CITY OF ROGERS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

HAZARDOUS WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN
# CITY OF ROGERS
## EMERGENCY RESPONSE FRAMEWORK
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I. Introduction

Hazardous weather refers to any dangerous meteorological or hydro-meteorological phenomena, of varying duration, with risk of causing major damage, serious social disruption and loss of human life. While types of severe weather phenomena can vary depending on the latitude, altitude, topography, and atmospheric conditions of a region, general forms of severe weather include: thunderstorms, hailstorms, tornadoes, heavy precipitation, and damaging downburst winds. More localized severe weather phenomena are characterized by blizzards, snowstorms, ice storms, hurricanes, and dust storms that can only occur at certain regions. Extreme temperature variations caused by heat waves and cold waves can also be considered forms of severe weather.

Historically, hazardous weather events including winter weather, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes have been relatively frequent in and near the City of Rogers. With adequate warning and timely reaction by the City and its residents, injury and loss of life can be reduced. Due to rapid development of tornadoes, and severe weather events; public awareness, timely warning, and appropriate dissemination of information are the keys to a successful response.

II. Concept of Operations

A. The HWRP is organized in a manner consistent with the City of Rogers Emergency Response Framework in order to provide planning and coordination prior to and during the immediate onset of a hazardous weather event impacting the City of Rogers.

B. The City’s Emergency Response Framework will be enacted immediately following a significant weather impact within the City. The City’s response and recovery initiatives will be managed utilizing the policies and procedures outlines within the ERF.

C. The City’s Emergency Operations Center will be activated as deemed necessary by the Emergency Management Agency.

III. Hazardous Weather Classification

A. Hazardous Weather Statements

The National Weather Service uses a multi-tier system of weather statements to notify the public of threatening hazardous weather risks. These statements are used in conjunction with specific weather phenomena to convey different levels of risk. In order of increasing risk, these statements are:

1. Outlook

A hazardous weather outlook is issued daily to indicate that a hazardous weather or hydrologic event may occur in the next several days. The outlook will include information about potential severe thunderstorms, heavy rain or, winter weather, extremes of heat or cold, etc., that may develop over the next 7 days with an emphasis on the first 24 hours of the forecast. It is intended to provide information to those who need
considerable lead time to prepare for the event (emergency management agencies, Skywarn spotters, etc.).

2. Advisory

An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent, or likely. Advisories are for "less serious" conditions than warnings that may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.

3. Watch

A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible.

4. Warning

A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent, or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action.

B. Hazardous Weather Events

The NWS divides hazardous weather conditions into three types of hazardous weather and hydrologic events:

1. Severe local storms

These are short-fused, small scale hazardous weather or hydrologic events produced by thunderstorms, including large hail, damaging winds, tornadoes, and flash floods.

2. Winter storms

These are weather hazards associated with freezing or frozen precipitation (freezing rain, sleet, snow) or combined effects of winter precipitation and strong winds.

3. Other hazards

Weather hazards not directly associated with thunderstorms or winter storms including extreme heat or cold, dense fog, high winds, river flooding, and lakeshore flooding.
III. Severe Local Storms

Severe Local Storms are short-fused, small scale hazardous weather or hydrologic events produced by thunderstorms, including large hail, damaging winds, tornadoes, and flash floods.

A. Flood Watch

Issued to inform the public and cooperating agencies that current and developing hydro-meteorological conditions are such that there is a threat of flooding, but the occurrence is neither certain nor imminent.

Upon the issuance of a flood watch impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

No Action Taken

B. Flood Warning

In hydrologic terms, a release by the NWS to inform the public of flooding along larger streams in which there is a serious threat to life or property. A flood warning will usually contain river stage (level) forecasts.

Upon the issuance of a flood warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

No Action Taken

C. Flash Flood Watch

Issued to indicate current or developing hydrologic conditions that are favorable for flash flooding in and close to the watch area, but the occurrence is neither certain or imminent.

Upon the issuance of a flash flood watch impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

No Action Taken

D. Flash Flood Warning

Issued to inform the public, emergency management and other cooperating agencies that flash flooding is in progress, imminent, or highly likely.

Flash flooding is a rapid and extreme flow of high water into a normally dry area, or a rapid water level rise in a stream or creek above a predetermined flood level, beginning within six hours of the causative event (e.g., intense rainfall, dam failure, ice jam). However, the actual time threshold may vary in different parts of the country. Ongoing flooding can intensify to flash flooding in cases where intense rainfall results in a rapid surge of rising flood waters.

Upon the issuance of a flash flood warning impacting the City’s Zone of Protection the following actions will be taken:
1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

2. City administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

3. The City Warning Point will broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.

4. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.

E. Severe Thunder Storm Watch

A Severe Thunder Storm Watch means weather conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in the watch area.

Upon the issuance of a severe thunderstorm watch impacting the City the following actions will take place:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

F. Severe Thunderstorm Warning

This is issued when either a severe thunderstorm is indicated by the WSR-88D radar or a spotter reports a thunderstorm producing hail 3/4 inch or larger in diameter and/or winds equal or exceed 58 miles an hour; therefore, people in the affected area should seek safe shelter immediately. Severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes with little or no advance warning. Lightning frequency is not a criteria for issuing a severe thunderstorm warning. They are usually issued for a duration of one hour. They can be issued without a Severe Thunderstorm Watch being already in effect.

Upon the issuance of a severe thunderstorm warning impacting the City’s Zone of Protection the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

3. The City Warning Point will broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.

4. The City Warning Point will activate the emergency alert monitors.

5. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.
G. Tornado Watch

This is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. Their size can vary depending on the weather situation. They are usually issued for a duration of 4 to 8 hours. They normally are issued well in advance of the actual occurrence of severe weather. During the watch, people should review tornado safety rules and be prepared to move to a place of safety if threatening weather approaches.

