

# STORM OPERATIONS:

## List of actions that need to be completed:

- Weather briefings with all staff
- Verify equipment on Engine
- Check creeks at all 4 stations
- Assess the need for additional personnel and pick-ups (rentals)
- Recon hazardous areas, if possible
- Coordinate with PD for EOC activations
- Location of Sand and bags
- Location of Swift Water Rescue teams
- Station and personnel briefings
- Spare Shipping container (Station 18)

## Verify Equipment on Engines:



### Pumps:

Electric Sump Pumps – with plastic discharge hose



### Water Rescue Gear:

3 Helmets – 2 yellow PFDs, 1 red PFD

Ropes – 2 - 75 foot throw bags/1- 35 foot throw bag

3 knives, 3 whistles, 10 caribeaners, float tube, glow sticks



### Plastic, nails and lath



### Water Vac

with all attachments



### Chain saw

wood chain



### Waders

one pair per station



### Clipboard/notebooks/pens

Record call information

Note taking

## □ Monitor creeks at all 4 stations

At Station 18: Monitor creek gage and water level at Station 18. There are no specific thresholds for the Corte Madera Creek; however monitor level and report rises of 1 foot or more per hour and level of 16 feet and above.

At Station 19:

Monitor creek gage and water level at Station 19

The thresholds for the San Anselmo Creek gage are:

6.5 feet the first page is sent out to the Chief and Dick Stutsman. This page tests and confirms the system is working properly.

8.14 feet – this is considered the warning level. The Chief and Battalion Chiefs are paged. This level is 3 feet below the bottom of the building. At this stage, if the flood gates have not already been installed, they should be installed. If personal vehicles have not been relocated, they should be done at this time. Reassess need for additional personnel.

11.14 feet – this is the critical level – the water level will be at the bottom of the building and water will be coming up from the storm drains and manhole covers.

At Station 20:

Monitor water level under station – Record levels

Estimate time of activation of flood alarm.

At Station 21:

Monitor creek gage at Station 21 – Estimate time of activation of flood alarm

The thresholds for the Fairfax Creek gage are:

4.2 feet the first page is sent out to the Chief and Dick Stutsman. This page tests and confirms the system is working properly.

6.2 feet – this is considered the warning level. The Chief and Battalion Chiefs are paged. This level is 3 feet below the bottom of the building. At this stage, if the flood gates have not already been installed, they should be installed. If personal vehicles have not been relocated, they should be done at this time. Reassess need for additional personnel.

7.2 feet – this is the critical level – the water level will be at the bottom of the building and water will be coming up from the storm drains and manhole covers.

Update Station 19 on status of 18, 20 and 21 as conditions change/as needed.

Assess need for additional personnel and pick-ups

Line personnel

Staff personnel

Volunteers

Fire Department and Town

Equipment and vehicles

Pick-ups – Uhaul or Big 4 Rents  
Pumps

□ Frequently called phone numbers:

Fairfax Lumber:	453-4410
Home Depot:	458-8675
UHaul:	457-8400
Peri's Deli	456-3580
Safeway	456-9157

Coordinate PD to activate EOC

- Contact Dispatchers at Fairfax and San Anselmo
  - Remain in contact with them, as necessary, throughout situation; share current weather, road closures, status of roads, etc.
- Inform of current situation and need for EOC to be opened. They are to contact their telephone list (Town Administrator, etc.)

Location of Sand and bags

- i.e. stores, at Memorial Park, Fairfax Pavilion lot, Natalie Coffin Greene Park, (in conjunction with Towns), parking lots, etc.

As situation progresses, keep up to date with locations and amounts of sand and bags available.

## **Station Preparedness**

### **Beginning in late October or early November**

- Check generator
- Extra shovels, plastic, plywood, nails, lath, rain gear, waders, swift water rescue gear
- Information for the public at front counter at all stations – pamphlets, website information, town information, etc.
- Voice mail/answering machine recording (give info on emergency procedures, town's 24 hour phone number, AM Radio Station, web page updates)
- Food cache for stations
- Creek gage/rain gages – operational check
- Propane tanks at Stations 20 and 21 – be sure they are full
- Check generator fuel at Station 18
- Be certain there is paper in the fax machine as weather updates are often faxed to the stations.

All of the above shall be checked/reviewed periodically during the winter months to maintain current supplies. After the winter months, the remaining items shall be stored at each station for future use.





**Policy for Relocating Department and Personal Vehicles:**

In the event of a situation where flooding is a possibility, all non-essential department vehicles and all personal vehicles shall be relocated to a safe location.

