

ANNEX J

HAZARDOUS WEATHER RESPONSE

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. General
- B. Scope and Purpose
- C. Assumptions

II. RESPONSE ORGANIZATION

- A. General
- B. Responsibilities

III. METHOD OF OPERATION

- A. General
- B. Extreme Cold/Freeze
- C. Thunderstorm/Lightning/Tornado
- D. Drought
- E. Tropical Storm/Hurricane

IV. REIMBURSEMENT

V. TRAINING AND EXERCISES

I. Introduction

- A. General: This Annex establishes a framework through which the City of North Port (“City”) may prevent or mitigate the impacts of, prepare for, respond to, and recover from non-flooding/tropical conditions that could adversely affect the health, safety, and general welfare of City residents and guests. This Annex details each weather hazard that can affect the City and our response from the level of Emergency Operations Center activation perspective.
- B. Purpose & Scope
 - 1. The purpose of this Annex is to describe the unique response/recovery procedures for hazardous weather events. This Annex describes the most frequent weather phenomena that can affect the City.
 - 2. The weather hazards addressed in this Annex are:
 - a. Extreme Cold/Freeze.
 - b. Thunderstorm/Lightning/Tornado.
 - c. Drought.
 - d. Tropical Storm/Hurricane. (See Annex K, Tropical Cyclone Response, for greater detail.)
- C. Assumptions
 - 1. The City will usually receive advanced warning about the onset of hazardous weather conditions but not necessarily the severity or impact location. When hazardous weather information from the National Weather Service or the Florida Division of Emergency Management is received by the Emergency Management Department, it will be transmitted to Weather Spotters, critical facilities, and other governmental agencies.
 - 2. The Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) will not be activated pre-event for most hazardous weather conditions, except for Tropical Storms & Hurricanes.

II. The Response Organization

- A. General: Most responses to weather events will be by on-duty forces. The response to a hazardous weather event will depend on reports from the public

and governmental entities. For major hazardous weather events, the response organization will be as described in the Base Plan, with the Emergency Management Division serving as Lead Agency for pre-event activities and Neighborhood Development Services leading post-disaster recovery activities.

B. Responsibilities

1. As the situation warrants, the Emergency Management Division will:
 - a. Be the Lead Agency responsible for this Annex as well as all pre-event hazardous weather activities;
 - b. Monitor the weather and activate the warning system(s) described in the Base Plan;
 - c. Contact Sarasota County Emergency Management regarding shelter openings;
 - d. Activate the EOC;
 - e. Request the activation of the City Call Center; and
 - f. Request the City Manager declare a State of Local Emergency pursuant to F.S. 252.38(3)(a)(5).
2. Should a disaster occur, Neighborhood Development Services will be Lead Agency for damage/impact assessment and Recovery Operations.
3. The Department of Public Works will close roads and barricade as necessary.
4. The North Port Police Department will assist with evacuation and transportation operations.
5. Emergency Services (Police & Fire) will provide damage/impact assessment.
6. Local Response: In addition to on-duty forces, specialized teams may be needed to assist in the response, such as: CERT, City volunteers, and Skywarn Spotters.

III. Method of Operation

- A. General: When the EOC is activated, the Response Organization will be organized and operate under the Incident Command System as outlined in the Base Plan. This section will address unique activities corresponding to a specific hazardous weather event.
- B. Extreme Cold/Freeze: Extreme cold and freezes are relatively infrequent events in the City. The main threats from these events are to the lives/health of people with insufficient shelter. This part of the plan is implemented when temperatures are expected to drop below 40 degrees, including wind chill, for at least two hours. There is no EOC activation anticipated. Additional information on this type of event is contained in Annex I – Cold Weather.
1. Level Three, Monitoring Phase.
 2. The Emergency Management Division will monitor weather conditions, coordinate the opening of homeless shelters, and disseminate the opening of shelter information to the media and the public.
- C. Thunderstorm/Lightning/Tornado: Severe thunderstorms, which have lightning and the potential for tornadoes, are frequent in the City during the summer and fall months. The EOC is not likely to be activated beyond a Level Three, unless an EF-1 tornado, or greater, occurs somewhere in the City resulting in loss of life and/or property; in which case the EOC will be in a post-disaster type operation. The main activity for City government is to maintain contact with the Weather Service Office and disseminate weather warnings/updates via communication systems as addressed in the Base Plan.
1. Level Three, Monitoring Phase. The Emergency Management Division will monitor the storm system's potential and disseminate the information to those most affected via means identified in the Base Plan.
 2. Level Two, Partial Activation.
 - a. The Emergency Management Division will:
 - (1) Activate the City Call Center based on the impact of the event;
 - (2) Provide on-going situation reporting to the County;

- (3) Maintain contact with the Weather Service and disseminate weather updates and other information to the media and public; and
 - (4) Request shelter openings as needed.
 - b. Neighborhood Development Services will:
 - (1) Provide a liaison to the EOC post-disaster impact; and
 - (2) Assume Lead Agency responsibilities for damage assessment and Recovery Operations.
 - c. North Port Police Department will:
 - (1) Provide a liaison to the EOC as requested; and
 - (2) Coordinate traffic activities
 - d. The Public Information Officer will activate the Crisis Communication Plan in the EOC upon the Incident Commander's request.
 3. Level One, Full Activation. This level of activation would occur if a catastrophic F-3 tornado, or greater, impacted lives and property within the City. Should this, occur, all actions described in the Base Plan will occur.
- D. Drought: The main hazard with drought is the extreme reduction of the water level in wells. In these situations, well services are usually so far behind in drilling new wells that governmental intervention is needed to keep people in their homes. An associated hazard with drought is the possibility of sinkholes. No EOC activation is anticipated.
1. Level Three, Monitoring Phase.
 - a. The Emergency Management Division will:
 - (1) Monitor activities related to the drought, participate in conference calls with the County, and closely coordinate remedial activities such as water rationing information dissemination to the public.

- c. The Emergency Management Division will:
 - (1) Recommend the City Manager declare a State of Local Emergency in order to take prudent action as necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
 - (2) Disseminate warning information and situation reporting to the media and the public;
 - (3) Determine and coordinate area evacuation operations; and
 - (4) Coordinate recovery operations with the County.
- d. The North Port Police Department will:
 - (1) Support shelter operations security; and
 - (2) Assist with evacuation operations, including denying reentry to evacuation area(s).

IV. Reimbursement and Finance

As stipulated in the Base Plan.

V. Training and Exercises

- A. General: Training to support hazardous weather operations is on-going and recurring. The State of Florida and FEMA provide a variety of training courses, as well as Independent Study Courses, at no expense to the individual. The Emergency Management Division can develop a tailored training program for any agency desiring the service.
- B. Training Program Development & Implementation: The Base Plan provides a chart outlining the recommended training. Other/new training offerings will be disseminated via the Emergency Management Division to all City departments.
- C. Training Exercise: The City participates in the State of Florida's Annual Hurricane Exercise conducted in the spring. City departments are encouraged to conduct their own tabletop exercises, especially when procedures and/or equipment change.