

	JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	Initial: 01-12-2009 Revised:
	SOP#: FIRE 3-09	
	Subject: Storm Mode Operations	

STORM MODE OPERATIONS

A. PURPOSE

During periods of extreme dispatch activity, such as during thunderstorms, The Center may declare "Storm Mode Operations". The Center may also declare "Storm Mode Operations" in advance of such conditions based upon weather warnings. In such instances, to the greatest extent possible, the following guidelines will be followed:

B. PROCEDURE

1. The following announcement shall alert all stations to the activation of "Storm Mode Operations":

Jefferson:{Alert Tone}. "Attention all stations in Jefferson County, Storm Mode Operations will take effect at 2000 hours this date."

or,

Jefferson:{Alert Tone}. "Attention all stations in Jefferson County, Storm Mode Operations are now in effect."

When conditions warrant, Storm Mode Operations shall be lifted with the following announcement:

Jefferson:{Alert Tone}. "Attention all stations in Jefferson County, Storm Mode Operations have been lifted."

2. As much as is possible, non-emergency calls will be handled by phone or fax to stations that are already out on incidents. But, as the call volume increases, these may become dispatch calls, that is to say that departments that have not yet been dispatched on storm calls maybe dispatched immediately by transmitting alarm tones.
3. All departments should make maximum use of telephone, both conventional and cellular. When Storm Mode Operations are in effect, units responding on non-emergency conditions should not call responding to Jefferson. If an essential unit has responded on a non-emergency incident determines after arriving on scene that they are "committed" to that incident and not available for any other call, regardless of what the nature of that call is, then that unit should report to Jefferson that they are on scene and committed to that call. The dispatcher will not recommend that unit for subsequent dispatches until the unit reports available or in service.

4. During extreme conditions, non-emergency calls, once dispatched to the station by telephone or fax, are closed in CAD. The station is assigned to the call and no unit times are available later.
5. As units in the field complete their assignments, they should call by phone to inquire about other dispatches, first calling their stations, then The Center if necessary.
6. All personnel should make every effort to limit radio use in an effort to keep channels clear for actual emergency calls.
7. Alarm assignments may be reduced in order to better manage and conserve resources.
8. During Storm Mode Operations or during other unusual events, such as a communications equipment failure, an "all call" may be transmitted. This involves simultaneously activating all fire departments, and possibly all EMS departments, in the County. The purpose of the "all call" is to quickly staff the stations and to make telephone dispatch possible. When an "all call" is activated, Jefferson will advise of the situation which has brought about the "all call" and give dispatches or orders. Jefferson will also instruct stations on the means by which stations are to acknowledge. Depending on the event(s) that prompted the "all call" and conditions in The Center, stations may be instructed to acknowledge by radio, by telephone, by roll call, or to not acknowledge at all.