

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY FIRE and RESCUE ASSOCIATION	NUMBER: 203
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	PAGE 1 of 2
SUBJECT: Safety Vest	EFFECTIVE DATE:02/20/09
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PURPOSE: To establish a policy in compliance with Federal Regulation 23 CFR 634 regarding the wearing of an appropriate safety vest while exposed to vehicular traffic in order provide greater safety and visibility for all Rappahannock County Fire and Rescue members.

BACKGROUND: Due to several injuries and deaths related to highway incidents nationwide the DOT has required Safety Vest use for all personnel working in or around roadway incidents and construction.

DEFINITIONS: Safety Vest A fluorescent vest that meets the current ANSI Class II and NFPA 1901 requirements. The required colors are yellow-green, or orange-red.

POLICY: Safety vests shall be worn during day and night outdoor-emergency incidents that expose members to vehicular traffic. Examples of when to wear a safety vest include, but are not limited to:

1. Anytime personnel are operating on roadways where the public may have access; for example, while operating at the scene of a vehicle accident.
2. Anytime personnel are operating in parking lots; for example, while working a medical emergency in a lot with parked vehicles.
3. While on public service calls; for example, while working at the scene of a fallen tree or downed power line.
4. While operating at a Signal 1 or similar incident(s) to distinguish fire and rescue providers from others assisting at the incident scene.
5. Other situations involving traffic or the need to readily identify emergency responders.

Members will not be required to wear safety vests during the following situations.

1. Over firefighting bunker gear when wearing SCBA.
2. When the incident commander deems the vest to be unsafe.
3. When personnel are operating within the Incident Command system and assigned to Command Staff or ancillary positions and are attired in the proper ICS vest.

Safety Vests will be issued and marked as follows:

1. Companies will have the option of providing one safety vest to each member or placing one safety vest at each riding position of all apparatus.

2. The safety vest may be marked FIRE, RESCUE, or EMS on the front and back, and the companies name may appear on the back in black lettering.

Responsibilities:

Incident Commander: Assure that vests are being worn at incidents as described in this guideline. Make a final decision regarding the use of a safety vest during an incident, keeping safety concerns as the first priority.

Company Officer: Make determination if safety vests need to be used during an incident. Ensure that crews are wearing a safety vest, if deemed necessary.

Crew Member: Maintain and have available a safety vest at their assignment. Wear a safety vest at incidents to ensure high visibility while working the incident scene.