



Aviation Standardization Team Recommendation:

PPE Best Practice

The Aviation Standardization Team (AV STAN Team) conducted a survey of the personal protective equipment (PPE) used by the various District AUXAIR programs throughout the nation. Based on the findings of the survey, the AV STAN Team offers the following as a “Best Practice” recommendation to the Districts.

It is the consensus of the Team that steps leading to increased standardization improve the safety level of Auxiliary Aviation. This is becoming more important over time as aviation is inherently a long-distance and often cross-district activity. As active duty Coast Guard Aviation has found, standardization increases safety. Increased standardization also improves our interoperability. And that increases the effectiveness of Auxiliary Aviation.

It should be noted that CIM 16798.3E, The Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual (OPM), sets certain requirements for Auxiliary Aviation PPE in Annex 1, Section D. Of note:

“Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements are the same as for active duty Coast Guard and are described below.”

“All personnel onboard must wear the standard survival vest or life preserver issued to Coast Guard aviators or a PFD approved by Commandant (G-OCX) (or designee).”

AUXAIR PPE which is the same or very similar to that used by active duty aviators makes it easier for our air stations to support us.

When new aviation PPE must be obtained, it is the “Best Practice” recommendation that equipment consistent with the following recommendations and the OPM be obtained.

1. Life / Survival Vest – It is recommended that a constant wear combination product, consisting of manually inflatable flotation combined with a vest for carriage of survival equipment be used, vice wearing a survival vest with a separate flotation device. Examples of this type of equipment include:
 - LPU-26/P Survival Vest or equivalent.
 - The 485-CGM or 489 Pro Vest, by Lifesaving Systems.

- The AMTC-R, 1128-BL Aviation Life Preserver System (ALPS) by Aerial.
2. Life raft – It is recommended that a individual, single-man life raft for each aviator be carried, vice a multi person raft. These rafts are available in a belt-pack or handbag configuration. The District or Air Station should make the choice of configuration in conjunction with the Auxiliary Aviation program managers in the District or Air Station AOR. Examples of this type of equipment include:
 - The LRU-18/C Life raft or equivalent.
 - The Switlik ISPLR. Available in both configurations, the raft is identical in both packages.
 3. It is recommended that the loading and location of survival equipment in the life/survival vest be as close as possible to active duty loading of similar equipment, recognizing that Auxiliary aviators do not carry HEED III equipment. It is recommended that maintenance and provisioning of the vest be as consistent as possible with manufacturers specifications and the standards contained within CIM 13520 (series), the Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) Manual.