

San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: High Visibility Safety Vests

Policy No. 2009-02

Adopted 11/24/09

Revised XX/XX/XX

- Purpose:** 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.
- Policy:** It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire companies follow the High-Visibility Safety Vest usage procedures.
- Background:** The close working relationships of the various San Mateo County Fire Agencies requires that the agencies work cooperatively with one another and adhere to similar safety practices to enhance the safety of personnel and increase operational efficiency.

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."

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.