

	SCOTTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	
	SUBJECT:	Safety Vest Usage
	REFERENCE NUMBER:	SOP 9
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	Feb 20, 2002
	LAST REVISION DATE:	May 1, 2012

A. Purpose

The Purpose of this Policy is to describe the required PPE to be worn by Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department members when working at an incident that places the member in or near moving traffic. Incidents such as vehicle accidents, extrications, fluid spills, vehicle fires, power line and tree down calls, are typical situations where this policy is applicable.

B. Background

For incidents where exposure to the hazards of moving traffic are present, for fire department personnel working on foot in the hazard zone this policy shall be followed. Conforming to this policy places the member in compliance with Federal law 23 CFR Part 634 and applicable provisions of the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MUTCD).

C. Policy

- I. In order to provide greater safety and visibility for Scottsville Vol. Fire Dept. members, florescent safety vests shall be worn during day and night outdoor emergency incidents. Outdoor Emergency Incidents are those that require emergency duties to be performed in public roadways or wherever vehicles maybe in motion. The following PPE shall be worn:
 - Structural or Forestry Fire Helmet W/Chin Strap in place.
 - ANSI 107-compliant Class II vest, Class III Highway Safety garment, or ANSI 207 Public Safety vest.
 - POV responders that do not have their assigned PPE with them should outfit themselves with equipment off of the responding apparatus as soon as practical.

- II. If a member prefers to wear a structural coat due to inclement weather; i.e. rain, cold, etc, or is required to wear structural turnout gear due to duties assigned at the incident scene, the ANSI highway safety vest must be donned over the turnout coat. Turnout coats are not acceptable as high-visibility highway safety apparel when donned without the ANSI-compliant vest on the outside of the coat.

- III. Non-Vest Incidents:

Several incident types may be encountered where the donning of a highway safety vest may actually increase risk of injury for the fire department member or where wearing a vest may in fact be otherwise impractical. Under these limited

situations, the requirement for donning ANSI-compliant vests by members directly involved in hazard area “hot zone” activities is modified.

The exemptions for wearing a highway safety vest applies only to members directly involved in activities within an established “hot zone” and only when the “hot zone” is protected from the hazards of moving traffic by apparatus blocking, lane closures, etc.

The required ANSI-compliant highway safety vest need not be worn when a member is required to;

- Don structural PPE and SCBA to work in close proximity to a source of heat such as during suppression of a vehicle fire
- Don hazardous material PPE to avoid potential exposure to chemicals or other contaminants
- Don technical rescue PPE and/or equipment for a technical rescue incident such as extrication, high or low-angle rope rescue, swift water rescue, etc.

All members on-scene performing duties or involved at activities other than those listed above are required to don ANSI-compliant vests when working in or near moving traffic.

Members directly involved in source of heat, chemical, or technical rescue activities as listed above who complete their activities within the designated “hot zone” are required to don ANSI-compliant vests once their activities within the “hot zone” are completed or they leave the immediate “hot zone” area of the incident scene.

D. Responsibility

1. Firefighters are responsible to make sure that they are attired properly to ensure high visibility and identify as an emergency responder.
2. The Incident Commander shall determine the appropriate safety apparel and is responsible for ensuring that all personnel are dressed accordingly.

Chief T. Cersley

Asst. Chief M. Grandstaff