



OGLETHORPE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Traffic Safety Vests

SECTION/TOPIC: Emergency Operations

ISSUE DATE: March 8, 2023

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 SCOPE

- 1.1 This guideline is applicable to all firefighters operating in or near moving traffic.
 - 1.1.1 This applies to any incident within 25 yards of a highway or roadway where traffic is present.

2.0 PURPOSE:

- 2.1 This policy establishes the department requirements for the use of traffic safety vests when operating in areas of vehicular traffic.
- 2.2 This policy is designed to meet the intent of the 2007 edition of NFPA 1500 and the U.S. Department of Transportation, 23 CFR Part 634 and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- 2.3 Our safety requires an understanding and appreciation of the high risk that firefighters are exposed to when operating in or near vehicular traffic.
 - 2.3.1 Personnel should always operate from a defensive posture and consider moving vehicles as a threat to our safety.
 - 2.3.2 One method for providing for the safety of our personnel is by the use of traffic safety vests.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of all members to ensure that all members comply with this policy.

4.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 Traffic safety vests shall be stored on each vehicle/apparatus so that they are readily accessible by personnel.
- 4.2 The vest shall be worn whenever personnel are operating in areas of vehicular traffic.
- 4.3 The vest shall be donned immediately upon exiting the vehicle or apparatus and includes instances when turnout gear is worn.
- 4.4 Turnout coats alone are not acceptable as high-visibility highway safety apparel.
- 4.5 The exceptions to this requirement are:
 - 4.5.1 When a SCBA is worn
 - 4.5.2 When wearing hazardous materials personal protective equipment
 - 4.5.3 When wearing technical rescue personal protective equipment