



Standard Operating Guidelines
Section 151.0

SECTION:		GUIDELINE:	
151.0		Severe weather related response	
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Purpose: Outline proper and safe responses to severe storm warnings and storm responses.

Storm Watches: When the National Weather Service (NWS) issues watches, Evansville Fire District personnel are not to report to the Station. A watch merely indicates there is a possibility of storms, but no specific or immediate threat. Although with a watch, warnings can sometimes follow when a storm develops in the EVFD area.

Severe storm warnings:

Severe thunderstorm warning response: All available personnel shall respond to Station if the storm is approaching or will be affecting the Evansville Fire District (EVFD) coverage area. 1st priority of personnel is to be sure their family is in a safe place within their home. Fire apparatus should remain within the Fire Station if winds are in excess of 50 MPH, if hail is expected with the approaching storm or if straight line winds are expected. If Fire Apparatus leaves the Station during the storm for a 911 call, caution should be taken to only respond with a minimum number of fire apparatus and personnel based on the call, this decision shall be made by the Officer in charge (OIC) or senior Firefighter at the Station. The OIC or senior Firefighter at the Station shall monitor the radar and weather conditions, if tornadic action is seen or documented by the National Weather Service or local television meteorologists, then follow the Tornado warning response protocol below.

Tornado warning response: All available personnel shall respond to Station upon activation of Fire pager from Rock County 911 Center if the tornado warning will affect the Evansville Fire District (EVFD) response area or adjoining areas where it will eventually affect the EVFD area. 1st priority of personnel is to be sure their family is in a safe place within their home.

It will be the discretion of the Officer in Charge (OIC) or Senior Firefighter at the Station if trucks will be moved out of the Station. The following criteria shall be used in making this decision.

1. Will possible tornado affect the EVFD Station and the EVFD response area.
2. Will moving the fire apparatus out of the station be safer than leaving apparatus in Station. (strong winds, straight line winds, hail, down wires, down trees, etc)
3. Moving fire apparatus to safe locations in the response area is important – move to an area where Firefighters can take cover in a structure if needed. Fire apparatus should obviously be positioned to be located out of the forecasted path of the tornado, this may require the Fire Apparatus to be located out of our response area to avoid the main threat. Communications between the Fire Station OIC and Fire Apparatus personnel should be on

the “red” channel and be in constant contact with the movement of storm, and other possible pop up storms or tornadic activities base on radar and similar local reports.

Example: If tornado is spotted at Hwy C and Hwy 104 and is moving NE towards Hwy 14 and Butts Corner Rd, fire apparatus should taken south and east of Evansville.

If tornado is spotted at Hwy 59 and Hwy 213, then fire apparatus should be relocated north and west of Evansville.

A. One Engine and one tender should be moved together as a task force.

B. Trained weather spotters may take a brush truck to an area to watch and report to the Station on the approaching weather.

C. Remaining Fire Apparatus should remain in Station unless spotted tornado is moving towards the City of Evansville, then the OIC shall make the decision based on forecasted movement of the tornado to move all Apparatus to a safe location out of the tornadoes expected path.

4. Once storm has passed, the EVFD shall assess the possible damage and need for other or additional assistance due to the storm’s damages throughout the EVFD response area.

Response after severe storm or tornado has affected EVFD response area:

1. Life Safety of all residents shall be the EVFD main priority in responding after a severe storm event.

2. In the event of widespread destruction of commercial buildings, multifamily dwellings and dwelling units, preservation of life shall be the of utmost priority. Buildings shall be searched in the following priority.

A. Nursing Homes, assisted living facilities and schools shall be searched and checked as a top priority;

B. Dwellings and multifamily dwellings shall be searched for trapped occupants next;

C. Commercial retail occupancies shall be searched next;

D. Industrial facilities shall be searched next;

3. Upon widespread catastrophic damage, the EVFD coverage area shall be divided up into small, logical geographically areas for search teams to properly coordinate searches of the above occupancies. Most severely damaged areas to be searched 1st. All areas shall be documented before and after the searches are completed with the results. Documentation shall include but not limited to the following:

A. Search Party names, Department or service Agency affiliated with the specific search.

B. Area searched – Perimeter documented by streets or roads. If concentrating on certain types of facilities, then name of facilities searched.

C. Results of persons found in area, addresses of properties searched, number of persons rescued, number of persons deceased, unstable buildings, collapsed buildings, buildings unable to be searched due to condition of building.

D. Spray paint front of building with evidence of search complete, “OK” signifies building searched and no occupants, “US” Unstable = Uninhabitable until Building Inspector approves occupancy, “NOK” not OK = deceased occupant(s).

4. Unified Command shall be set up with other Agencies involved in the operation, such as but not limited to the City of Evansville or affected Township Administration, the Evansville Police and EMS Departments, Rock County Sheriffs Dept, Rock County Public Works Dept., and Rock County Emergency Management if needed within the Command structure.

The Rock County Emergency Management shall be notified as soon as possible after the storm passes of the needs for immediate response for life safety and preservation of the Citizens of the Evansville Fire District area.

Green County Agencies, such as listed above for Rock County, may need to be notified if this also affects the Town of Brooklyn.

5. Mutual aid shall be requested thru the MABAS system, if Countywide disaster, the Countywide MABAS card should be assessed with the Division 104 MABAS Duty Officer to see if this would be beneficial to call and have a Countywide coordinated response.

