

## Load-Bearing Outer Vest Carrier

### 228.1 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

### 228.2 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.

### 228.3 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.

### 228.4 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.

### 228.5 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

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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.