



HR/HF

FFCC—Policy/SOG Program

Operations
Policy # 09-02

Safety—Traffic Safety Vests
Issued: 02/28/09

Subject: Traffic Safety Vests

Purpose: This policy establishes the department requirements for the use of traffic safety vests when operating in areas of vehicular traffic. This policy is designed to meet the intent of the 2007 edition of NFPA 1500 and the U.S. Department of Transportation, 23 CFR Part 634 and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Scope: This policy applies to all personnel of the Fire Department.

Definition

Traffic Safety Vest

A high-visibility vest that meets the requirements of ANSI 107-2004 as a Class 2 or Public Safety vest

Philosophy

Our safety requires an understanding and appreciation of the high risk that firefighters are exposed to when operating in or near vehicular traffic. Personnel should always operate from a defensive posture and consider moving vehicles as a threat to our safety. One method for providing for the safety of our personnel is by the use of traffic safety vests.

Policy:

Traffic safety vests shall be stored on each vehicle/apparatus so that they are readily accessible by personnel. The vest shall be worn whenever personnel are operating in areas of vehicular traffic. The vest shall be donned immediately upon exiting the vehicle or apparatus and includes instances when turnout gear is worn. Turnout coats alone are not acceptable as high-visibility highway safety apparel.

The exceptions to this requirement are:

1. When SCBA is worn
2. When wearing hazardous materials personal protective equipment
3. When wearing technical rescue personal protective equipment

By the order of: _____

Fire Chief

Date:

References:

- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 edition, sections 8.7.10 and Appendix 8.7.10

Resources *(click title to access resource)*:

- [International Association of Fire Chiefs, Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)
- National Near Miss Reporting System—"Reports related to High Visibility Vests"
- [Responder Safety website](#)
- [Federal regulation 23 CFR 634](#)
- [Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#)