

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guideline

Subject: High Visibility Vest

SOG 211

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries caused by motor vehicles, construction vehicles, and equipment while working within the right-of-way on Federal-aid highways. Each member is expected to know, understand and operate according to this guideline as each situation arises.

Scope: This procedure applies to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

Guideline:

1. Every member of the EHFD shall be issued a High-Visibility Vest which is compliant to current referenced standards. Also every engine is equipped with extra vests.
2. At all roadway incidents, each member of the responding companies shall wear a high-visibility vest over their outermost garment. The high-visibility vest should be donned prior to exiting the emergency response vehicle.
3. The High-Visibility Vest shall be worn at all times while performing duties such as traffic control, pump operators, EMS operations and any other duty which places the member near/in the roadway.
4. Members who are actively participating in fire suppression are exempt from the new regulation but at the completion of that function, are required to meet the full intent of the regulation. (for instance, draining, rolling, and reloading hose would require the wearing of the High Visibility Vest)

REFERENCES:

Federal Regulation 23 CFR 634:

All personnel working within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for the purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility safety apparel. The only exception to this rule is for fire fighters actively in the process of extinguishment. The compliance date for this regulation is 24 November 2008.

NFPA Requirements

NFPA 1500, 2007

8.7.10* When members are operating at a traffic incident and their assignment places them in potential conflict with motor vehicle traffic, they shall wear a garment with fluorescent and retro-reflective material visible from all directions.

NFPA 1901, 2009

One traffic vest for each seating position, each vest to comply with ANSI/ISEA 207, *Standard for High-Visibility Public Safety Vests*, and have a five-point break away feature that includes two at the shoulders, two at the sides and one at the front. The Federal Highway Administration has determined that Class II Vests complying with ANSI/ISEA 107, 2004 or 2006 and Public Safety Vests complying with ANSI/ISEA 207, 2006 meet the intent of this new rule.