

## **3-03/350.00 - Protective Vests**

Any protective vest, body armor or bullet-resistant device, issued or purchased for use by Department members, shall be certified according to the most current NIJ standards at the time of purchase.

### Concealed Vest

The Department shall issue each sworn member a concealed (worn under the shirt) protective vest.

The ballistics resistance level of the concealed protective vest shall meet or exceed threat level II-A tested and certified according to the most current NIJ standards.

The concealed protective vest shall be a wraparound model with white or tan outer cover. Lower abdomen and groin panels are authorized as optional items.

The concealed protective vest is provided to sworn members for their personal protection during normal operations and working hours. Members are encouraged to wear the vest under their uniform shirt or civilian clothing. If the protective vest is not worn, the vest must be immediately available to all on-duty sworn members.

At all times during field operations wherein forced entry may become necessary, the protective vest shall be worn by all personnel involved in the entry process and overcoming any initial resistance. Such occasions include, but are not limited to, the service of arrest warrants, search warrants, probable cause entries and anytime members intend to affect entry should permission be denied. Supervisors at the scene shall ensure that those provisions are followed.

Sworn members shall wear a protective vest at all times while operating a Sheriff's motorcycle.

### Exposed Vest (optional)

An exposed (worn over the shirt) protective vest is only permitted during special operations. Bulky external body armor or entry vests are only to be worn during the tactical operation. Upon completion of the tactical operation, personnel shall change into either a Class A or B uniform, or civilian attire, as directed by their Unit Commander.

The ballistics resistance level of the exposed protective vest shall meet or exceed threat level II-A, as tested and certified according to the most current NIJ standards and shall be in accordance with the following specifications:

- The vest cover shall be forest green and made of cotton, nylon, cordura or other durable cloth material;
- The vest cover shall be of an appropriate size to snugly house the bullet resistant panels and properly support the panels when worn by the user. The vest cover shall be sleeveless;
- The side panel closures shall consist of velcro/elastic material. The cover shall not contain any exposed plastic or metal;
- The rectangular patch shall be sewn on the outer portion of the rear cover, centered below the lower portion of the neckline. The patch background shall be the same color as the exposed vest cover (forest green). The patch shall be a minimum of 5 X 10 inches. Embroidered on the patch in gold thread shall

be a 2 inch border, and centered inside the border shall be the word "SHERIFF." Each letter shall be a minimum of 3/8 X 3 inches;

- A Department Class B cloth badge shall be sewn on the front left panel cover, over the wearer's heart;
  - A Department Class B cloth name tape shall be sewn on the right panel, centered on the panel across from badge; and
  - The vest cover may contain pockets made of matching material for handcuffs, radio, pens and pencils, etc.
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