

SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Large amounts of suction can be generated when clearing culverts and storm drains. FF's have been killed in this scenario. Watch out.
- Flood water may carry a multitude of hazardous elements.
- Always consider the risk of freezing hose lines, ladders, SCBA's, etc.
- BC's can suspend normal dispatch and response plans as needed.

FIRE STATION PROTOCOL:

1. Ensure pumps, plumbing, and booster reels are drained on any apparatus left outside in freezing weather.
2. Clear roof scuppers, drains, sidewalks, and ramps of ice and snow. Prep outside faucets.
3. At the end of fire season all crews will inspect vehicle and personal traction devices and make them ready for use; MCS will reinstall all on-spot chain cans.
4. Apparatus chains and boot chains will be placed on the vehicles on November 1st or sooner if snow is predicted.

RESPONSE PROTOCOL:

Freezing Weather / Snow:

1. Utilize 4x4 apparatus as needed.
2. Officers notify the BC when an apparatus is going to be chained.
 - Because of the changes in elevation within an individual response district crews should consider chaining their reserve apparatus and leaving the primary unchained.
3. Max speed when chained is 30 MPH.
4. ONSPOT CHAINS:
 - Automatic chains are not the same as full tire chains
 - Best utilized when inconsistent conditions exist (elevation changes, sudden weather is encountered, varied response district weather conditions)
 - Max 30 MPH
 - Only work when wheel is turning. Wheel lock-up must be avoided when utilizing
 - Can be engaged 2 mph – 25 mph while moving
5. Inspect chains after each response for damage and fit.
6. During periods of rapid thawing we may only be able to shut off domestic water supply and move-on. Refer occupant to other vendors for water removal assistance (Restoration companies).
7. BC may suspend "Water Removal" assistance during periods of high demand.

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Flooding:

1. Monitor your response district for changing conditions. Notify ECSO and BC of response restrictions due to road closures.
2. Monitor river / stream status in your area.
3. PFD's are **required** when personnel are working in or near flood water.
4. Coordinate with Law, Public works, CERT, and Jackson County Emergency Management.
5. 2 feet of moving water will likely move most vehicles.

Lightening Events:

1. Ensure your crews safety. Even if on-scene activity must be curtailed.
2. Retreat to your vehicle as a safety zone.

BC / Incident Commander Considerations:

- Consider coordinating with the other BC's to maximize additional callback company deployment.
- Consider staging brush rigs at I-5 interchanges to recon and asses MVC activity during a period of high call volume. Avoid committing engine companies.
- Request additional command staff and assume smaller "area command" or "Divisions" across the district. Have ECSO push calls to the appropriate chief for assessment and crew allocation without "toning out".
- Suspend regular dispatch procedures. BC or DO can respond to ECSO and assist the dispatch supervisor.