



## Division 06

## Fire and Rescue Operations

### Chapter 23 – Hi-Visibility Apparel

March 2009

#### POLICY

This policy established by the Prince Georges County Fire/EMS Department is a procedure on the wearing of appropriate Hi-Visibility safety vests while exposed to vehicular traffic, in order to provide greater safety and visibility for all personnel. This policy is intended to meet or exceed The Code of Federal Regulations Title 23 (Highways) Part 634 (23 CFR 634).

#### DEFINITIONS

**Safety Vest-** Hi-Visibility florescent vest that meets the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Class II requirements. ANSI 207 certified vests are required to have at least 201 square inches of retro-reflective material (like Scotchlite, Reflexite etc.) and 450 square inches of hi-vis background fabric.

#### PROCEDURES

##### 1. General Information

###### Incidents

When members are operating at an emergency incident/drill/event and their assignment places them in potential conflict with motor vehicle traffic, all efforts shall be made to protect the members.

Each department shall establish, implement, and enforce standard operating procedures regarding emergency operations for traffic incidents.

Members that operate on roadway incidents should be provided with vests or garments that ensure proper reflectivity such as a highly retro-reflective vest (strong yellow, green, and orange).

##### 2. Use of Safety Vests

Safety vests shall be worn during day and night outdoor-emergency incidents/drill/events, which expose members to vehicular traffic. Examples of when to wear them include, but are not limited to:

- While on roadways; such as vehicle accidents or EMS responses.
- While in parking lots; such as medical emergency in a parked vehicle.
- While on public service calls; such as a downed tree or power line.
- While re-racking hose lines on roadways.
- While operating at emergency incidents to distinguish fire and rescue providers from others personnel and/or agencies.
- Other situations involving traffic or the need to readily identify emergency responders.

Members will not be required to wear safety vests in the following situations:

- Over firefighting bunker gear if you are wearing a SCBA.
- Other situations in which the incident commander deems the vest un-safe.
- The use of vests integrated into the Incident Command System may



supersede the use of high visibility apparel.

NFPA 1521 - Standard for a Fire Department Safety Officer  
National Fire Academy - Incident Safety Officer (ISO)

**3. Responsibilities**

**Incident Commander**

National Fire Academy - Health and Safety Officer (HSO)

The Incident Commander shall:

US Fire Administration

- Assure that safety vests are being worn on incidents as described in this policy.
- Make final decision on the use of safety vest during an incident, keeping safety concerns as first priority.
- Personnel operating within the Incident Command System and assigned to Command Staff or ancillary positions are to be attired in the proper ICS vest and are not required to wear the florescent safety vest.

**FORMS/ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

**Company Officer**

The Company Officer shall:

- Make determination if safety vests need to be used during an incident.
- Ensures that crews are wearing safety vest, if deemed necessary.

**Members**

All members shall:

- Wear safety vest on incidents to ensure high visibility on a scene.

**REFERENCES**

NFPA 1500 - Standard for a Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program