

High-Visibility Safety Vests

904.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the guidelines to protect members who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, construction vehicles, disaster recovery equipment and to comply with applicable safety regulations (such as Federal regulation 23 CFR 655.601 and California regulation 8 CCR 1598).

904.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District that all personnel shall wear class II high-visibility safety vests in addition to required personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever the emergency scene is located on or near a roadway where firefighters are subject to the hazards of moving traffic, construction vehicles, or disaster recovery equipment. Members who are working on roadways and are not directly exposed to fire, flame, excessive heat or hazardous materials shall wear a high-visibility vest. This includes pump operators, support personnel and command officers. When it is anticipated that the emergency scene will be located on a roadway, high-visibility safety vests should be donned along with other appropriate PPE at the time of dispatch.

High-visibility vests should also be worn any time a member or a supervisor believes increased visibility would improve safety or efficiency.

904.3 PROCEDURE

Although the high-visibility safety vests that are currently available are fire resistant, they do not meet the same fire resistant standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Therefore, members who are directly engaged in fire suppression activities on or near roadways, should not wear the vest over their PPE. Once the situation is under control, personnel can then don a vest for the remainder of the incident.

Should the need arise, other District personnel on-scene could easily remove (tear-away) the vest in reaction to unusual circumstances, to render assistance with direct firefighting.

904.3.1 ASSIGNMENT OF HIGH-VISIBILITY SAFETY VESTS

High-visibility safety vests shall be assigned to members or apparatus as follows:

- (a) Three vests will be assigned to each engine, truck, reserve and squad;
- (b) Two vests will be assigned to each water tender;
- (c) One vest will be assigned to the Fire Chief, Battalion Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Division Chiefs, safety officers, investigators and the Public Information Officer; and
- (d) One vest will be assigned to each support vehicle used by District members who may be required to work on or near roadways.

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904.3.2 STORAGE AND CARE

High-visibility safety vests are part of the standard issue PPE and should be stowed so they are readily available for immediate use. Should cleaning be necessary due to routine soiling, follow the manufacturer's care instructions or the Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Firefighting PPE Policy.