

Okolona Fire Protection District
Standard Operating Procedure

BODY ARMOR – FIRST RESPONDERS

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Effective Date:

03/10/2022

Supersedes Editions:

11/27/2021

Category:

Administrative

Body Armor SOP March 10 2022**Purpose:** Procedures for the use and storage of OFPD issued Body Armor.

1. Policy

OFPD issued Body Armor consists of one plate carrier with an identifiable Fire or EMS placard on the front and Level IV steel plates on the front and back.

OFPD personnel shall don OFPD Body Armor in the following incidents/situations:

- a. Any call coded 'Trouble Run' by the Metro Safe Communications Center.
- b. Incidents involving, or potentially involving, weapons or the threat of weapons.
- c. Civil unrest or disturbances.
- d. Special Response Team/Special Weapons and Tactics standbys.
- e. Barricaded subject(s).
- f. Threats of suicide/homicide.
- g. In the discretion of a crewmember anytime a threat exists, either perceived or real.

OFPD crews shall maintain neutrality during situations where violence or the threat of violence may occur. No crew member is expected nor authorized to be on a scene that is unsafe due to violence or the threat of violence without the presence and clearance of law enforcement.

Following the 'safety first' approach, any OFPD crew member on an unsafe scene shall immediately: leave the scene; stage at a safe location; notify Metro Safe of the situation and request Law Enforcement to respond to the scene. If a OFPD crew member is unable to leave because of violence or the threat of violence, follow OFPD EMS SOG's 1804.01 through 1805.07 and use code 10-30, if applicable.

When responding to staged response calls, OFPD crewmembers shall:

- a. Stage their unit in a position that will minimize the unit's exposure to potential violence,
- b. Stage their unit in a position that will maximize the unit's tactical egress,
- c. Conduct themselves in a manner that will not escalate violent or potentially violent situations,

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d. Only approach the incident scene when law enforcement personnel have confirmed that the scene is secure.

When responding to staged response calls, OFPD crewmembers shall NOT:

- a. Approach any unsecured scene not cleared by Law Enforcement.
- b. Take any physical offensive action to control an individual or individuals.
- c. Intentionally place themselves, other crew members or their unit in the line of sight of an unsecured scene.
- d. Enter the scene without notifying dispatch.

2. Donning/Doffing

Crew members shall don Body Armor as soon as it is safe to do so and prior to arriving on scene (after the scene has been rendered safe by law enforcement).

Crew members shall not don Body Armor while responding to the incident or when the unit is in motion.

Body Armor shall only be removed when the threat no longer exists and/or it is safe to do so (as determined by Law Enforcement).

3. Inspection, Storage, and Care

- a. Crew members shall inspect and log in the daily shift report the presence of any visible Body Armor damage.
- b. Crew members shall ensure that the authorized ballistic plates are present and properly secured into the plate carrier. *Carriers alone do not have any ballistic or protective properties.*
- c. Body Armor shall be stored securely in the provided bag and preferably in an outside or secured compartment, so it does not become a projectile in the event of a crash.
- d. Body Armor shall not be stored in direct sunlight for an extended period.
- e. Crew members shall ensure Body Armor is air dried and not stowed wet or damp.
- f. Crew members shall not drop, throw or abuse the Body Armor.

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g. If plate carrier becomes grossly contaminated, contact the on-duty Shift Chief for decontamination and/or replacement.

h. Uncontaminated, lightly soiled Body Armor may be cleaned with mild soap and water.

i. Chlorine or bleach shall not be used to clean the plate carrier.

4. Accountability and Compliance

a. It is the responsibility of all OFPD employees to be accountable for all OFPD equipment and immediately report any discrepancies as they are discovered.

b. It is the responsibility of all OFPD employees to use safe practices and follow all policies and procedures.

c. It is the responsibility of all OFPD employees to use sound judgment and safe operation techniques when responding to and participating in those incidents/situations listed in number one above.

d. Shift Chiefs shall ensure compliance with daily shift reports. Report compliance shall be reported quarterly per OFPD EMS SOG 405.24 Vehicle and Equipment Checks.