

SNOW EMERGENCIES

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Purpose: *From time to time significant snow or ice conditions occur that severely hamper travel conditions and there is an associated increase in calls for service. This procedure describes the preparations for the fire department to address matters relating to heavy snow or ice conditions. While the procedure was written with snow and ice situations in mind, certain elements of the procedure may lend its use to other conditions resulting from weather events.*

Procedure:

Snow Emergency: To be determined by chief, deputy chief or other chief officer (if chief or deputy chief is out of contact). Generally a Snow Emergency is an event anticipated to last longer than 24 hours. A Snow Emergency is a condition where a significant volume of snow (or ice) has accumulated on roads and the free flow of traffic is unlikely to be restored within 24 hours of the snow event.

This designation should be placed on message board as soon as determined and sent via e-mail to all chief officers and the OFD Morning Report address.

STAFFING:

1. The chief officer when declaring the snow emergency shall determine whether to increase staffing for 8051, 8032, and 8033 from a minimum of three (3) up to four (4).
2. The chief officer shall also consider the addition of a second unit for medical responses that would be located at station three.
3. The chief officer shall also consider whether to staff an additional person dedicated to 8072 for plowing/salt spreading purposes.
4. Overtime list will be used to draw additional personnel for increased staffing on a 24 hour shift basis.
5. On duty career firefighters are reminded they cannot leave their assignments until relieved by oncoming personnel. Therefore on duty career firefighters should anticipate this situation should a significant snow be predicted and envision plans for clothing, childcare, and any off duty employment that may conflict.
6. If holding on duty firefighters over into the next shift, this will be done on a voluntary basis when possible. The goal is to hold firefighters for not more than 12 hours however this will ultimately be governed by the ability of relief firefighters to report for duty. The on-duty shift chief has the discretion to call overtime for an absent firefighter or invite personnel from the next shift to come in 12 hours early. The overtime list will be used as to who is first called. Coming in 12 hours early shall NOT count as accepting overtime thus placing the person coming in at the bottom of the overtime list.

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

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7. Oncoming personnel are reminded of the importance of the need for their presence as emergency responses tend to increase during snow emergencies. Therefore sufficient staffing is more imperative during such events than others, and personnel should schedule their departure from home so as to arrive at the time they are scheduled for duty.
8. The use of Emergency Leave because an employee is unable to report for duty due to road conditions will NOT be approved. However, an employee making a good faith effort to report for duty at the designated time, but is unable to do so, will be allowed to work his full tour of duty upon arrival.
9. Should oncoming personnel so desire, sleeping accommodations at fire stations will be provided for those wishing to voluntarily come in the night before they are scheduled to begin work

DORMITORY ACCOMMODATIONS:

1. Station 1 should maintain availability of 6 to 8 roll a way beds with bedding for each bed available.
2. Station 2 should maintain availability of 6 to 8 roll a way beds with bedding.
3. Station 3 can make use of current beds that may available in dorm.

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS:

1. The auxiliary will be notified of Snow Emergency designation as soon as possible to determine needs and Career personnel should assist as possible coordinating with auxiliary.

SUPPLY NEEDS:

1. Supply personnel should be notified as soon as practical of same so they may make adjustments to their supply levels.