



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

NO. 811
PAGE 1 OF 3
DATE June 9, 1994
DIRECTOR APPROVAL
[Signature]

TITLE OPERATIONS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

PURPOSE

- 1.0 To establish a policy and procedure governing actions of Bureau of Operations personnel during periods of extreme cold or heat.

APPLICABILITY

- 2.0 Bureau of Operations Personnel.

- 2.1  This policy was developed in cooperation with the International Association of Firefighters Local 1664.

DEFINITIONS

- 3.0 Air Temperature or Temperature - An indicator of the amount of heat in the air, measured in degrees Fahrenheit.
- 3.1 Heat Index - Chart used to calculate humidity.
- 3.2 Humidity - An indicator of the amount of moisture in air, identified as a percentage.
- 3.3 Humiture - A combination of air temperature and humidity that can adversely affect the human body.
- 3.4 Outdoor Activities - Activities which expose personnel to the elements for the majority of the activity period. Examples include outdoor drills. Building inspections and preplanning activities which are conducted inside of climate controlled occupancies do not constitute outdoor activities.
- 3.5 Windchill Factor - A combination of wind velocity and air temperature and the effect of those factors on exposed human skin.
- 3.6 Windchill Factor Chart - Chart used to calculate windchill factors.

POLICY

- 4.0 The Department of Fire and Rescue Services is committed to maintaining a peak performance work force at all times.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G.A.", written over the "DIRECTOR APPROVAL" text.

- 4.1 DFRS recognizes that certain weather conditions expose personnel to harsh extremes which could have a negative impact on physical performance levels.
- 4.2 Nothing in this policy shall preclude or prevent the response of personnel to emergency incidents.
- 4.3 Nothing in this policy shall preclude or prevent the performance of activities which are vital to the delivery of emergency service (e.g., shoveling snow from station aprons or hydrants, repacking hose on apparatus, cleaning tools and appliances, decontaminating apparatus, tools, running gear, etc.)
- 4.4 If the humidity is between 96° and 105°, outside strenuous physical training activities or other similar activities will be cancelled or rescheduled.
- 4.5 Routine outdoor activities must be cancelled or rescheduled when:
 - a. Ice and snow begin to accumulate on the ground.
 - b. The National Weather Service declares that Montgomery County is under a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning.
 - c. When the windchill factor reaches 20° or below, or the humidity is above 105°.

Exception to this policy may be authorized by the Director or his designee, who will normally be the Duty Chief.
- 4.6 When the windchill is above 20° or the humidity is 95° or less, all activities will continue as scheduled.
- 4.7 During periods when non-emergency activities are curtailed, the station officer must schedule another appropriate activity for the period.
- 4.8 When the temperature is 32°F or below, and with the approval of the station officer, personnel may substitute particular items of clothing (outerwear) in order to ensure personal safety and welfare. Such approval by the Station OIC to deviate from the uniform policy may be authorized if the employee's safety and welfare would otherwise be jeopardized. It is preferred that any outer wear approved by the Station OIC be navy blue in color.



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4.9 Personnel who have not been issued a coat may be authorized by their station officer to wear their personal coat. Station officers must ensure that personal coats are appropriate.

4.10 ALS & BLS personnel may wear footwear that provides warmth and traction during periods of accumulated ice and snow.

PROCEDURE

5.0 During periods of extreme weather, the Duty Chief must monitor weather conditions on an hourly basis using National Weather Service data.

5.1 When the humidity is between 96° and 105°F ECC will announce: "The Humiture is _____. Outside strenuous activities are cancelled."

5.2 The Duty Chief must contact the ECC Supervisor and request a radio announcement cancelling all outdoor activities when:

- a. The air temperature is 20° F or below for windchill.
- b. The humidity is 105° F or above.

5.3 Station officers must make a log entry to reflect the notification and schedule a substitute activity. The substitute activity must be recorded on the daily activity report.

5.4 The Duty Chief must have a second announcement made resuming activities when the windchill rises above 20° F or the humidity falls below 96° F.

5.5 The Duty Chief may approve an exemption for cause.

ATTACHMENTS

6.0 DFRS Windchill Factor Chart.

6.1 Heat Index.

CANCELLATION

7.0 DFRS Policy #811; dated 05/03/89 is cancelled.

0218a

D F R S W I N D C H I L L F A C T O R C H A R T

WIND OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE IN FAHRENHEIT

WIND MPH	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50																
5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50													
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H E A T I N D E X

AIR TEMPERATURE
 70° 75° 80° 85° 90° 95° 100° 105° 110° 115° 120°

RELATIVE HUMIDITY	APPARENT TEMPERATURE	70°	75°	80°	85°	90°	95°	100°	105°	110°	115°	120°
0%	64°	69°	73°	78°	83°	87°	91°	95°	99°	103°	107°	
10%	65°	70°	75°	80°	85°	90°	95°	100°	105°	111°	116°	
20%	66°	72°	77°	82°	87°	93°	99°	105°	112°	120°	130°	
30%	67°	73°	78°	84°	90°	96°	104°	113°	123°	135°	148°	
40%	68°	74°	79°	86°	93°	101°	110°	122°	137°	151°		
50%	69°	75°	81°	88°	96°	107°	120°	135°	150°			
60%	70°	76°	82°	90°	100°	114°	132°	149°				
70%	70°	77°	85°	93°	106°	124°	144°					
80%	71°	78°	86°	97°	113°	136°	157°					
90%	71°	79°	88°	102°	122°	150°	170°					
100%	72°	80°	91°	108°	133°	166°						