

# HIGH RISK/HIGH FREQUENCY

## HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

**GUIDELINE NO: 200.06**

**SUBJECT: SAFETY APPAREL WHILE  
WORKING IN OR NEAR MOVING TRAFFIC**

**APPROVAL:** Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

### PURPOSE

This guideline establishes minimum requirements and use for personal protective apparel when working at an incident that places the member in or near moving traffic.

### RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

### GUIDELINE

#### A. Specific Vest Incidents

1. Specifically, when the nature of the incident requires the member to work in or near moving traffic, the following personal protective apparel shall be worn;
  - a. Structural Fire Helmet with chin strap properly donned
  - b. ANSI 107-compliant Class II vest, Class III Highway Safety garment, or ANSI 207 Public Safety vest
  - c. Protective Footwear or Structural bunker pants and boots
  - d. 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.
    1. Turnout coats are not acceptable as high-visibility highway safety apparel when donned without the ANSI-compliant vest on the outside of the coat.

#### B. Non-Vest Incidents

1. 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.
2. Under these limited situations, the requirement for donning ANSI-compliant vests by members directly involved in hazard area "Hot Zone" activities is modified.
3. The exemptions for wearing a highway safety vest 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.
4. The required ANSI-compliant Highway Safety vest need not be worn when a member is required to:
  - a. Don structural PPE and SCBA to work in close proximity to a source of heat such as during suppression of a vehicle fire,
  - b. Don hazardous material personal protective equipment to avoid potential exposure to chemicals or other contaminants, or
  - c. 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.

5. All members on-scene performing duties or involved at activities other than those listed above are required to don ANSI-compliant vests when working in or near moving traffic.
6. 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** – Risk and frequency classification information - <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>,  
[www.respondersafety.com](http://www.respondersafety.com)