

SAFETY CORNER

Public Safety Newsletter

TOPIC: Everyone Goes Home
Written By: Assistant Fire Chief Steve Willis
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Firefighters and all other responders will be soon required to wear ANSI approved High Visibility Vests effective November 24, 2008. A new federal rule requires responders to wear the vests while conducting operations on roadways supported by federal dollars. It only makes sense; after all, wouldn't your family want you to be visible while operating on the roadway?

Firefighter EMT/Paramedics have been wearing high visibility vests while working in or near traffic in the Mitchell area for several years along with deploying the high visibility pink "EMERGENCY SCENE AHEAD" signs including traffic cones. The new signs and cones are to give drivers an early warning of the emergency scene ahead. "Remember you must slow down and change lanes when approaching any flashing amber lights".

Over the past ten years more than 400 Emergency workers have been killed by people driving to fast and not yielding to these workers.

This law will save the lives of civilians and emergency workers, law enforcement agencies including the towing industry.

Sometimes we find it hard to put things into perspective. If you hunt in America you will spend thousands of dollars on camouflage clothing so you can sneak up and bag your favorite game, if you hunt deer or pheasants the law requires you to wear orange so you don't shoot each other! **"This is a safety issue."**

Emergency workers are saving lives and protecting the public while wearing the required high visibility clothing, please the next time you see someone wearing a high visibility traffic vest stay alert, slow down and help take part in a national effort to end line of duty deaths.

"Everyone goes home"
"Stay Safe"

Chief Willie.

If you would like to learn about certain topics please email cindy@mitchelldps.com and reference Safety Corner.

