



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Mounted Patrol Use

Eff. Date 01/15/2020

Purpose

Subject to the provisions of this procedure, Mounted Patrol horses trained in patrol applications may be utilized for routine patrol, special events, crowd control, public relations, and search and rescue.

The Mounted Officer is at all times responsible for the control of his or her horse. If there is a dispute on the manner in which a Mounted Patrol team is to be used, the final decision will be made by the Mounted Officer.

Mounted Patrol officers must be deployed as a team of at least two riders when functioning in a patrol capacity.

Procedure

EQUIPMENT

Mounted Officers will wear an approved riding helmet at all times when mounted and on duty.

CONTROL AND ARREST PROCEDURES

Actions of Mounted Patrol units will comply with Madison Police Department (MPD) procedures on use of force.

INJURY CAUSED BY MOUNTED PATROL HORSE

If a Mounted Patrol horse injures a person, the following steps shall be taken:

1. Evaluate the person's injury and ensure that they receive prompt and appropriate medical attention.
2. Notify the OIC.
3. Obtain photographs of the injury, if possible.
4. Obtain a statement from the person, if possible.
5. Notify the Mounted Patrol supervisor.
6. Obtain witness statements, if possible.
7. Attempt to obtain an authorization for release of medical information from the person.
8. The horse handler shall document the incident in a report.
9. A patrol or Mounted Patrol supervisor shall respond to the scene and submit a report to the Chief of Police.

OFF DUTY CALL IN/MUTUAL AID REQUESTS

Internal requests for Mounted Patrol that falls outside of normal work hours shall be directed to the Unit Supervisor or Commanding Officer. In exigent circumstances, the Unit Coordinator may be contacted directly.

MPD Mounted Patrol units will, when possible, assist other agencies pursuant to a mutual aid request following the above protocol. Mounted Officers will follow MPD Mounted Patrol Use procedures when assisting outside agencies.

MOUNTED PATROL VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

1. Vehicles and trailers associated with the Mounted Patrol will be kept at a location designated by the Mounted Patrol supervisor. Members of the Mounted Patrol Unit may use these vehicles as follows:
 - a. Transporting horses to and from deployment locations;
 - b. Taking horses to the veterinarian, chiropractor, farrier;
 - c. Picking up Mounted Patrol equipment;
 - d. Driving to work-related Mounted Patrol training;
 - e. Other Mounted Patrol related activities as approved by the Mounted Patrol Supervisor.
2. When operating the vehicles (on or off duty), handlers will comply with MPD Vehicle Use SOPs.

MOUNTED PATROL TRAINING

1. New riders and horses will undergo initial training prior to being authorized for active duty.
2. All riders and horses will engage in regular maintenance training and periodic assessment as necessary.
3. The Mounted Patrol Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that each officer and horse receives adequate training and maintains appropriate skill levels.

RECORDS

1. Each rider is responsible for maintaining records of all Mounted Patrol field activities as designated by the Mounted Patrol Supervisor.
2. The Mounted Patrol Supervisor is responsible for maintaining overall MPD Mounted Patrol records, and for verifying that individual riders are maintaining appropriate records.

Original SOP: 07/01/2015
(Reviewed Only: 01/27/2016, 11/01/2016, 12/26/2017, 01/31/2023, 01/31/2026)
(Revised: 01/15/2020)