Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Bureau of Fire Services

Fire Marshal Bulletin – 13

WORKER VISIBILITY

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance for compliance with Federal Regulation 23 CFR 634. States and other agencies shall comply with the provision of this Part no later than November 24, 2008. The purpose of the regulation is to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries caused by motor vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment while working within the right-of-way of Federal aid highways.

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.

NFPA 1500, 2007 requires when operating at a traffic incident and the assignment places them in potential conflict with motor vehicle traffic, they shall wear a garment with fluorescent and retro-reflective material visible from all directions. Members that operate on roadway incidents should be provided with vests or garments that ensure proper reflectivity such as a highly reflective vest (strong yellow, green, and orange/red).

To meet these requirements emergency responders should use only vests that meet Class II requirements of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 or the requirements of ANSI/ISEA 207-2006 for Public Safety Vests. Vests should be labeled as compliant with these standards.

Attachment 1 – Safety Vest Push Card

For additional information or questions contact the Bureau of Fire Services Plan Review Division
(517)-241-8847

Please be advised as a recipient of State Fire Marshal Bulletins, you are to treat the contents as a news release in your name to the local news media or any other means of circulation.

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The Challenge to be Visible

High Visibility Vests for Public Safety Responders

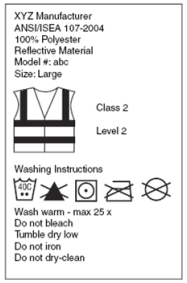
High Visibility = Fluorescent and Retroreflective

Federal Highway Administration regulations and NFPA standards require the use of high visibility garments for emergency responders operating on or near a roadway.

To meet these requirements emergency responders should use only vests that meet the Class II requirements of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 or the requirements of ANSI/ISEA 207-2006 for Public Safety Vests

Minimum requirements include:

- Use of fluorescent background material
- Fluorescent material may be yellow-green, orange-red or red
- Retroreflective material arranged for 360°visibility
- Garments should be labeled as compliant with ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 or ANSI/ISEA 207-2006



Optional Breakaway Feature

The *Emergency Responder Safety Institute* strongly recommends that all vests purchased for use by emergency responders be provided with the optional 4 or 5 point breakaway feature.

This critical feature provides increased protection should the vest become hooked on a passing vehicle.

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On the highway we've got your back

Federal Regulation 23 CFR 634

Purpose: The purpose of the regulations in this part is to decrease the likelihood of worker fatalities or injuries caused by motor vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment while working within the right-of-way on Federal-aid highways.

Rule: 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.

Compliance Date: States and other agencies shall comply with the provisions of this Part no later than **November 24, 2008.**

The Federal Highway Administration has determined that Class II Vests complying with ANSI/ISEA 107, 2004 or 2006 and Public Safety Vests complying with ANSI/ISEA 207, 2006 meet the intent of this new rule.

NFPA Requirements

NFPA 1500, 2007

8.7.10* When members are operating at a traffic incident and their assignment places them in potential conflict with motor vehicle traffic, they shall wear a garment with fluorescent and retro-reflective material visible from all directions.

A.8.7.10 Members that operate on roadway incidents should be provided with vests or garments that ensure proper reflectivity such as a highly retro-reflective vest (strong yellow, green, and orange).

NFPA 1901, 2009 (Proposed addition to required equipment list)
One traffic vest for each seating position, each vest to comply with ANSI/ISEA 207, *Standard for High-Visibility Public Safety Vests*, and have a five-point break away feature that includes two at the shoulders, two at the sides and one at the front.

Features of the ANSI/ISEA Public Safety Vest

- Vests are easy to put on and can be rapidly removed in an emergency
- They are designed to provide easy access to equipment worn on belt
- Options include
  - Badge tabs
  - Microphone tabs
  - Provisions for agency specific lettering
- ANSI/ISEA 207 for Public Safety Vests provides specific language for the Breakaway feature. ANSI/ISEA 107 Class II vests can also be constructed with the feature.

High-Visibility safety apparel is your first line of protection when working on or near a roadway.

The Challenge to be Visible - It's your choice!

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