



ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Policies and Procedures
Operations
Special Operations

4.2.6.4 Severe Weather Operations

Date Revised: March 2009

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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 personal 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



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- 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 insure 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)

Main Access Routes:

1. San Anselmo Ave from Drake to Hazel
2. Center Blvd. from Madrone west to Fairfax
3. Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Center, Broadway

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.



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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)

1. MERA –Tactical Channels (F-4, TAC F-4; F-6, TAC F-6; Fire Tacticals)
2. MERA- Command (F-5, CMD, Fire Command; F-7 Central Area Command)
3. MERA- Control (F-2, CTL F-2; F-3, CTL F-3; Central Control)

Secondary

1. MERA – car to car (F-13, FD Conv 1; F-14, FD Conv 2);
2. Kenwood, Bendix King- (Calcord, White 1, White 2)

Police

1. MERA- F-11, San Anselmo Police; F-12 Fairfax Police,
2. H-10 Marin County Sheriff Dispatch

Public Works

1. MERA- B-10, San Anselmo Public Works; B-11 Fairfax Public works;
2. B-4, Marin County Public Works