



President – Richard G. Sadowski

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HIGH VISABILITY SAFETY VESTS

Effective: ????????, 2009

- A. The purpose of this guideline is to describe the required personal protective apparel to be worn by Jefferson Township Vol. Fire Company when working at an incident that places the member in or near moving traffic. Incidents such as vehicle collisions/injury crashes, extrications, fluid spills, dangerous conditions, and vehicle fires are typical situations where this policy is applicable.
- B. For incidents where exposure to the hazards of moving traffic are present for fire department personnel working on foot, this department guideline can be summarized in the statement. **"If your feet are on the street, your vest is on your chest."** Conforming to this guideline 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. Specifically, when the nature of the incident requires the member to work in or near moving traffic, the following personal protective apparel shall be worn:
- 1) Structural Fire Helmet with chin strap properly donned
 - 2) ANSI 107-compliant Class II vest, Class III Highway Safety garment
 - 3) Protective Footwear
- D. If a member prefers to wear a structural turnout coat due to inclement weather (Example: 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.
- E. Structural bunker pants and boots may be worn in lieu of standard protective footwear.
- F. Members not issued a safety vest or forgetting their vest can find extras located under the officer seat on each apparatus. These vests must be returned to the location they were found at the completion of the incident.
- G. NON-VEST INCIDENTS
- 1) Several unique 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 of 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.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) The required ANSI-compliant Highway Safety vest need not be worn when a member is required to:
 - a. Don structural PPE and SCBA to work in close proximity to a source of heat such as during suppression of a vehicle fire.
 - b. Don hazardous material personal protective equipment to avoid potential exposure to chemicals or other contaminants.
 - c. 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.

- 4) 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.
- 5) Members directly involved in source of heat, chemical, or technical rescue activities as listed above whom 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.