

Central Joint Fire District

Standard Operating Procedure



Central Joint Fire District

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Advisories

SOP Number: 490

Effective Date: 1/8/92

Revised Date:

Approved:

PURPOSE: It is the intent of this standard to provide procedures by which this department shall operate during severe weather advisories.

SCOPE: This standard is to be used by anyone who finds him/herself in a position of command of the department at the time of the issuance of a weather advisory.

ENFORCEMENT: The responsibility for adherence to this standard rests with anyone who finds him/herself in a position of command of the department at the time of the issuance of a weather advisory.

DEFINITIONS:

Severe Thunderstorm Watch – conditions are favorable for the formation of severe thunderstorms.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning – severe thunderstorms have formed and are in the vicinity.

Tornado Watch – conditions are favorable for the formation of a Tornado.

Tornado Warning – a funnel cloud has been sighted in the area.

APPLICATION:

Any time the National Weather Service issues a severe weather advisory the Wood County Sheriff's Office dispatchers notify each fire department within the watch area. It is up to the discretion of the Officer in charge of the fire department as to the action to be taken.

490.1 Reportable Storms

- Tornado or funnel cloud
- Damaging wind
- Hail
- Heavy rain (over 1"/hr or 2"/3hr)
- Flooding which begins to cover roads or causes evacuation
- Freezing rain

490.2 Severe Thunderstorm Watch is to be monitored closely – both as to local conditions and to radio traffic on the fire and sheriff's bands.

- 490.3 Severe Thunderstorm Warning and local conditions indicating thunderstorms, a response having limited personnel on station is advised. Apparatus shall stage at Liberty Hi and Mermill to monitor storm.
- 490.4 Tornado Watch will activate and at least one truck will be stationed in the area of Mermill Rd. and Liberty Hi Rd. As storms normally approach from the west, this is a good spotting location.
- 490.5 Tornado Warning will activate the full roster to duty. Two other trucks shall be stationed as the situation dictates. If a funnel cloud, either aloft or touching the ground is reported or observed and may affect the fire district, the alert siren will be activated and every effort shall be made to warn residents of the approach of the tornado.
- 490.6 Flood Watch is to be monitored closely – both as to local conditions and to radio traffic on the fire and sheriff’s bands.
- 490.7 Flood Warning and local conditions indicating imminent flooding, a response having limited personnel on station is advised.
- 490.8 Snowstorm/winter weather advisory and local conditions indicating severe winter weather, a response having limited personnel on station is advised.