

PALOS VERDES ESTATES POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY MANUAL

SECTION 44

ATV PROGRAM

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44.0 IDENTIFICATION

The Palos Verdes Estates Police Department utilizes two separate types of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's). The first is identified as an Off Road Quad (Quad) and the second is identified as a Dual Purpose Motorcycle (Dual-Sport). For the purpose of this policy, when referring to both vehicles, they will be identified as ATV's. When referring to an individual vehicle, they will be identified as either a Quad or Dual-Sport.

44.1 PURPOSE

This City contains canyons and parkland areas that are not easily accessible in a patrol car. Patrol on an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) will provide a police presence in areas of the City that were previously unreachable during standard patrol practices. A structured ATV program is used as an alternative patrol method and allows for greater community contact and interaction, which strengthens the police and community partnership.

44.2 ORGANIZATION

The ATV Program is an assignment of the Operations Division. The program's supervisor shall be a corporal or above, who will be responsible for the daily operation of the program, training, and scheduling.

44.3 TRAINING

- A. Quad Training
 - 1. Members of the Quad Program will be trained and evaluated by the unit supervisor to assure they are familiar with the vehicle's operation.
 - 2. Outside training shall be offered when available, necessary, and practical.

- B. Dual-Sport Training
 - 1. Initial training for Members of the Dual-Sport Program shall be in compliance with a POST certified motor academy.
 - 2. Dual-Sport personnel shall maintain a valid California driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement to be certified to operate a Dual-Sport Motorcycle.
 - 3. Upon successful completion of the POST certified motor academy, newly assigned Dual-Sport officers shall ride with a senior officer. During the training period, newly assigned

Dual- Sport officers shall obtain and demonstrate the necessary skill level to qualify him as an enforcement rider.

4. The program's supervisor shall establish an ongoing training program, the object of which is to increase rider skill and prevent accidents.

44.4 UNIFORM

- A. Quad
The Quad patrol uniform will consist of a police polo shirt with blue denim jeans or black BDU's, Sam Browne, and boots.
- B. Dual-Sport
The Dual-Sport patrol uniform will consist of a police polo shirt with black BDU pants, Sam Browne, and boots.

44.5 SAFETY EQUIPMENT

All officers operating an ATV will wear a helmet, eye protection, and appropriate footwear. Gloves are optional while operating the Quads, however; they shall be worn while operating a Dual-Sport.

44.6 INSPECTIONS

1. The operator will conduct a safety inspection of the ATV prior to riding it, which will include: fuel and oil level, tire condition and pressure, brakes, throttle, stop switch, and steering.
2. Any safety or maintenance issues will be brought to the attention of the shift supervisor immediately.
3. Any damage to the ATV will be reported on the appropriate report form (accident, incident, info) and forwarded to the unit supervisor, via the on-duty Watch Commander.
4. At the conclusion of the shift, the operator will clean the ATV and carefully inspect it. Any problems found will be reported to the on-duty Watch Commander.
5. After the operator's shift, he will sign the ATV inspection log and document any damage or needed service to the ATV.

44.7 ATV PATROL POLICY

- A. The ATV will be used as necessary to reach areas of the City that are inaccessible with a patrol car and other events that are approved by the supervisor.

B. Use on Public Roadways

Quad

1. The Quad is designed for off-road use. When using the Quad on public roadways it shall not be at speeds greater than 15-MPH.
2. When use on public roadways is required the operator shall follow all traffic laws and drive the Quad as close to the right hand portion of the roadway as possible.
3. Officer's operating the Quad shall not make traffic stops nor shall they engage in a pursuit with a motor vehicle.

Dual-Sport

1. When use of the Dual-Sport is required on public roadways, the operator shall follow all traffic laws and regulations.
2. Officers operating a Dual-Sport may conduct traffic stops on motor vehicles, but must remember this is not its primary function.
3. Officers operating a Dual-Sport may engage in a pursuit with a motor vehicle if the crime is such that requires immediate apprehension. All pursuits shall be conducted in accordance with the Department Motor Pursuit Policy, which states:

Police motorcycles shall abandon their primary/secondary unit responsibilities in a pursuit when a sufficient number of marked black and white police vehicles have joined the pursuit.

Police motorcycles may initiate and/or continue/assist in a pursuit only when approved by a supervisor. This limitation on police motorcycles is intended to minimize potential injury and/or damage to the officer and specialized equipment.

C. Safety Procedures

1. Only the operator will ride the ATV. Except in emergencies, no passengers are allowed.
2. Before riding over any obstacle or on new terrain, the operator will check the area thoroughly.
3. There will be no stunt riding. This includes "wheelies" and "jumps." Operators will keep hands and feet on the controls.
4. The ATV will not be driven at a speed which is unsafe for the prevailing conditions.
5. The ATV's are not designed to combat every type of obstacle. Before attempting to overtake an obstacle the rider must weigh the necessity of the goal with the risk involved in reaching it.
6. Officers assigned to an ATV are responsible for its security. When parked, the key will be removed from the ignition.