



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to specify Division and officer responsibilities related to body armor.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Division to maximize personnel safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of personnel safety procedures. Officers of the Division who are also or may be part of Fire Operations shall also adhere to the RFD SOP **206.24** Protective Body Armor when applicable.

Definitions

Body Armor: An item of personal protective equipment intended to protect the wearer from threats that may include ballistic threats, stabbing, fragmentation, or blunt impact. Body armor generally consists of two armor panels or plates, a front and a back, placed in a carrier.

Carrier: A garment whose primary purpose is to retain the armor panel(s) or plate(s) and to provide a means of supporting and securing the armor panel(s) or plate(s) to the wearer.

Field Activities: Duty assignments and/or tasks that place or could reasonably be expected to place personnel in situations where they would be required to act in enforcement rather than administrative, investigative, inspector, or support roles.

Department: Russellville Fire Department

Division: Fire, Building and Safety Division

Officers: Those within the Fire, Building and Safety Division, authorized and certified to carry a firearm.

Procedures

Discretion and Use of Body Armor

Every officer shall perform a personal armor fit assessment upon receipt of body armor and shall report any issues to his or her supervisor and other designated Department individuals, as applicable.

Officers shall wear only Department-approved body armor and shall wear both panels in a Department-approved Carrier.

Body armor is not a mandatory requirement of the Class C - Daily Uniform.

Approved

Fire Chief



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

Officers shall wear body armor under the following conditions:

- During range activities and field training.
- During the performance of duties at a public event while carrying a firearm.
- During fire/arson related investigations while carrying a firearm.
- Body armor shall be worn at the Division's and/or officer's discretion when engaged in any field activity or call which may include, but is not limited to, ballistic threats, potential volatility or endangerment related to a service call or public service assignment.

Officers not engaged in field activities shall have their body armor immediately available at the location of their principal assignment or assigned staff vehicle.

Selection of Body Armor Protection Level

The Division and/or officers shall assess the ballistic threats of concern, the potential volatility of service call or public service assignment and select an appropriate level of protection.

Inspection of Body Armor

Officers shall routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage and for general cleanliness.

Each officer shall be responsible for reporting damage or excessive wear to the ballistic panels or carrier to his or her supervisor and the individual responsible for the uniform supply function.

Care and Maintenance of Body Armor

Officers are responsible for the proper storage, maintenance, cleaning, and care of body armor ballistic panels and carriers in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Kirk Stone".

Fire Chief