

Body Armor

Supersedes: 09-20-01

Effective: 10-31-14

The Department issued body armor provides significant protection against fired projectile penetration and many other forms of blunt trauma. The armor, while not certified to resist direct stabbing objects, can provide additional protection against slashing.

Many armor wearers have reported surviving falls and reducing the effects of blunt trauma forces, such as those incurred in MVCs, as a direct result of wearing their body armor. The Department strongly encourages each member to wear their body armor to afford themselves such protection.

For the purposes of this Standard Operating Procedure, “body armor” shall include the ballistic panels, undergarment carrier and the brown nylon external- wear utility vest.

1. Department members will maintain their issued body armor in good, clean condition, while keeping in mind that wet or humid conditions potentially degrades the efficiency of the system. Any damage to the body armor must be reported to the Materials Management manager immediately.
2. A lost or stolen vest represents a significant risk to other public safety agencies and a monetary loss to the department. Department members will secure their equipment in a safe place and exercise due diligence in maintaining control over the equipment at all times.
3. If body armor is lost or stolen, Department members must immediately file a police report in the municipality where the incident occurred. Copies of said police reports, and a Department incident report, must be filed immediately with the Bureau of Professional Standards and the Materials Management Manager.
4. Department members are required to secure their body armor in their assigned vehicle while on duty and to maintain it in a condition of operational readiness.