


Title:	Severe Weather Emergencies			
Section:	600 Special Operations			
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Effective Date:	January 1, 2024	Revision Date:		
Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guideline is to provide directions when Community is facing severe weather conditions / emergencies.

B. SCOPE:

This document covers preparation and operations before, during and after severe weather events.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

- 1) Severe weather: For the purpose of this guideline is any weather condition which creates an increased risk when responding to or operating at an incident.

D. GUIDELINE:

- 1) Staffing plans may be short term or long term, depending on the type of conditions encountered. In determining staffing levels, the following should be considered:
 - a) Anticipated call volume of incidents
 - b) Additional tasks which may be need to be performed by the Department
 - c) Duration of the incident
 - d) Medical certification needed if any
- 2) Scheduling should be planned in 12 hour blocks. When possible, personnel should not be assigned more than 48 hours consecutively, without at least a 12 hour break before returning to duty.

3) Flooding/Moving Water

a) Personnel Safety

i) PFD's shall be worn when in proximity (10') to:

(a) Water of Unknown depth

(b) Water known to be over 3' in depth

ii) If water is moving and over 2' in depth, consider use of lifelines as well.

b) Do not attempt in-water rescues unless trained

c) Avoid Open manholes, runoffs, drainages ditches

d) Consider all water runoff to be contaminated

e) Apparatus safety

i) Do not drive apparatus through water or unknown depth.

ii) Do not drive apparatus through moving water more than 2' in depth

iii) Consider that water depths can change rapidly

4) Lightning

a) Storms accompanied by lightning are common during the summer months. A storm does not necessarily have to be severe to produce dangerous lightning. If thunder is audible, the potential for a lightning strike is present.

b) Safety Considerations

i) Personnel not actively involved in emergency operations should remain inside apparatus during lightning events.

ii) Aerial, ground ladder, and any elevated operations (including roofs) should be halted during lightning conditions.

iii) Personnel should avoid carrying or using long metallic tools

iv) Personnel should avoid hilltops, open spaces, wire fences, metal clothes lines, exposed sheds and any elevated, electrically conductive objects

5) Wind

a) Personnel operating in wind conditions of sustained 35 mph will wear the following minimum PPE

i) Helmet

ii) Bunker Coat or Brush Coat

iii) Eye Protection

b) Sustained winds in excess of 35 mph, aerial ladder operations should be limited to critical fire / rescue operations only.

c) Sustained winds in excess of 50 mph, aerial ladder operations should be suspended

6) Snow & Cold Weather Event

a) Ensure that all buildings are ready for the impact of an impending storm and/or extended extremely cold weather to include high winds

i) Heating plants are working correctly

ii) Water heating systems working correctly

b) Ensure that all fire rescue apparatus are ready for the impact of an impending storm and/or extended extremely cold weather to include high winds

i) Snow shovels & salt placed on all front line apparatus

ii) Vehicle tire chains available and used as needed

iii) Check to ensure that all drinking water coolers are full

d) Operational Plan:

i) The duty chief will coordinate with the local and county highway departments with regards to snow conditions and snow removal.

(a) If the Department is dispatched for an incident, the duty chief will coordinate the route of travel with the-plow truck operators.

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