

Hurricane Fire & Rescue

Hurricane, WV

Operation
Guidelines

Subject	Adverse Weather Operations
Guideline Number	800.402
Adopted	March 1, 2007
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Pages	2

Introduction: This SOG provides guidance for personnel encountering severe weather conditions

Scope: All personnel

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of all personnel to perform in a safe environment during inclement weather.

Heavy Snow

Heavy snow will have a tremendous effect on fire or rescue functions. Often ladder placement and engine placement in the most efficient areas will not be possible due to snow banks and plow piles. Care must be taken when placing the aerial on snow and ice. Truck tire chains should be placed under the hydraulic jack pads to prevent sliding. Response time will be greatly increased. During expected heavy snowfall all company apparatus are to be chained up. Care should be taken to protect patients or fire victims from the cold and wind that usually accompanies blizzard like conditions.

Heavy Rain

Heavy rain should not have any effect on fire or rescue functions except that care should be taken to protect patients or fire victims. In no case will an emergency vehicle cross any of the bridges if water is coming over the bridge roadway.

Flooding

Officers must exercise considerable judgment and discretion relative to personnel safety when entering flooded areas. In rapidly moving water more than one-foot deep, personnel should use a lifeline and wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's). In standing water over two feet deep, PFD's should be used. Particular care should be taken to avoid run-off areas, drains, open manholes, and ditches.

Lightning

Lightning storms are common in and around the Hurricane area and are encountered frequently by fire rescue units. Personnel not actively involved in emergency operations should remain inside apparatus or structures during frequent local lightning. Aerial operations should be halted during lightning conditions.

Wind

Sustained wind conditions can be very hazardous. At sustained wind speeds above 35 MPH aerial operations should be halted. At sustained wind speeds above 45 MPH, only critical fire/rescue operations should be undertaken, and all vehicles with high profiles and light-weight (Haz Mat units, rescues, etc.) should not be used. At sustained wind speeds above 45 MPH requests for service will be triaged for response. Personnel operating in sustained wind conditions above 30 MPH will wear helmets, eye protection, and bunker coats for protection from flying debris.

Hail

When encountering hail conditions, all personnel will wear full protective clothing, and Officers should use discretion to determine if the company should seek shelter.

Tornadoes

When a tornado or funnel cloud is observed in the field, companies should move away from it at right angles to its direction of travel, if possible. If proximity to the tornado prevents escape, the apparatus should be abandoned and personnel should seek shelter and keep together in a low-lying area. If a tornado is observed from quarters, personnel should mount the apparatus and move away as indicated above.

General

Any severe weather conditions encountered should be reported immediately to Putnam County Dispatch. Safety of personnel and members of the public must be the first priority of officers commanding units. Attention to debris, downed power lines, drainage collection, and blocked access (es) is required. Damage to equipment and apparatus due to weather must be documented.