



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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Notice Regarding High Visibility Garments

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High visibility garments for emergency personnel working in or near traffic

Oregon OSHA recently released a Policy Memo in response to questions from emergency responders, mostly law enforcement agencies and firefighters, regarding compliance with Oregon OSHA rules about wearing high visibility garments.

Oregon OSHA rules about high visibility garments do NOT cover emergency responders during duress or emergency situations. Duress situations are occasions when an officer cannot stop to put on traffic-related personal protective equipment, including traffic stops, foot pursuits, and similar situations. Emergency response situations are occasions when the employee cannot stop to put on traffic related personal protective equipment, including the initial stages of response to an accident or fire apparatus line hook up.

Oregon OSHA rules about high visibility garments apply once the initial response or crisis situation has passed and the employee begins other routine activities like traffic control, investigation, scene documentation, or area clean up, if the work exposes them to hazards caused by street or highway traffic. Responders sufficiently off the roadway or protected by objects do not have to wear high visibility garments.

The Oregon rule is found in Division 2, Subdivision I, *OAR 437-002-0128, High visibility garments. Employees exposed to hazards caused by on-highway type moving vehicles in construction zones and street/highway traffic must wear highly visible upper body garments. The colors must contrast with other colors in the area sufficiently to make the worker stand out. Colors equivalent to strong red, strong orange, strong yellow, strong yellow-green or fluorescent versions of these colors are acceptable. During hours of darkness, the garments must also have reflective material visible from all sides for 1000 feet.*

If you need additional information, call Ron Preece at 503-378-3272.