

## International Police Mountain Bike Association EMS Bicycle Operations Survey 2002

source: www.ipmba.org

**Compiled by:** John R. Watson, Jr., Hobbs Fire Department, Hobbs, NM

Many thanks to all personnel who took the time to answer the survey. I was truly surprised to see the extent to which bicycle teams are utilized in the US and other countries. Please note that none of the respondents answered 100% of the questions, but the survey did yield some good information. Ride hard and be true to yourself. ~ John

**Number of responses:** 27

**Departments:** Sussex County EMS (DE), Everett FD (WA), Boston EMS (MA), Arlington County FD (VA), Orange County Fire/Rescue (FL), Troy FD (OH), MAST Ambulance (MO), North-Central Mountain Bike Patrol (MN), Williamson Medical Center (TN), Cypress Creek EMS (TX), WKU Police (KY), Jacksonville Sheriffs Office (FL), The Voluntary EMS (London), James City Volunteer Rescue Squad and James City FD (VA), Williamsburg FD (VA), Gretna Police Department (LA), Hobbs FD (NM), Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Service (CT), Denver PD (CO), Fremont FD (CA), Bangor FD (ME), University of Pennsylvania Police Dept., Saginaw Township Police Dept. (MI), GWU-Emerg (DC), Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad (MD); no agency named (2)

### **How long have you been a bike medic?**

Responses range from 0-12 years  
Average: 4.5 years  
Number of medics with 1-5 years: 17  
Number of medics with 6-12 years: 9

### **How long has your agency had an EMS Bike Team?**

Responses range from 1 to 10 years  
Average: 4.7 years  
Number of agencies with 1-5 years: 13  
Number of agencies with 6-10 years: 11

### **How many members does your EMS Bike Team have?**

Responses range from 0 to 60 bike medics  
Average: 15.3 bike medics  
Number of Services with 1-20 bike medics: 22  
Number of Services with 21-40 bike medics: 4  
Number of Services with 41-60 bike medics: 1

### **What level of EMS care does your EMS Bike Team offer?**

a) ALS: 14  
b) ILS: 2  
c) BLS: 8  
d) First Responder or lower: 3

### **Does your unit patrol:**

a) Every shift: 3  
b) Seasonally only  
c) Special event stand-by only: 25  
d) Other: weekends, weekends in tourist areas and bike paths, mountain bike trail patrol, year-round, park patrols, every shift as PD and as EMS on special events.

### **Do your team members operate:**

a) Solo: 23  
b) In pairs: 5

**Is your unit funded by:**

- a) Department budget item: 23; budget but not a line item (1)
- b) Outside donations: 9
- c) Other: self financing (2), state EMS funds, grants, Volunteer Auxiliary, anywhere we can; bikes were donated; cost is part of special event permit; fundraisers; event organizers are asked to make a donation to cover expenses.

**Do you have mandatory training sessions?**

- a) Yes: 14; minimum IPMBA trained (2); four-hour combination in-class and riding; every Saturday; eight-hour combination in-class and riding; prior to special events; every spring; IMBA National Mountain Bike Patroller (NMBP) Training; monthly; annually; in-house training; initial certification only.
- b) No: 14

**Do you have a selection process for future members (e.g., fitness test)?**

- a) Yes: Physical fitness test and timed ride with equipment; pass IPMBA EMS course (2); timed two-mile ride with P.T. assessment at end; control testing; NMBP standards; interview and group exercises; through training; prospects ride with other paramedics; extensive process; members required to have approval of officer and meet attendance goals.
- b) No: 14

**How many calls do you respond to during an average shift?**

Responses range from 1 to 12 calls  
Average: 5.5 calls

**If you work special events, how many events do you work annually?**

Responses range from 2 to 90 events  
Average: 20.6 events

**What type of events do you work?**

Fairs, holiday celebrations, parades, duathalons, running events, Special Olympics, marches, bike races, marathons, cycling routes, concerts, football games, college commencement, NASCAR races, street festivals, bike rodeos, mountain bike races, multi-sport adventure races, large dog shows, Boy Scout Jamborees, PGA Golf Tournaments, music festivals, Mardi Gras, Hobbs August Nights, air show, riots.

**Do you charge for special event stand-by?**

- a) Yes: 10
- b) No: 16

**How do you charge?**

By the bike per hour; by the hour; donation to Patrol; \$250.00 for half day to \$500.00 for full day; depends on client; bill by four-hour block; one team of two by the hour; flat rate of \$250.00 that can be waived.

**Do you preplan events?**

- a) Yes: 24
- b) No: 2

**How do you carry your equipment?**

- a) Panniers (full or partial set): 23
- b) Fanny pack: 4
- c) Trailer: 0
- d) Other: rack pack (4); hydration packs with cargo areas (1)

**What equipment do you carry (e.g., defib, O2, etc.)?**

AED (11), manual (1), Lifepack 12 (1), Zoll 12 lead, LP 5 (1), O2, 1<sup>st</sup> line ACLS, bandaging, BLS and ALS Airway, pulspulse ox, IV supplies, BLS drugs set, trauma kit, two rounds of county protocol drugs, OB kit, Pediatric Response Bike.

**What is the approximate total weight of your equipment?**

Responses Range 16-50 lbs  
Average weight: 29.8 lbs

**What drugs do you carry? Please include narcotics.**

None (5); Epi, Lido, Cardizem, Bicarb, D50, Adenosine, Atropine, Albuterol, Calcium, Atrovent, Solumedrol, Valium, Versed, MS, Sux and Vech; Glucose, Bicarb, Glucagon, ASA, Epi 1:10,000 and 1: 1,000, Atrovent, Albuterol, Benadryl, Narcan, Atropine, Lidocaine, D50, BLS units carry glucose and epi pens; wide range with MS, Versed, Vallium; Epi 1:10,000 and 1:1,000, Narcan, Nitro tabs and spray, lidocain, brethine, Albuterol, NaCl 0.9%, Adenocard, Lasix, Benadryl 50 mg; Narcotics and ACLS; First line ACLS, no narcotics.

**Does your service operate with Standard Operational Guidelines?**

- a) Yes: 19
- b) No: 7

**How many bikes do you have in service?**

Responses Range from 2-29 bikes  
Average: 8.8 bikes

**Are your bikes**

- a) Assigned to personnel: 6
- b) Checked out as needed: 17
- c) Other: patrollers use own bikes

**Does your unit participate in bike rodeos or other bike safety education?**

- a) Yes: 15
- b) No: 11

**Have you or anyone from your department experienced damage to you bike due to theft or vandalism?**

- a) Yes: 4 bikes stolen at three departments; one stolen pannier
- b) No: 23

**What injuries have you experienced while training or patrolling?**

- a) None: 1
- b) Scrapes or bruises: 17
- c) Sprains, strains, etc.: 4
- d) Dislocations, fracture, worse: 3

**Did this injury result in lost time on the job?**

- a) Yes: 1: 6-8 weeks, 2 months, 2 days, 3 weeks
- b) No

**Does your department keep bike team statistics?**

- a) Yes: 12; number and nature of calls; size of crowd; patient care forms, hours patrolled, trails patrolled. Mardi Gras week only.
- b) No: 15

Specific questions regarding the results of this survey may be directed to John R. Watson, Jr., (Hobbs Fire Department, Hobbs NM) at [jrwjr049@aol.com](mailto:jrwjr049@aol.com) (c) 2002 International Police Mountain Bike Association.