

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 18-05

August 27, 2018

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TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 

SUBJECT: Ballistic Protective Equipment

MCFRS is in the process of deploying **Ballistic Protective Equipment** (BPE or **Body Armor**) for use by MCFRS personnel on high-threat, acts of violence or active-shooter type incidents for warm-zone EMS only.

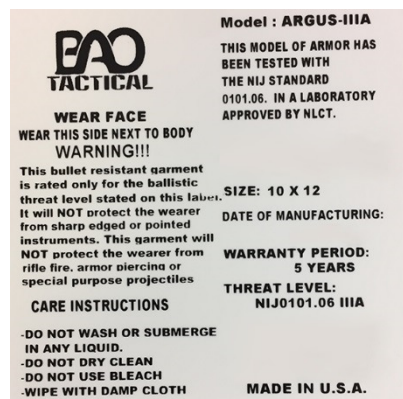
MCFRS personnel must only wear BPE issued by MCFRS or approved by the Fire Chief, that meets the specifications and compliance standards listed in this FCGO. The BPE must not be worn under turnout gear or used during firefighting operations.

The specifications of the BPE will consist of:

- a ballistic plate carrier vest with front and back ballistic plates
  - equipped with a radio pocket, but **NO** other pouches or pockets
  - black in color
  - have labels on the front and back that state “EMS” in large font on top and “Montgomery County” under it in a smaller font
- a ballistic helmet, black in color

All BPE used by MCFRS personnel must be covered by a manufacturer's warranty and meet the following National Institute of Justice standards:

- Ballistic vest: NIJ-0106.01 compliant, Level III ballistic resistance
- Ballistic helmet: NIJ-0106.01 compliant, Level IIIA ballistic resistance



Example of label for NIJ-0106.01 compliance

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If the manufacturer's warranty on the ballistic plate or ballistic helmet has expired, the equipment must be taken out of service.

Training must be provided for issued BPE that includes proper donning, sizing, and fitting for plate carrier vests as well as helmets. This training must be documented prior to any personnel being able to utilize this form of BPE. Additional documentation must be provided in-station for the inspection, maintenance, decontamination, and storage of the BPE.

BPE can only be used in-response to scenes of violence or potential violence – traditionally events where FRS resources stage until the scene is secured by law enforcement. The use (donning/wearing) on an event/response of the BPE must be documented in the FireApp unit report by adding the inventory item “Ballistic Protective Equipment.”

***This FCGO does not apply to the Fire and Explosive Investigations Unit.***

Please direct any questions to the Special Operations Section Chief

