

Highway Safety Vest

Standard Operating Guideline

Purpose:

Effective November 24, 2008, highway safety vest are now required when working on any State or Federal Highway in the State of Louisiana (Federal regulation 23 CFR 634) which meet the ANSI / ISEA 107; 2004 edition Class 2 or 3 standards for all First Responders.

The final version of Rule 634.3 states, "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 retroreflective 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."

Guidelines for wearing vest:

Any time a firefighter responds to a call on a State or Federal funded highway (Any roadway with the designation of "LA" will be a State funded highway and all Interstates are Federal funded highways) such as but not limited to LA-18, LA-3160, LA-3142, LA-3127 he/she shall wear a department supplied highway vest when not performing direct fire fighting or extrication duties.

If bunker gear is being worn, and direct fire fighting or extrication duties are not being performed, the firefighter shall wear the required vest on top of the bunker gear.

If bunker gear is not being worn, the safety vest shall be worn on all scenes that require the vest to be worn as described above.

If a firefighter has not been issued a vest, they may acquire a vest from Engine #311, #321, Rescue #319 or Hose Tender #329. These vests shall be returned after the incident has been terminated to the appropriate vehicles.

Note:

It is the recommendation of the department for all First Responders to wear the safety vest even when they are not on a State or federally funded highway and not directly involved in performing fire fighting or extrication duties as a safety precaution.

This guideline applies to both Fire Protection District #3 calls and any responses or assistance provided to other fire districts

A firefighter injured while not wearing the required safety vest as specified in 23 CFR 634 could be susceptible to not being covered under our insurance policy.