As personnel arrive at the station, their personal car keys should be left in an accessible location. For Station 19 personnel, keys should be placed in their mailboxes. For Stations 18, 20 and 21, the keys can be left on the kitchen counters or in the Captain's office.

As the situation progresses, any available personnel shall move the vehicles to the pre-designated locations.

The pre-designated locations for each station are:

For Station 18: Marin Art and Garden Center parking lot

For Station 19: Andronico's parking lot – closest to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. or;  
Up San Rafael Ave.; or  
Parking lot of 754 Sir Francis Drake.

For Station 20: Rutherford Ave.; or  
Indian Rock Ct.

For Station 21: Pavilion parking lot, near Central Ball Field; or  
Bank of America parking lot

## ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT – MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

TITLE: III. Operations

CHAPTER: 23.

ARTICLE: 1. Severe Weather Operations

SECTION:

DATE: 12/09

DATE REVISED: 11/12

BY: Meagor

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for response to severe weather emergencies, such as flooding, rainstorms, wind events, increased call volume, etc.

Refer to the Storm Operations binder (located at each station) for specific information concerning station preparedness. The procedures should be implemented as appropriate.

### **Policy:**

In the event of a potential flooding situation or severe weather event, determination shall be made as to what type of response is required from the Department. The on-duty Battalion Chief shall monitor the current and predicted weather, warnings and watches, and creek levels. He/she shall also monitor the status of available mutual aid and specialized resources throughout the county. With the information provided, determination shall be made as to the amount and timing of Department resource requirements. The Department has identified three types of personnel call-backs, Standard, Alert, and Mandatory. Based on the current and predicted situation, the on duty Battalion Chief will augment on-duty personnel with off-duty personnel and volunteers.

The on duty Battalion Chief shall also maintain communications with the police department and public works from each town prior to and throughout the weather event.

Each Company Officer is responsible to monitor the current and predicted weather, warnings and watches, as well as local conditions (creek levels, known problem areas). The Company Officer will update the on-duty Battalion Chief as situations warrant.

During a severe weather event where the call volume significantly increases, the Battalion Chief should consider a Modified Standard Response. The modified response is as follows:

- Single Engine Response:
  - Smoke in building
  - Smell of gas
  - Mud slide
  - Structural collapse
  
- Full Response:
  - Obvious working fire

Communications Center shall be notified to route all non-priority calls through the RVFD Operations Station (Station 19, unless not usable). Designate a channel on the "F" bank for Communications Center to contact RVFD direct for updates, information, etc.

In a flooding or potential flooding event normal response routes may be compromised. In order to ensure timely response to emergency calls, Department resources shall be strategically positioned throughout the jurisdiction.

Pre-Designated Positioning:

San Anselmo: South west of San Anselmo Ave; North east of San Anselmo Ave  
Fairfax: South of Park (Mono/Inyo); North of Park (Spruce)  
Ross: South of Shady Lane/ North of Shady Lane

Main Access Routes:

San Anselmo Ave from Drake to Hazel  
Center Blvd. from Madrone west to Fairfax  
Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Center, Broadway  
Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Glenwood, Ross

In a flooding or potential flooding event it is the on-duty Battalion Chief's responsibility to insure that department property is protected from the flood waters. When warning indicates, proactive action shall be taken to move Department property to higher ground. Once flooding has occurred, a minimum of one person shall be assigned to each station for property conservation.

It is the responsibility of each person to log their responses, times, and details of calls for reporting purposes. In each department vehicle there are forms and notepads which can be utilized to record the necessary information for each response.

**Radio Communications Plan – Guidelines:**

- Primary: MERA- Dispatch (F-1, FD DSP, Fire Dispatch)  
MERA –Tactical Channels (F-4, TAC F-4; F-6, TAC F-6; Fire Tacticals)  
MERA- Command (F-5, CMD, Fire Command; F-7 Central Area Command)  
MERA- Control (F-2, CTL F-2; F-3, CTL F-3; Central Control)
- Secondary: MERA – car to car (F-13, FD Conv 1; F-14, FD Conv 2);  
(See VHF overlay plan) VHF Travel and Command (COMM OES); TAC  
Channels: VFIRE22, VTAC12, CLEMARS2, CALCORD (air to ground  
contact); Comm Center cannot monitor TAC channels.
- Police: MERA- F-11, San Anselmo Police; F-12 Fairfax Police,  
H-10 Marin County Sheriff Dispatch
- Public Works: MERA- B-10, San Anselmo Public Works; B-11 Fairfax Public works;  
B-4, Marin County Public Works