Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Operations**	**Referral No.** **O-40**	**Subject:** **Severe Weather Stand-by**	**Date Issued** **3/06**	**Date Revised** **3/08**

Purpose:

- To ensure initiation of standby and response when a severe weather watch or warning is issued.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel wear the proper personal protective equipment.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command.
  - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper safety equipment and to operate in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- General:
  - An officer may request dispatch to page for additional personnel to report to the station, for stand-by, if severe weather is likely to inhibit a timely response of personnel in the event of an emergency.
  - The Fire Chief shall give authorization for additional staffing.
  - In the event of severe weather, the county will activate the severe weather sirens.
- Misc:
  - In the event that civilians seek shelter at the fire department, the training room will be made available and a sign in sheet will be provided for accountability.
- **Severe Weather:**
  - *Severe Thunderstorm Watch / Warning:*
    - Personnel shall use caution when outdoors.
    - Unnecessary electronic equipment shall be turned off.
  - *Tornado Watch:*
    - Dispatch shall initiate a text page to all personnel advising of a tornado watch.
    - Personnel shall remain in a high state of readiness and watch the weather radar.
  - *Tornado Warning:*
    - Dispatch shall initiate a tone and text page to all personnel advising of the warning.
    - Available personnel shall report to the station.

- In poor weather conditions (heavy rain, hail, limiting visibility, or the tornado's on the ground) do not respond until it is safe.
- In the event of a tornado, personnel on station shall report to the basement. Dispatching will be done from the basement until it is safe to go back up to the main level of the station.

- **Snow Emergencies**:
  - *Level 1:*
    - Personnel use extreme caution on roadways.
    - All unnecessary travel shall be avoided.
  - *Level 2:*
    - In addition to above, **Truck 1305** may respond on EMS calls with a Medic Unit.
  - *Level 3:*
    - In addition to above, all non-emergency travel shall be prohibited.
    - Additional personnel shall be requested to stand-by at the station.
    - **Truck 5** shall respond on all EMS calls in addition to the Medic Unit.
    - The Bath Twp. Road/Bridge Department shall be notified of the location of emergency incidents.

- In the event of a tornado, the on duty crew along with the dispatcher will report to the basement. Dispatching will be done from the basement until it is safe to go back up to the main level of the station.
- In the event of severe weather, the county will activate the severe weather sirens.

Definitions:

- **Snow Emergencies:**
  - **LEVEL 1 – ROADWAY ADVISORY:** Roadways are snow or ice covered with possible drifting. Driving conditions are hazardous. Extreme caution is advised.
  - **LEVEL 2 – ROADWAY WARNING:** All roadways are extremely dangerous due to heavy, drifted or blowing snow. Some roads may become impassable causing danger to stranded drivers and occupants. Only motorists with extreme necessity and specialized equipment should attempt to drive in these unsafe conditions. In the interest of public safety, motorists are strongly advised to stay off roadways until conditions improve.
  - **LEVEL 3 – STATE OF EMERGENCY:** Extremely dangerous conditions exist. Travel should be limited to those persons with emergencies or extreme necessity.
- **Severe Weather:**
  - **Tornado Watch:** A tornado watch is issued when atmospheric conditions could cause tornadoes to form, although none have formed yet.
  - **Tornado Warning:** A tornado warning means that a tornado is actually present and moving in the warn vicinity. Residents should take immediate shelter in a tornado warning.