

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Purpose: This instruction provides information on the requirements of Federal Highway Administration, 23 CFR, Parts 634 – 655 and the proper use and care of Traffic Safety Vests to assigned apparatus/vehicles of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department).
- B. Scope: This instruction applies to all Department personnel who operate apparatus/vehicles equipped with Traffic Safety Vests.
- C. Author: The Chief Deputy of Emergency Operations through the Deputy Fire Chiefs of the Emergency Operations Bureaus shall be responsible for the content, revision, and review of this instruction.

## **II. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. All personnel who operate apparatus/vehicles equipped with Traffic Safety Vests shall be responsible for knowing the proper procedures for the use, storage, and care of Traffic Safety Vests.
- B. All supervisors shall ensure the content of this policy is enforced.

## **III. POLICY**

- A. General Policy
  - 1. Traffic Safety Vests shall be issued to each Department apparatus/vehicle which operates on any public access highway or roadway.
  - 2. Only Department-issued Traffic Safety Vests shall be worn by Department personnel.
  - 3. When not in use, the Traffic Safety Vests shall be properly stored inside the Department apparatus/vehicle.
  - 4. On-duty personnel shall inspect the Traffic Safety Vests on their assigned Department apparatus/vehicle daily and ensure easy accessibility at all times.

## IV. PROCEDURE

### A. When to Wear

1. All personnel shall be required to don Traffic Safety Vests prior to arriving on scene when dispatched or come upon any incident on a roadway or highway open to public travel in which they will be working in close proximity to moving traffic.

Incident exception(s) – While actively involved under the following conditions, Traffic Safety Vests are not required to be worn:

- a. Fire Suppression Activities
  - b. Rescue/Extrication
  - c. Hazardous Materials Mitigation Measures
  - d. Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health Environments (IDLH), an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.
  - e. Incident Specific Competing Hazards (Over the Side Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Swift Water Rescue)
  - f. Incidents that Require Immediate Action from Responding Personnel to Effect Life Saving Measures
2. Once the incident exception(s) have been mitigated, personnel shall immediately don their Traffic Safety Vests should they remain on scene and are on a roadway or highway open to public travel in which they are exposed to moving traffic.
  3. Traffic Safety Vests may be also worn in the approved manner on incidents when high visibility is necessary.

### B. How to Wear

1. Traffic Safety Vests shall be worn over a brush jacket, turnout coat, or work uniform.

### C. Identification of Traffic Safety Vests

1. All Traffic Safety Vests shall be identified with the Department apparatus/vehicle it is assigned to, (i.e., E-30, Q-29, S-36) with 2" letters on the back, centered and 1" up from the bottom edge using black marsh stenciling paint available at the Warehouse.

D. Care

1. Turn Traffic Safety Vest inside out, machine wash or hand wash using mild detergent (NO BLEACH) and air dry out of direct sunlight.
2. Traffic Safety Vests shall be stored out of direct sunlight in a clean dry location.

E. Lost or Stolen Reporting

1. Traffic Safety Vests that have been lost or stolen shall have a "Survey Request," (Form 41) filled out. In addition, if an alleged theft is involved, the police shall be notified and a police report shall be sent with the filed Form 41.

F. Beyond Repair or Excess Equipment Reporting and Disposal

1. A Form 41 shall be completed for Traffic Safety Vests that have been deemed beyond repair or considered excess equipment. In addition, the "Transfer of Property and Material," (Form 47) shall be completed to transfer irreparable or excess vests to the Warehouse-Property Inventory Unit.

G. Replacement

1. After proper reporting procedures have been completed, the Traffic Safety Vests can be replaced through the procurement process utilizing a "Warehouse Requisition," (Form 158A).