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High Visibility Safety Vests

P-208.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE

To reduce risk of injury to fire department personnel and to meet federal mandate by providing guidelines for the usage of High-Visibility Safety Vests.

P-208.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies follow the High-Visibility Safety Vest usage procedures.

P-208.3 REFERENCES

N/A

P-208.4 PROCEDURES

All fire Department personnel shall be required to wear an approved ANSI high-visibility safety vest on all public roadways when responding to incidents that do not involve exposure to flame, fire, heat and/or hazardous materials. These vests will be worn with appropriate PPE. See Federal regulation below.

This is the federal mandate that is now in place.

“All workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility safety apparel.

Firefighters or other emergency responders working within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway and engaged in emergency operations that directly expose them to flame, fire, heat, and/or hazardous materials may wear retro reflective turn-out gear that is specified and regulated by other organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association.

Firefighters or other emergency responders working within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway and engaged in any other types of operations shall wear high-visibility safety apparel.”

“Federal Aid Highways are defined as highways on the federal-aid highway systems and all other public roads not classified as local roads or rural minor collectors.”

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A large number of streets throughout the County meet the definition of a federal aid highway and as such makes it necessary to wear high-visibility vests while working on all roadways.