



# CHARLOTTESVILLE - ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD



## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

<b>TOPIC: Severe Weather Operations</b>	<b>S.O.P. # 5.5</b>
Approved by: Lair D. Haugh, Chief	Revised: 2/9/2003 Approved:

### I. PURPOSE

- a. To provide a uniform system for response and operations during period of severe weather.

### II. DEFINITION

- a. A severe weather condition exists any time there is:
  - i. A hurricane or tropical depression
  - ii. A tornado
  - iii. Winter weather meeting the following criteria:
    1. Three (3) or more inches of snow or mixed precipitation are predicted to accumulate in the next twelve (12) hour period.
    2. Secondary roads become or remain snow covered
    3. Drifting snow
    4. Significant sleet or freezing rain covering roadways

### III. RESPONSES

- a. Incident responses shall be adjusted in accordance with the following:
  - i. Level 1 Modified Response Plan.
    1. An ambulance will only be dispatched to motor vehicle accidents where:
      - a. There are reported or confirmed injuries
      - b. There is a report of an overturned vehicle
      - c. Other information is available that suggests a high likelihood of injury
      - d. When the arrival of a police unit is delayed greater than thirty (30) minutes.
    2. A heavy squad will be dispatched only to reported or confirmed entrapment.
    3. Fire Department first responders will be notified to respond when Rescue is dispatched, or when there is a reported fire hazard.
  - ii. Level 2 Modified Response Plan.
    1. An ambulance will only be dispatched to motor vehicle accidents where:
      - a. There are confirmed injuries
    2. A heavy squad will only be dispatched only upon confirmation of entrapment.
    3. Notification of fire first-responders for all CARS incidents in Albemarle county.
      - a. The Duty Officer has the discretion to hold CARS units for certain calls, if he/she believes the fire first-responders will be able to mitigate the incident.

- iii. The Duty Officer is responsible for implementing Modified Response Plans and informing the Crew Captain and ECC.

#### IV. PROCEDURES

##### a. Ambulances

- i. The four wheel drive ambulances should be checked, stocked with extra supplies and readied for prolonged service.
- ii. When roads become snow or ice covered, only the four-wheel drive ambulances with qualified, experienced operators shall respond.
  - 1. These shall generally be considered to be:
    - a. Squad operators
    - b. Line officers
    - c. Senior members at the discretion of the Duty Officer
- iii. Once the four wheel drive ambulances are placed in-service the two wheel drive ambulances shall be held in reserve only to respond to calls where there is no four wheel drive ambulance available.
  - 1. These ambulances shall respond at the discretion of the Duty Officer with regard to priority of the call, delay for a four wheel drive ambulance response, and qualified operator availability.

##### b. Heavy Squads

- i. Once a snow emergency has been declared, Squad 134 shall be first due and it's response shall be limited under the Modified Response Plan.
- ii. Squad 133 shall be readied with the appropriate tire chains.
- iii. Once the need for the squad has been verified, the most senior squad operator available should drive. This is preferably a Squad Operator II or Senior Squad Operator.
  - 1. A second operator should be on board for responses during severe weather.
    - a. Only as a last resort should a squad respond driver only during severe weather.
  - 2. If a Squad Operator I is the only operator available, they should make a request for a Squad Operator II or Senior Squad Operator to report to the building.
    - a. Only as a last resort should a Squad Operator I drive during severe weather.