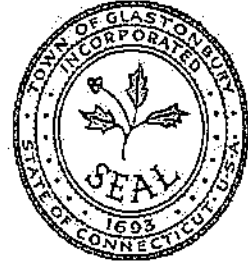




GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES



SOG NUMBER: FDO-106 ISSUED DATE: 11-15-11 EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-15-11
REVISION #: 1 REVISED DATE: 01-11-16 EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-11-16
CATEGORY: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS - GENERAL
SUB-CATEGORY: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE
SUBJECT: ANSI VEST WEAR

Section I – Introduction

A. Objective

The objective is to decrease the likelihood of a member being injured while performing his or her duties when free flowing vehicular traffic is being maintained. For incidents, where exposure to the hazards of moving traffic are present for fire department personnel, the department guideline can be summarized in the statement, “If your feet are on the street, your vest is on your chest.”

B. Applicability

This guideline is developed to ensure that the members of the department are provided with the appropriate protection when exposed to vehicular traffic.

C. References

Federal Highway Administration – Regulation Title 23 (Highways) Part 634 as published in the Federal Register Vo. 71, No 226, pp 67792-67800

Town of Manchester Fire-Rescue-EMS Department – General Operating Guideline.

Section II – Guideline

In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration regulation (23 CFR 634) the Glastonbury Fire Department mandates that any department member working in the right-of-way of any roadway, whether a federal-aid highway or local municipality will be required to wear high-visibility clothing that meets the requirements of ANSI ISEA 107; 2004 edition class 2 or 3.

The only exemptions to this policy as defined in the federal regulations are as follows:

Section 634.2

“As amended to revise the definition of “worker” to exclude firefighters when they are exposed to flame, fire, high heat or hazardous materials”.

Section 634.3

"As amended to exempt firefighters from the requirement to use high-visibility safety apparel, as defined in the rule, when one is exposed to hazardous conditions where the use of such apparel may increase the risk of injury to the firefighter-personnel".

Any firefighter or other emergency responder affiliated with the Glastonbury Fire Department and while working within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway or local roadway and is engaged in any other types of operations shall be required to wear the appropriate high-visibility safety apparel.

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 vest must be donned over the turnout coat. Turnout coats are not acceptable as high-visibility highway safety apparel when donned without the ANSI-compliant vest on the outside of the coat.

Non-Vest Incidents

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 members directly involved in hazard area "Hot Zone" activities is modified.

The exemptions for wearing a highway safety vest applies only to member 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.

The required ANSI-complaint Highway Safety vest need not be worn when a member is required to;

1. Don structural PPE and SCBA to work in close proximity to a source of heat such as during suppression of a vehicle fire,
2. Don hazardous material personal protective equipment to avoid potential exposure to chemicals or other contaminants, or
3. Don technical rescue PPE and/or equipment for a technical rescue incident such as extrication, high or low-angle rope rescue, swift water rescue, etc.

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

Members directly involved in source of heat, chemical, or technical rescue activities as listed above whom complete their activities within the designated Hot Zone are required to don ANSI-complaint vest once their activities with the Hot Zone are completed or they leave the immediate "hot zone" area of the incident scene.

Infrequently there will be situations where a member will not be able to immediately don a vest (unexpectedly coming upon a roadway incident) while near or on a roadway. Although not relieved of their responsibility to don an ANSI - compliant highway vest, such instances are acknowledged to occur and an exemption may be made for valid transgression.

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Section III- Approval

Fire Chief Michael P. King

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