

Subject: Kinston Police Department	Document #:		Effective Date:	Page:
Personal Protective Equipment	200 - 13		07-01-2019	1 of 2
Approval: Chief of Police	Manual: Policy and Procedure			

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to underscore the importance of protective clothing to maintain the safest possible environment in which to perform police operations. It is the intent of this policy that no police officers will cause a delay in police operations by not being fully prepared to engage in these activities in a safe manner.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. **PPE**: Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.

III. POLICY

A. Protective clothing for Kinston Police Department personnel is considered:

1. Protective vests (body armor)
2. Riot gear (if required)
3. SWAT gear (if required)
4. Gloves

B. Protective clothing for crime lab personnel, when conducting fire investigations, is considered:

1. Nomex coveralls
2. Department issued firefighting boots
3. Department issued hard hats with half face masks
4. Gloves and booties

C. Kinston Police Department personnel who are assigned to uniform functions are required to wear department issued protective gear when engaged in field activities.

D. The following are exemptions from wearing protective body armor.

1. During periods of extremely high temperatures, supervisors may allow members to remove their body armor if the member chooses to do so. Body armor not worn by the member shall be kept immediately available in the officer's police vehicle so that it can be put on at will or upon notice.

Subject: Kinston Police Department Personal Protective Equipment	Document #: 200 - 13		Effective Date: 07-01-2019	Page: 2 of 2
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2. When an agency approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude the use of protective gear, a modified version approved by the department will be examined for an alternative option.
 3. When the officer is involved in undercover or plain clothes work that the officer and the officer's supervisor determines would be compromised by the use of protective gear.
 4. When the officer is assigned to perform an administrative function.
- E. Mandatory use of protective body armor regardless of exemptions may include but are not limited to:
1. Pre-planned raids
 2. Hostage negotiations
 3. Rapid entry
 4. Barricaded gunman
 5. Arrest of a known fugitive
 6. Arrest of an unlawful flight
 7. Manhunts
 8. Search warrant execution
 9. SWAT call outs
 10. Escalating situations
 11. On-range police firearms training