



## Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Emergency Storm Plan

### Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts)

**Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts)**: Permanent restoration of private and public property. Return to normal service, repair and replace of Fort Lauderdale Fire Department assets, complete post incident analysis, review/revise policies and procedures.

### INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS

During and after storm impact, there is a real possibility of short and long-term disruptions of communications. Radio and cellular phone power, relay, and transmission facilities may be destroyed or severely damaged. Electric and telephone lines may be down for extended periods and their sources of power may not be in service. Damage to infrastructure and debris-laden roadways may prevent face-to-face contact between and among units and command officers.

It is important that emergency personnel start operations as soon as conditions permit, even if all communications are lost. The procedures in the Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts) section of the Emergency Storm Plan applies when normal communications exist. The procedures in this section are to be used by personnel during any periods when contact with supervisors and/or other units are not possible. Safety of personnel is paramount and all personnel are expected to use good judgment.

Even though radio communications may be operational, the public's ability to contact emergency organizations may not exist. Most telephone and power lines in the city are above ground on poles. The survivability of radio towers may be greater than power and telephone line poles. If that situation exists, the procedures in this section should be used to render assistance to citizens when they are unable to contact emergency services.

Until communications are established with Command, units should limit their responses to zones that correspond to their station number. ***For example, Engine 47 should try to stay within the 47 zones. Rational judgment would allow for logical exceptions, such as, Engine 88 responding to zone 53 because the 88 zones surround the airport.***

## **Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts)**

### **INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS**

After the decision is made to commence outside operations, personnel should first do the following:

- Check station perimeter for anyone who may have made their way to the station
- Medical aid may be needed
- Temporary shelter may be needed until permanent shelter can be arranged
- Check station apparatus, vehicles, and equipment for damage or conditions that need immediate attention
- Go to emergency power if necessary
- Make regular and constant attempts to establish communications with Command and other units
- If safety permits, use the roof or hose tower of the station to develop a Disaster Assessment Snapshot of the areas around the station, and survey for fire or other conditions that may need immediate attention. Disaster Assessment Snapshot Report Instructions and procedures are located in the Disaster Damage Assessment Annex.

#### **Civilian Contact:**

Direct contact by persons needing assistance will definitely occur. Direct contact requests for assistance must be addressed and cannot be bypassed. Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts) Protocols related to fire, medical, hazardous materials and special operations are located in the Operations Protocol section.

#### **Procedures**

- Personnel to establish priorities should use the areas of concern listed in this section. Not all areas of the city are the same, so priorities may differ. For example, not all parts of the city contain trailer parks or large hazardous material storage and/or manufacturing facilities. All the items listed below are important, but their order of appearance does not necessarily reflect their priority.
- Officers should not assume that any type of structure, facility, complex, or residence has been evacuated, for that is often not the case.
- There will be situations where no serious life safety emergency exists but firefighters may have to organize citizens so they can help themselves.
- During Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts) operations, officers shall make a list of all places, situations, or groups that may need assistance from private or government agencies, such as H.R.S., Red Cross, Salvation Army, F.E.M.A., etc. After communications are restored, the list shall be given to Command so the proper agencies can be notified.

There may be requests for assistance from citizens who are not injured and for situations where no life hazard or potential for it exists. Fire Rescue personnel should explain that the highest priority during post impact operations is life safety. Debris removal and clean up problems will be addressed after all life safety situations are checked. Officers shall establish priorities based on possible life safety hazards and their knowledge of the area.

## Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts)

### INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS

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- **Trailer Parks and Pre-Fabricated Structures**
  - Several recent storms demonstrated vulnerability of these and similar structures
  - The debris created by wind driven structural failure of the structures may cause extensive damage to surrounding areas, resulting in injured citizens.
- **Medical Complexes**
  - The vulnerability of medical complexes and similar facilities may vary.
    - Large hospitals such Broward General, and Holy Cross well staffed with medical, security, and maintenance personnel and may not need Fire-Rescue services, unless fire or other type of hazardous conditions exist.
    - Smaller hospitals and medical facilities are not as well staffed or equipped and are more susceptible to storm related damage and occupants if any, may need assistance and aid.
- **Senior Citizen Complexes, Retirement, and Nursing Homes**
  - Often, the structures in this category are no better protected than private residences, their staffs may not be there, and their occupants often need assistance during normal conditions.
  - These complexes should be checked carefully.
- **Hotels and Motels**
  - Storm protection in these occupancies is uncertain at best.
  - Evacuation of these types of occupancies, especially near the coast, is usually mandatory.
  - The best efforts of the police and the occupancy's management cannot guarantee total evacuation, so they must be checked.
- **Schools**
  - Unless these and similar facilities are being used for shelters, they should be empty.
  - Citizens whose dwellings have been damaged or who have been injured may go to schools because they have nowhere else.
  - During Hurricane Andrew, schools fared poorly and should be checked.
- **Nurseries and Day Care Facilities**
  - These structures are often converted family dwellings and storm protection may be poor.
  - They should be checked thoroughly as people may have used the facility as an unauthorized shelter.
- **Authorized Shelters**
  - Shelters are usually schools or similar facilities and several were hit hard during Andrew.
  - They are not as strong as they look and their roofs may not stand under the amounts of water that a wet hurricane can deliver in a short period of time.
  - They may be very crowded.
  - As shelters they may have people from organizations such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army and City/County personnel may be base
- **Industrial/Manufacturing Complexes**
  - These complexes may have occupants for reasons of safety and/or security.
  - Storm damage may cause fires or hazardous materials incidents.

## Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts)

### INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS

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### Fort Lauderdale Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department and Emergency Management has been training civilians from the City of Fort Lauderdale to be members of the Fort Lauderdale Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

- **CERT members have been training in the following areas:**
  - Light Search and Rescue
  - Fire Suppression of small fires (fire extinguisher training)
  - First Aid practices including heart saver CPR.
  - Hazardous Material recognition
  - Medical Operations/ Triaging
  - NIMS/Incident Command Training
  - Locating and shutting off gas
  
- **CERT Recognition & Equipment**
  - CERT members will be wearing a “Green T-Shirt” with Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department logo on the front. The words “Fort Lauderdale CERT” on the back of the T-Shirt.
  - Picture identification cards with CERT logo as T-Shirt.
  - CERT Baseball hat
  - CERT Leadership will have Radios that are on repeater, team members will have only one block radius radios.
  - CERT Green Bag and Red Medical bag with limited medical supplies
  - CERT Teams have a Radio Repeater located at the SunTrust Bank Tower in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Channel 1 is on the repeater.
  
- **CERT Objectives:**
  - Assists neighbors in storm preparation.
  - Assist other citizens until arrival of fire rescue and/or police personnel.
  - Gather information that can be used by fire rescue and police personnel to address emergency situations during the post impact stage.
    - Injured people
    - Possible hazardous materials survey
    - Hazardous conditions such as:
      - Unsafe structures
      - Downed power lines
      - Unsanitary conditions
      - Looting/Crime situations
  
- CERT member have been trained and equipped to address the above items in limited ways.
- CERT members understand that they are to address situations only to the limits of their training and equipment.
- CERT members understand that they do not have the authority of police and/or firefighter/paramedics.

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### INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS

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## Fort Lauderdale Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

### Fire-Rescue Department interaction with CERT Teams:

#### □ Level V: Normal/Preparedness:

- During this level of Normal/Preparedness, the Emergency Management Coordinator and also the CERT Coordinator for the City of Fort Lauderdale CERT Team will recruit, train, and assignment new CERT members according the nearest fire station that services their area.
- CERT Coordinator will provide monthly advance training for all CERT Graduates.
- CERT members will drill on a monthly basis to keep skills learned in basic training update.
- CERT members will have the opportunity to participate in Special Events/Details with Fire-Rescue Department.

#### □ Level IV: Monitoring of Storm:

- During the approaching storm, when the department goes into Monitoring level, CERT Coordinator will email CERT member's updates on the Fire Department Emergency Level. At this time all CERT members will monitor the storm and receive updates form CERT Coordinator.

#### □ Level III: Storm Watch:

- CERT Coordinator will activate via email all CERT Leadership Team.
- CERT Coordinator will request that all CERT members complete the following:
  - Conduct a quick assessment of their gear
  - Request at this Level III: Storm Watch any gear necessary for full activation of CERT Teams.
  - Have all CERT Leadership members conduct a call down assessment of their team members
  - Have all CERT members check their family disaster plan.

#### □ Level II: Storm Warning (Full Activation):

- CERT Coordinator will request the full activation of the CERT Teams
- CERT Coordinator will request that all necessary final preparedness of personnel property and personnel plan must be completed at this time
- CERT Coordinator will request the following from CERT Leadership Team:
  - List of all CERT members by Fire-Station ready to respond
  - List of all possible CERT Triage Sites and Command Post Stations
  - Complete a Radio Check with all CERT Leadership Members
  - Provide One CERT Battalion Chief with extra medical operations supplies
  - Provide one CERT Assistant/Deputy Chief with extra medical operations supplies
  - Provide Battalion Chiefs with extra radio batteries
  - Set up Conference calls with CERT Leadership and CERT Chief/Deputy.

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### **INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS**

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## **Fort Lauderdale Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)**

- **Level I: Impact/Post Emergency (Recovery Efforts):**
  - CERT members will start to assist with checking their neighborhoods first
  - CERT has the authority to start CERT operations during the following:
    - CERT Coordinator gives the all clear if communications are available
    - CERT members will meet at a rally point after the storm if they can get out
    - CERT Captain will provide Operations assignments
    - CERT will venture when it is safe after the storm
  - CERT members can be used to assist fire-rescues and police personnel.
  - CERT members will communicate via their CERT Area Captains information of injured people, hazardous conditions, and other information to Fire-Rescue personnel.
  - CERT members via their CERT Area Captain will provide both fire and police with information that will help both departments establish priorities for Post Emergency (recovery efforts) activities.