



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
TRAFFIC SAFETY VESTS

SOG: 014

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Page: 1 of 1

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Purpose: This policy establishes the department requirements for the use of traffic safety vests when operating in areas of vehicular traffic. 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.

Definition

Traffic Safety Vest: A high-visibility vest that meets the requirements of ANSI 107-2004 as a Class 2 or Public Safety vest.

Philosophy

Our safety requires an understanding and appreciation of the high risk that firefighters are exposed to when operating in or near vehicular traffic. Personnel should always operate from a defensive posture and consider moving vehicles as a threat to our safety. One method for providing for the safety of our personnel is the use of traffic safety vests.

Policy

Traffic safety vests are issued to all members as well as available on each vehicle/apparatus so that they are readily accessible by personnel.

The vest shall be worn:

- Whenever personnel are operating in areas of vehicular traffic
- When operating on any federally funded roadway or parking lot

The vest shall be donned immediately upon exiting the vehicle or apparatus and includes instances when turnout gear is worn. Turnout coats alone are not acceptable as high-visibility highway safety apparel.

The exceptions to this requirement are:

1. When SCBA is worn
2. When wearing hazardous materials personal protective equipment
3. When wearing technical rescue personal protective equipment