**Ballistic Protection Template**

 **Adopted** 10/11/21 **Updated:**

The Polk County Fire Chief’s Association has adopted a standardized procedure for Ballistic Protection. The intent is to have each fire department respond in a like manner for the safety purposes of all personnel in the event of a mutual aid call.

**Definition** See the Glossary of Definitions.

It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand, and utilize these guidelines as they apply to any given situation. It shall further be the responsibility of Fire Officers to train subordinates in the proper application of these guidelines and to implement and enforce their use.

**Procedure**

Fire Department personnel shall consider donning ballistic PPE and Safety Glasses, when it is available in the following situations:

1. Shooting, mass shootings, active shooter events, and reports of shots fired.
2. Hostage or standoff situations.
3. Suicide or attempted suicides.
4. Stabbings or reported stabbing threats.
5. Civil unrest and civil disturbances
6. Recent attack on a public safety official and the suspect or suspects are still at large (Beminio/Martin situation).
7. Any situation that personnel deem high risk, warranted or necessary. **(When in doubt, wear the vest)**
8. Ballistic Helmets, if available shall be worn on all Active Shooter Incidents
9. Fights or altercations
10. Domestic disturbances
11. Unstable mental patients
12. Welfare checks with PD.

 **Safety**

The use of ballistic personal protective equipment does not eliminate the need to stage at a safe location and allow law enforcement to secure the scene. It also does not provide complete protection from a threat. Extreme caution should be exercised in any potentially violent situation

Any time ballistic vests are worn self-aid pouches including tourniquets, wound packing materials and bandages should be attached to the vest or carried by the individual wearing the vest.

**Care and Maintenance**

The manufacturers recommendations for care and maintenance should be followed after use and on the recommended schedule.

Ballistic vests and plate should be replaced according to the manufacture recommendations.