

Load-Bearing Outer Vest Carrier Procedure

1032.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide members with the requirements for the approval, proper use, and wearing of a load-bearing outer vest carrier. Employees should also refer to the following policies:

- Agency-Owned and Personal Property
- Body Armor
- Uniform Regulations
- Firearms

1032.2 POLICY

The policy of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office is to allow uniformed officers the option of purchasing a load-bearing outer vest carrier. The advantage to the uniformed officers is the ability to move essential equipment off of his/her Sam Browne belt (which places weight and stress on the hips and lower back) and the ability to carry additional equipment on the load-bearing outer vest carrier which currently may not fit on the Sam Browne belt.

1032.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Uniformed officers must recognize that moving their equipment off of their Sam Browne belts may slow their reaction time when retrieving their equipment. Three- to five-thousand repetitions will be required before locating their equipment becomes automatic.

Load-bearing outer vest carriers may make zipping foul- or cold-weather gear impossible. If a jacket is able to be zipped over a load-bearing outer vest carrier, all of the equipment on the carrier becomes inaccessible to the uniformed officer.

Movement, particularly into and out of a squad car, may be hampered or slowed by the load-bearing outer vest carrier.

1032.4 APPROVAL

Authorization to wear a load-bearing outer vest carrier is at the discretion of the Training Academy Director or the authorized designee. A uniformed officer wishing approval to wear a load-bearing outer vest carrier must report to the Training Academy and present his/her equipment mounting configuration and completed authorization form. A uniformed officer must demonstrate both equipment retrieval and retention while it is mounted on the load-bearing outer vest carrier.

1032.5 PROHIBITIONS

No uniformed officer may carry his/her duty firearm on a load-bearing outer vest carrier. Knives or edged weapons must be concealed. Equipment mounted on the load-bearing outer vest carrier

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

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must not interfere with the drawing or holstering of the duty firearm. Back-up firearms must be concealed and carried in a manner which is in compliance with the Firearms Policy.