

<p style="text-align: center;">TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES</p>
<p>Part 9: Tactical Checklist Subject: Winter Storms/Blizzards Page 1 of 2 Section: 2-9-11 Effective Date: 07-01-95 Reviewed/Revised Date: 06-28-10</p>

Part 9: Tactical Checklist
Subject: Winter Storms/Blizzards
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Section: 2-9-11
Reviewed/Revised Date: 06-28-10

11.02 Goal. Provide guidelines for fire department operations during winter storms or blizzards.

11.03 Guideline. This guideline will outline the tasks completed during the four stages of this type of emergency: Pre-Storm Season Preparation; Storm Warning Period; Storm Period and Thawing Period.

A) Pre-Storm Season Preparation.

- 1) Provide local media with winter storm fire safety tips, winter automobile travel considerations, etc.
- 2) Determine availability of equipment such as four-wheel drive vehicles, snowmobiles, etc. Sources include other local agencies and private citizens. Obtain written agreement for the emergency use of this equipment.
- 3) Inventory snow tires, chains, shovels, anti-freeze, oil and gasoline, and stock as necessary.
- 4) Check telephone numbers and addresses of persons included in number 2 above.
- 5) Check with Emergency Medical Service concerning the operation of snow-emergency rescue and medical teams.
- 6) Check with Water Utility concerning maintenance and snow removal plans for hydrants.

B) Storm Warning Period. Implement the following actions as needed.

- 1) Review signs and symptoms of frostbite and exposure with department personnel.
- 2) Encourage plenty of rest.
- 3) Have personnel prepare their personal affairs (make sure family has heating oil, gas, food that is stocked, automobiles winterized).
- 4) Place sand, snow shovels, extra de-icing fluid on apparatus.
- 5) Check all marking and warning lights on apparatus.
- 6) Add moisture evaporative to mixture in fuel tanks.
- 7) Check air brake systems to detect any moisture buildup and eliminate as needed.

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- 8) Arrange for sleeping accommodations for Fire and EMS personnel.
- 9) Arrange for the feeding of personnel in quarters.

C) Storm Period.

- 1) Upon declaration of a snow-emergency, notify department personnel.
- 2) Obtain official information on highway and street closings, and pass information on to the personnel.
- 3) Rotate personnel from emergency scenes to lessen fatigue, tension, and flare-ups of tempers.
- 4) Obtain four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles as needed.
- 5) Arrange for snowplow response to all scenes. Verify radio communications capability.
- 6) Consider assigning an engine company to respond to any EMS request within the area.
- 7) Staff station with personnel if needed, use minimum response requirements as a guideline. Establish rotating shifts for the period of the snow emergency.
- 8) Issue public assistance requests for clearing hydrants.
- 9) Place sleds/toboggans on apparatus or other vehicles for use with stokes litter.
- 10) Obtain police approval for use of snowmobiles on streets.
- 11) Be alert for excess snow accumulation and possible collapse of roofs. Caution citizens of hazards associated with clearing roofs.
- 12) Department vehicles will be driven with headlights on at all times.
- 13) Check for drifts against exit doors. Pay particular attention to residential occupancies, commercial locations and other places of public assembly that remain in operation.
- 14) Check for blocked fire lanes, plowed-over post indicator valves, and and stand-pipe connections.
- 15) Check tire pressure (tire pressure decreases with cold weather).
- 16) Drain condensation from air brake system at beginning of cold weather and check periodically.

D) Thawing Period.

- 1) Check availability of portable pumps.
- 2) Review procedures and precautions involving flooding, water rescue and ice rescue.
- 3) Determine decontamination procedures for equipment and personnel.