forward all training records to the Motor Team Commander on all officers who complete such training.
  - ii. All training officers will complete and maintain certification as an instructor for all types of police motorcycles used by the department and that he/she is teaching students on.

**E. Motorcycle fleet crashes**

1. Crashes or incidents that occur during a training event will immediately be reported to the Special Operations Bureau Commander who will determine if it will be reported as a fleet crash per policy. The determination of a fleet crash due to

