



Carlisle Fire Company Inc.

PO Box 292 – 615 NW Front St Milford De 19963

Phone (302)422-8001 Fax (302)422-2146 Web: www.carlisle42.com

Office of the Fire Chief

Policy 4215-009

Policies and Directives

Ballistic Vest Policy [2016-1]

Purpose: To maximize personal safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures and to provide both members and career staff with a procedure for proper use and care.

While the use of body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is no substitute for personal safety procedures, or the use of common sense

Policy: EMS members and employees shall wear assigned body armor whenever they leave the confines of the station, which includes but is not limited to: EMS call response, standbys, errands, training, and food runs, etc. Failure to don body armor shall result in the following discipline:

First Offense: Documented verbal counseling

Second Offense: Written reprimand

Third Offense: Suspension off EMS apparatus (both emergency and non-emergency) for a period of at least 30 days.

Fourth Offense: Automatic Membership Review by the Board of Directors for possible expulsion from the company in accordance with the Bylaws. Career staff shall be terminated after a review by the Employee committee.

USE OF BALLISTIC VEST

1. Issuing of Body Armor
 - a. All full-time career EMS staff will be issued company approved body armor, and will store it in a designated place within the station.
 - b. All part-time EMS career staff and EMS volunteers will use “shared” company approved body armor that is stored in a designated place within the station.
 - c. All users of the provided body armor will sign a negligent use contract for use prior to wearing.
 - d. Body armor will be replaced if it is damaged or worn out by the fire company as described later in this document
 - e. Body armor that is found to be damaged and that needs to be replaced due to misuse or abuse by career staff/member, will be replaced at the expense of career staff/member.

Use of Body Armor

- a. Body armor will be worn in accordance with manufactures guidelines and recommendations.
 - b. Career staff will adjust the body armor at the beginning of the shift to ensure proper fit.
 - c. Volunteer members will adjust the body armor before boarding the EMS apparatus, to ensure proper fit.
 - d. Company owned body armor will not be used outside the employment or company sponsored events.
 - e. Body armor can be removed under the following circumstances;
*(NOTE) Please be advised of wearing body armor in extreme heat does require frequent hydration and any attempts to stay cool at all times
- 1.) Motor Vehicle Accidents where the career staff/member has to enter a vehicle.
*(NOTE) Intent on entering the vehicle for medical purposes.
 - 2.) Water Rescues where the career staff/member is;
 - a. Standing or moving along the shoreline within five (5) feet of the water's edge.
 - b. When boarding any boat to travel to, or assess a patient.
 - c. When the responder DONs a personal floatation device (PFD)
 - d. Anytime the OIC of the incident advises the career staff/member to remove.

Inspection of Body Armor

- a. The Ambulance Captain or EMS designee will be responsible for ensuring that the body armor is worn and maintained as required by this policy through routine observation and periodic documented inspection at roll call or spot checks in the field.
- b. Daily inspection of body armor will be conducted for cleanliness, and signs of damage, abuse and wear. This will be done by career staff at the start and end of their shift for their assigned body armor.
- c. Career staff/member will report any damage to the Ambulance Captain or EMS designee, AND to the Administrative Secretary ASAP but no later than completion of shift and logged on equipment check off list.
- d. Monthly inspection of body armor will be complete by the Ambulance Captain or EMS designee.

Care, Maintenance, and Replacement of Body Armor

- a. Career staff will disassemble the outer shell of the vest , wash and dry the outer shell every two (2) weeks in accordance with manufacturer's instructions or as needed daily and then reassemble. The Kevlar portion of the vest does not get washed with any chemicals, other than wiped down with disinfectant wipes.
- b. Career staff/members are responsible for proper storage of the body armor assigned to them.

Research and Development for Future Vest Replacement

- a. It will be the responsibility of the Carlisle Fire Company to replace the body armor as needed but no more than every five (5) years, or before the manufacturer's expiration date.
- b. The Ambulance Captain or EMS designee will be responsible for;
 1. Monitoring technological advances in the body armor industry that may necessitate a change in body armor.
 2. Assessing weapons and ammunition currently in use in our area, and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats.
 3. Provide training that emphasizes safe and proper use of Company purchased body armor.
 4. Maintain statistics on incidents where body armor has not protected members from harm, including traffic accidents