

**CCEMS
OPERATIONS POLICY 100-36
HAZARDOUS WEATHER
NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS**

I. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ensure the safety of all CCEMS personnel and citizens during hazardous weather and natural or man-made disasters.

II. POLICY

- 2.1 Safety will be the top priority when responding to EMS requests during hazardous weather. Personnel will place their safety above all requests for service during hazardous weather.
- 2.2 Hazardous weather includes, but is not limited to: Code Red, Level 3 snow emergency, Dam failure, natural disasters, severe fog, etc.
- 2.3 During Level 1 and Level 2 snow emergencies CCEMS will operate as normal, however extreme driving caution and common sense decisions must be taken.
- 2.4 During hazardous weather, CCEMS Administration will make immediate contact with crews at their respective Station.
- 2.5 CCEMS will not typically transfer patients from hospital-to-hospital or facility-to-facility during hazardous weather, unless absolutely necessary. Even then, the CCEMS Administration reserves the right to accept or decline the request.
- 2.6 In the event of severe weather, CCEMS Administration will contact Coshocton Memorial Hospital and other facilities to advise them of our status.
- 2.7 CCEMS will continue to respond to all 911 requests, as able. Additional resources will be contacted and utilized as necessary. This includes, but is not limited to, requesting help from: Ohio Department of Transportation, fire departments, Emergency Operations Center, etc.
- 2.8 The Director, his/her designee, or any City or County Department head, has the authority to request activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This will be done through the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office. The request can be for a full or partial activation, as needed.
- 2.9 In the event the EOC is activated, a member of CCEMS Administration, as determined by the Director, will report directly to the EOC. This individual will stay at the EOC until relieved of duty. Remaining members of administration will report to whatever area they are needed as determined by the Director. Members of administration will continually communicate with one another and to all crews as needed.
- 2.10 In the event the EOC is fully activated, the Coshocton County Emergency Operation Plan will be implemented. When fully activated, all scene requests will go through the EOC.

III. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 In the event of a tornado watch or tornado warning, crews will immediately open all garage doors. If you cannot get the door(s) open, contact building maintenance or CCEMS Administration.
- 3.2 In the event of a tornado, employees will take appropriate cover in the building, staying away from window and doors that lead to the outside. Personnel will shelter in place until the "all clear" signal is received from the Sheriff's Office. Personnel will not respond to any EMS request during a tornado.
- 3.3 In the event a non-emergency call is received, during blizzard-like conditions, employees should stay inside. Personnel should make immediate contact with a member of administration. Typically, these types of requests will be delayed until the weather clears.
- 3.4 In the event an emergency call is received, during blizzard-like conditions, employees will use their discretion. During hazardous weather situations, crews should request additional help as needed. (I.e. Ohio Department of Transportation for snow plows. Fire departments for 4x4 vehicles, additional man power and rescue equipment, City and County snow plows, Engineers office, etc.)
- 3.5 For natural or man-made disasters, i.e. dam failures, earthquakes, etc., crews will respond to requests using their own discretion. Depending on the severity of the incident, the EOC may or may not be activated. Crews reserve the right to request additional resources as needed. During these events CCEMS Administration will have immediate presence and be able to assist in guiding your decisions.

Director:



Effective:

11/05/2008

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____