

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

UPDATE ON HIGH VISIBILITY LAW

The final rule has an exemption for firefighters who are actively engaged in firefighting operations or a hazardous materials incident.

The Interim Final Rule:

1. Revises the definition of "worker" to exclude firefighters when they are exposed to flame, fire, high heat or hazardous materials.
2. Exempts firefighters from the requirement to use high-visibility safety apparel, as defined in this rule, when they are exposed to hazardous conditions where the use of such apparel may increase the risk of injury to firefighter personnel.

DO NOT interpret this as a blanket exemption. Common sense should apply and the standard dictates that individuals involved in patient care of traffic management, command post operations etc should still use reflective vest.

Below is a link to the November 21 issue of the federal register

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-27671.pdf>