

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.427	Effective Date:	5/7/2020
Title:	Ballistic Vest Assignment, Use & Care	# of pages:	2
Category:	EMS Special Operations	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a policy describing the type and use of ballistic vests in the field and on a daily basis by responding personnel of full time South Portland Fire Fighters.
2. **PROCEDURES:**

When responding to the following incidents that are prone to or have the increased potential for violence; and when a ballistic vest has been sized and issued to a responder or is available on the responding apparatus, personnel will don a vest prior to making patient contact.

 - a. Any address with a known or dispatch reported flag or caution
 - b. When working in a police “warm zone”
 - c. Any drug overdose
 - d. Unknown problem where there is potential for responder harm
 - e. Stage for or respond with Police
 - f. Check the wellbeing
 - g. Mental health evaluation
 - h. Active assailant
 - i. Assault
 - i. Shooting
 - ii. Stabbing
 - iii. Fight
 - iv. Domestic violence incident
 - j. Suicide
 - i. Attempted
 - ii. Confirmed
 - k. Any and all calls that the provider or Officer/OC feels it is necessary

Officers/OC's and primary patient care givers are responsible to ensure that personnel have donned assigned and available vests in the circumstances listed above prior to entering the scene.

The ballistic vest may be removed once the scene has been stabilized, and it has been determined that there is no risk to personal safety of the responders, and if the officer/OIC or primary care giver gives the order.

Personnel shall routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage and for general cleanliness. As dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, personnel shall be responsible for cleaning issued/sized body armor at the end of each shift in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.

Ballistic vests shall be inspected annually during gear inspections for proper fit, cleanliness, and any signs of damage, abuse and wear.

All body armor will be stored in the same location in the stations, picked out daily based on your predesignated size, when picking up your personal fire gear. Body armor will be located with your gear or on the truck for your 24 hr. shift.

Personnel are responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or carrier cover to their immediate supervisor

A ballistic vest that has been issued by the department and is worn or damaged will be replaced in accordance to manufacturers recommendations or when damaged beyond repair.

3. REFERENCES:

By Order Of:



James P. Wilson
Fire Chief