



REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT Policy and Procedure Manual



Policy 8.11

Use of Body Armor

I. POLICY

It is the policy of Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District to provide personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of personnel.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide District personnel with guidelines and instructions for the proper use and care of body armor.

III. DEFINITION

- A. **Hazardous or Unsafe Conditions:** Any situation during the course of duty where Park District personnel are at risk of being harmed due to existing or perceived conditions or they are more than 30 minutes away from back up of local law enforcement or emergency services.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Issuance of Body Armor
1. All body armor issued must meet or exceed requirements set forth by the National Institute of Justice.
 2. All Open-Space Rangers and Supervisors who routinely engage in hazardous or unsafe situations during the course of their duties will be issued District approved body armor. Managers, Specialists and other impacted positions will have access to additional body armor units as needed, which will be subject to approval by the General Manager or designee.
 3. Additional body armor units will be made available at the Hidden Valley office location as needed for special assignments for those employees not issued personal body armor.
- B. Use of Body Armor
1. Personnel shall only wear District approved body armor.



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2. Body armor may be used in hazardous or unsafe situations. Some examples of hazardous or unsafe situations include working in homeless encampments, active hunting and shooting areas or areas with known nefarious activity (e.g., marijuana groves, late night party spots, known abandoned car areas, etc.).
 3. No decorative patches may be placed on body armor. Patches displaying name, rank, blood type or any other approved District logo may be affixed on body armor.
- C. Inspection of Body Armor
1. Personnel that are issued body armor are responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required by this policy and manufacturer recommendations. Both supervisors and District personnel are required to conduct annual inspections during inventory updates and report any damages or replacement needs to the Manager.
 2. Annual inspections will concentrate on fit to personnel, signs of damage, abuse, cleanliness and normal wear and tear.
- D. Care, Maintenance, and Replacement of Body Armor
1. District personnel that are issued body armor are responsible for the secure storage, maintenance and care of body armor.
 2. Dirt, perspiration, and field conditions may fray or tear external material and erode ballistic panels. Assigned personnel are required to clean and maintain body armor in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
 3. District personnel shall routinely inspect personal body armor during normal everyday use at the beginning or end of their shift. Defects or issues shall be reported to a supervisor or manager immediately.
 4. Body armor shall be replaced in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.

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