

Helmet Use

Supersedes:

Effective 9-20-01

The Department issued helmet provides significant protection to the head and portions of the face, with the face shield deployed, against falling objects or other objects in motion.

Additionally, the helmet serves as a personnel location marker and identifies Department affiliation and rank.

For the purposes of this Standard Operating Procedure, the term “helmet” shall include the protective outer shell, fire retardant liner/neck protector, internal suspension and sizing system, and an attached faceshield and/or accompanying Department issued goggle set.

1. Department members will maintain their issued helmet in good, clean condition. Any damage to any part of the helmet must be reported to the Support Services Manager.
2. A lost or stolen helmet represents a significant lack of protection to the employee and a monetary loss to the Department. If a helmet is lost or stolen, the Department member 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 Support Services Manager.
3. Department members are required to secure their helmets in their assigned vehicle while on duty and to maintain it in a condition of operational readiness.
4. Under the following circumstances, wearing the Department issued helmet is **mandatory**:
 - 4.1. Any fire operations stand-by;
 - 4.2. Any police tactical operations stand-by;
 - 4.3. Airport phase incidents;
 - 4.4. Construction sites or other posted “hard hat required” areas, and within 50 feet of the site;
 - 4.5. Any extrication involving heavy rescue tools;
 - 4.6. Any incident where there is a potential of falling debris;
 - 4.7. Below grade operations such as tunnels, construction, transit system pits, manholes, or similar conditions;
 - 4.8. Incidents of civil unrest or other public disturbance;
 - 4.9. Incidents where cable/wire are under tension;
 - 4.10. At the discretion of a supervisor where the safety, location, identity of Department personnel would be enhanced.