

Weather Emergencies

In the event that Thames E.M.S. is faced with a weather event that disrupts the normal day-to-day operations of the service, the enclosed guidelines will be followed. In all instances, the Duty Manager will contact the General Manager, or his designate, for direction and support.

"Pre-planning" is the key for most weather related contingencies.

WINTER STORMS

- Ensure a sufficient stock of medical related supplies are available.
- Instruct staff to carry their complete winter parka and other protective apparel with them at all times.
- Contact the vehicle fuel supplier and request an emergent delivery.
- Have all vehicle fuel tanks filled.
- Contact the Duty Manager for Fleet and ascertain the availability or requirements of engine and fuel additives.
- Contact the snow removal service for each station to ensure plowing will be completed routinely.
- If the weather is beginning to cause continued delays in call response, contact CACC and have all low priority calls cancelled or re-scheduled.
- Routinely monitor weather information from the Weather Network or the Environment Canada FM broadcast (162.475 mhz)
- Ensure interruptions to staffing patterns are minimized. Contact off-duty staff members regarding their travel alternatives and make provisions for on-duty staff to stay at station if they are unable to travel home.
- If transportation assistance is required contact:
 - London City Police
 - A 4 x 4 or snowmobile club
 - City and County transportation departments (road plows)
 - Provincial / Federal Military assistance (4 x 4 ambulances and A.P.C.'s)
- Continue communications with senior staff from all allied agencies, the City and County.

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TORNADOS

Anytime unseasonably warm and humid conditions exist, the possibility of severe thunderstorms that may spawn tornados increases. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. Monitor weather radio (162.475 mhz.), television broadcasts and watch the sky for approaching thunderstorms.

Tornado Watch: Weather conditions are right for the formation of tornadoes.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.

If there is imminent danger that a tornado or tornadic activity may strike any part of the County or City, the Duty Manager will ensure the following procedures are followed.

- Advise all station staff (**CACC Base Page**) in the area of tornado activity, to seek shelter immediately. Shelter should be sought under a table in a basement. For single level stations, have staff move to a small interior room (washroom) and avoid all windows. Crouch by a wall on the opposite side of the approaching direction of travel of the tornado.
- If staff is mobile, instruct (**via CACC**) to have crew drive away from the storm at a right angle. If they are unable to do so, instruct them to abandon the ambulance and seek shelter in a ditch, culvert or under a low bridge. **DO NOT GET CAUGHT IN A VEHICLE.**
- Contact the General Manager or his designate.
- Contact the London CACC Supervisor and advise of the potential situation.
- Maintain a state of high alert until the danger has passed.
- If there is a touch down, respond accordingly.
- Ensure all staff wears their protective equipment.
- Implement the Thames EMS Emergency Plan as required.

FLOODS

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ELGIN – ST. THOMAS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Flooding in this part of the Province would normally result from a rapid spring thaw of the snow pack, or from prolonged heavy rains. A flood situation generally will allow time to prepare. If rising floodwaters would indicate that a station(s) would be affected, please ensure the following.

- Remove all ambulances to another station.
- Staff normally assigned to this station(s) will have their deployment modified to meet that of the affected area.
- Ensure the safe storage of all supplies and electronics.
- Communicate the change in status of this station(s) to London CACC.
- Senior Administration will contact the property owner, and a salvage company for cleanup operations.
- Management will brief crews working in and around the affected area(s).
- London CACC will supply Thames EMS with a list of closed roads and any institutions that are adversely affected.

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