



Toms River Township Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 5-21: Safety Apparel (Traffic Vests) while working in or Near Moving Traffic

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Reviewed		Revised	
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Purpose – The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to describe the required personal protective apparel to be worn by Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District # 1 members when working at an incident that places the member in or near moving traffic. Incidents such as but not limited to motor vehicle crashes, extrications and fluid spills are typical situations where this policy is applicable.

Scope: All Fire Department Personnel

Background – For incidents where exposure to the hazards of moving traffic are present for fire department personnel working on foot, this district guideline can be summarized in the following statement “If your feet are on the street, your vest is on your chest.” Conforming to this policy places the member in compliance with Federal law 23 CFR Part 634, applicable provisions of the Federal Highway Administrations Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MUTCD) and NFPA 1500, 2007.

Guideline:

- I. Traffic Vest Incidents
 - a. 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;
 - i. Structural Fire Helmet with chin strap properly donned.
 - ii. ANSI 107 compliant Class II vest, Class III Highway Safety Garment, or ANSI 207 Public Safety Vest
 - iii. Protective footwear
 - b. If a member prefers to wear a structural turnout coat due to inclement weather; i.e. 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



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high-visibility safety apparel when donned without the ANSI-compliant vest on the outside of the coat.

- c. Structural bunker pants and boots may be worn in lieu of standard protective footwear.

II. Non-Vest Incidents

- a. 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 member's directly involved in hazard area "Hot Zone" activities is modified.
- b. 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.
- c. The required ANSI-Compliant Highway Safety Vest need not to be worn when a member is required to;
 - i. Don structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to work in close proximity to a source of heat such as during suppression of a vehicle fire,
 - ii. Don hazardous material personal protective equipment (PPE) to avoid potential exposure to chemicals or other contaminants, or
 - iii. Don technical rescue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and/or equipment for a technical rescue incident such as high or low angle rope rescue, water rescue, etc.

D. All members on-scene performing duties or involved in activities other than those listed above are required to don ANSI-Compliant vests when working in or near moving traffic.

E. Members directly involved in source of heat, chemical, or technical rescue activities as listed above who 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.

- III. Highway safety vests will be placed on all apparatus for each riding position and in chief's vehicles.