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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Tornado Alerts**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

When weather conditions are deemed severe and the potential of a tornado exists by either the weather services, police agencies, or the officers of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department, a tornado alert may be issued.

**Procedure:**

The following two types of alert may be issued.

* Watch: This alert indicates that the responsible agency, generally the National Weather Service, feels that the conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado.
* Warning: This alert indicates that a tornado or funnel cloud has been spotted by another department or agency within the immediate vicinity of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The warning may or may not have been issued by Dispatch.

Upon being alerted to a tornado warning, members are to report to the fire station.

Tornado Siren Activation SOG for the siren warning activation procedure. The procedure should be initiated by the first member arrive at the station after being alerted for a tornado warning. Vehicles will be dispatched to the proper locations as detailed in the Hazardous Weather Vehicle Deployment SOG

The warning siren at the fire station is to be used to communicate to the city residents that a tornado has been spotted in the general vicinity and that shelter should be sought immediately.

The siren will be activated for a continuous blast for a period of three (3) minutes by moving the switch marked on the siren control box to the position marked “TORNADO", if so equipped. After the three minute blast move the switch to the center positron for normal operation.

No radio transmissions will take place except to report the existence and location of a tornado. The base radio will be manned at all times throughout the incident until the all clear is issued by the incident commander.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

Memphis (MI) Fire Department