

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 26-07AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Page 1 of 4

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

DATE
06/01/2005

TITLE
Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vest during Incidents

CHAIRMAN APPROVAL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE POLICY

USE AND WEARING OF TRAFFIC SAFETY VESTS DURING INCIDENTS ON ARTERIALS, HIGHWAYS, AND STREETS

Issued by: Fire Chief
Policy No. 26-07AM

Authority: Montgomery County Code Section 21-2.(d)(4)
Supersedes: Interim Policy No. 26-07

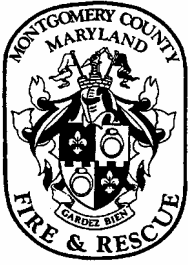
Effective Date: June 1, 2005

SUMMARY: This policy requires MCFRS personnel who are operating at, or are on the scene of incidents on arterials, highways, or streets to wear a minimum level of protective clothing with reflective striping to ensure their visibility. The reflective trim package applied to structural firefighting gear satisfies the intent of this policy to ensure personnel visibility on the scene of incidents. Personnel must wear an approved traffic safety vest, or another approved reflective garment to ensure their visibility when they are not wearing structural firefighting protective coats. On its adoption, this policy supersedes Interim Policy No. 26-07.

DEADLINES: Address comments regarding the proposed policy to Beth Feldman at the Office of the Fire Chief, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850, by April 10, 2005. Comments may also be e-mailed to beth.feldman@montgomerycountymd.gov

STAFF: For additional information, please call Beth Feldman at (240) 777-2423.

BACKGROUND: The intent of this policy is to ensure the visibility and enhance the personal safety of all MCFRS personnel while they are present on incident scenes occurring on arterials, highways, or streets by requiring them to wear protective clothing with reflective surfaces.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 26-07AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Page 2 of 4

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

DATE
06/01/2005

TITLE
Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vest during Incidents

CHAIRMAN APPROVAL

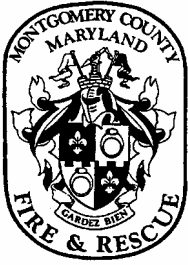
Sec. 1. **Purpose:** To require all MCFRS personnel who are operating at or are present on the scene of incidents on arterials, highways, or streets to wear protective clothing and/or approved traffic safety vests with reflective striping to ensure their visibility.

Sec. 2. **Applicability.** This policy applies to all MCFRS personnel when they are operating at or are present on the scene of incidents on arterials, highways, or streets.

Sec. 3. **Definitions.**

- a. **Approved Reflective Garment.** A shirt, vest, coat, pants, coverall, or combination of these garments, that meets or exceeds ANSI/ISEA 107-1999 Class 2 requirements, and has been certified for use by the MCFRS Safety Office.
- b. **Approved Traffic Safety Vests.** A vest with reflective striping that meet or exceed ANSI/ISEA 107-1999 Class 2 requirements. At a minimum, all acquired traffic safety vests must meet the ANSI/ISEA 107-1999 Class 2 requirements.
- c. **Arterials/Highways/Streets.** All interstates, spurs, collector lanes, exit ramps, and right of ways leading to or from an interstate roadway, or any County, State, or private roadway.
- d. **MCFRS Safety Office.** The MCFRS component that comprises an MCFRS Chief Officer acting as program manager, and a complement of MCFRS officers whose training meets the requirements of NFPA 1521 *Standards for Fire Department Safety and Health Officers*. These safety officers are responsible for providing oversight on all fire and rescue incidents involving MCFRS personnel, regarding safety and health-related issues, regulations, policies, and standards.
- e. **Personnel.** All on-duty firefighter, rescuer, and emergency medical service providers, including career, volunteer, and County Merit System employees, of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.

Sec. 4. **Policy.** It is the goal of the Fire Chief to implement and enforce policies that ensure the safety of all MCFRS **personnel**. **Personnel** who are operating at, or are on the scene of incidents occurring on **arterials/highways/streets** must



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

No. 26-07AM

Page 3 of 4

DATE
06/01/2005

TITLE
Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vest during Incidents

CHAIRMAN APPROVAL

wear a **traffic safety vest**, and/or another **approved reflective garment** specified in this policy. The requirement to wear appropriate garments with a reflective surface is intended solely to increase safety by improving the visibility of **personnel**, and does not affect the operational requirements of this or any other MCFRS policy.

- a. The Incident Commander will evaluate the risks on an incident scene and may designate an incident at any location a “**traffic safety vest required**” incident, if the Incident Commander believes that wearing a **traffic safety vest** will increase **personnel** visibility, and enhance their safety.
- b. All **personnel** who are working at, standing at or near, or are otherwise present on incident scenes on **arterials/highways/streets** must wear a **traffic safety vest** if they are not wearing the structural firefighting coat or a sector/command vest. **Personnel** must wear a **traffic safety vest** or another garment with a reflective striped surface area that is equal to or greater than that of the **traffic safety vest** if they remove their structural firefighting protective coat, but remain on the incident scene.
- c. All **personnel** must wear a **traffic safety vest** or another garment with a reflective striped surface area that is equal to or greater than that of the **traffic safety vest**, if they are operating at or are present on an incident on an **arterial/highway/street**, regardless of the incident type or their role on the incident scene. If **traffic safety vests** are unavailable, **personnel** must wear a structural firefighting protective coat, a sector/command vest, EMS gear, a group/division vest, or other similar garment with reflective striping.

Sec. 5. Responsibilities.

- a. The Incident Commander is responsible for ensuring that all **personnel** wear a **traffic safety vest**, a structural firefighting coat, or other **approved reflective garment**.
- b. All **personnel** who are on the incident scene must wear the approved traffic safety garment, as determined by the Incident Commander.
- c. The **MCFRS Safety Office** will establish a list of approved **traffic safety vests** and **approved reflective garments**.



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 26-07AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Page 4 of 4

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

DATE
06/01/2005

TITLE
Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vest during Incidents

CHAIRMAN APPROVAL

Sec. 6. Enforcement. The Fire Chief is the enforcement authority for all policies and regulations of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.

Sec. 7. Effective Date. This policy is effective on June 1, 2005.

Approved:

 /s/
Thomas W. Carr, Jr., Chief
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

 June 1, 2005
Date

Safety vest final 6-05 BF wp