

<b>HALIFAX FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>  <b>SOG 36</b>	<b>Roadway Incident Safety</b>
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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this SOG is to describe the required personal protective apparel to be worn by Halifax Fire Department members when working at an incident that places the member in or near moving traffic. Incidents such as vehicle collisions/injury crashes, extrications, fluid spills, dangerous conditions, and vehicle fires are typical situations where this policy is applicable.

## **BACKGROUND**

Federal law 23 CFR Part 634 requires the use of high-visibility garments for emergency services workers when working on all roadways where they are exposed to vehicle traffic and not directly exposed to heat, flame, fire, or hazardous materials. The primary reason for this law is to decrease the likelihood of worker injuries/fatalities caused by being struck by vehicles

## **GUIDELINE**

When the nature of the incident requires the member to work in or near moving traffic, the following personal protective apparel shall be worn;

- Ansi approved vest
- Ansi Approved jacket

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

## EXCEPTIONS

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 or jacket by members directly involved in hazard area “Hot Zone” activities is modified.

The exemptions for wearing a highway safety vest or jacket 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.

The required ANSI-compliant 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 at activities other than those listed above are required to don ANSI-compliant vests or jackets when working in or near moving traffic.

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.

## REFERENCES

- DOT/FHWA 23 CFR part 634, Worker Visibility
- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 Edition
- ANSI 107-2004, High Visibility Garment Standard