A Tornado Watch is issued by the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) in Norman, Oklahoma. Prior to the issuance of a Tornado Watch, SPC will usually contact the affected local National Weather Forecast Office (NWFO) and they will discuss what their current thinking is on the weather situation. Afterwards, SPC will issue a preliminary Tornado Watch and then the affected NWFO will then adjust the watch (adding or eliminating counties/parishes) and then issue it to the public. After adjusting the watch, the NWFO will let the public know which counties are included by way of a Watch Redefining Statement. During the watch, the NWFO will keep the public informed on what is happening in the watch area and also let the public know when the watch has expired or been cancelled.

Upon the issuance of a tornado watch impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

H. Tornado Warning

This is issued when a tornado is indicated by the WSR-88D radar or sighted by spotters; therefore, people in the affected area should seek safe shelter immediately. They can be issued without a Tornado Watch being already in effect. They are usually issued for a duration of around 30 minutes.

A Tornado Warning is issued by your local National Weather Service office (WFO-Tulsa). It will include where the tornado was located and what towns will be in its path. If the tornado will affect the near shore or coastal waters, it will be issued as the combined product-Tornado Warning and Special Marine Warning. If the thunderstorm which is causing the tornado is also producing torrential rains, this warning may also be combined with a Flash Flood Warning. If there is an ampersand (&) symbol at the bottom of the warning, it indicates that the warning was issued as a result of a severe weather report.

After it has been issued, the affected NWFO will follow it up periodically with Severe Weather Statements. These statements will contain updated information on the tornado and they will also let the public know when warning is no longer in effect.

Upon the issuance of a tornado warning impacting the City’s Zone of Protection the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
3. The City Warning Point will alert and broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.

4. City law enforcement personnel will relocate to vantage points across the City to function as weather spotters.

5. Fire department personnel will function as weather spotters from their assigned stations.

6. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.

The Emergency Warning System (Warning Sirens and Emergency Alert Monitors) will be activated for the following conditions:

- Tornadic conditions are impacting or expected to impact the City’s Zone of Protection.

- Law enforcement, fire service, or a trained weather spotter reports a tornado in the City, or in a neighboring jurisdiction that has the potential to affect the City.

*Refer to Emergency Warning System Activation Standard Operating Procedure*
IV. Winter Storms

Winter storms are weather hazards associated with freezing or frozen precipitation (freezing rain, sleet, snow) or combined effects of winter precipitation and strong winds.

A. Blizzard Watch

A Blizzard Watch is issued when conditions are favorable (50% chance or greater) for the development of sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or higher and considerable falling and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to less than 1/4 mile. These conditions are POSSIBLE for at least 3 hours.

Upon the issuance of a blizzard watch impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

B. Blizzard Warning

Issued for winter storms with sustained or frequent winds of 35 mph or higher with considerable falling and/or blowing snow that frequently reduces visibility to 1/4 of a mile or less. These conditions are expected to prevail for a minimum of 3 hours.

Upon the issuance of a blizzard warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
3. The City Warning Point will broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.
4. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.

C. Heavy Snow Warning

Issued by the National Weather Service when snowfall of 6 inches (15 cm) or more in 12 hours or 8 inches (20 cm) or more in 24 hours is imminent or occurring. These criteria are specific for the Midwest and may vary regionally.

Upon the issuance of a heavy snow warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
3. The City Warning Point will broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.
4. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.

D. Ice Storm Warning

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when freezing rain produces a significant and possibly damaging accumulation of ice. The criteria for this warning varies from state to state, but typically will be issued any time more than 1/4" of ice is expected to accumulate in an area.

Upon the issuance of an ice storm warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
3. The City Warning Point will broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.
4. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.

E. Sleet Warning

Issued when accumulation of sleet in excess of 1/2" is expected; this is a relatively rare scenario. Usually issued as a winter storm warning for heavy sleet.

Upon the issuance of a sleet warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

No Action Taken

F. Wind Chill Warning

The National Weather Service issues this product when the wind chill is life threatening. The criteria for this warning varies from state to state.

Upon the issuance of a wind chill warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
3. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.
G. Winter Storm Watch

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when there is a potential for heavy snow or significant ice accumulations, usually at least 24 to 36 hours in advance. The criteria for this watch can vary from place to place.

Upon the issuance of a winter storm watch impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

3. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

4. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

N. Winter Storm Warning

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when a winter storm is producing or is forecast to produce heavy snow or significant ice accumulations. The criteria for this warning can vary from place to place.

Upon the issuance of a winter storm warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

3. The City Warning Point will broadcast the warning message on the city radio system.

4. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.
V. Other Hazards

Other hazards are weather hazards not directly associated with thunderstorms or winter storms including extreme heat or cold, dense fog, high winds, river flooding, and lakeshore flooding.

A. Excessive Heat Warning

Issued within 12 hours of the onset of the following criteria: heat index of at least 105°F for more than 3 hours per day for 2 consecutive days, or heat index more than 115°F for any period of time.

Upon the issuance of an excessive heat warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. City Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
3. The Emergency Management Agency will perform event monitoring for the duration of the event.

B. High Wind Warning

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when high wind speeds may pose a hazard or is life threatening. The criteria for this warning varies from state to state.

Upon the issuance of a high wind warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.
2. Fire Department Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

*A burn ban may be enacted by Fire Department Administration*

C. Red Flag Warning

A term used by fire-weather forecasters to call attention to limited weather conditions of particular importance that may result in extreme burning conditions. It is issued when it is an ongoing event or the fire weather forecaster has a high degree of confidence that Red Flag criteria will occur within 24 hours of issuance. Red Flag criteria occurs whenever a geographical area has been in a dry spell for a week or two, or for a shorter period, if before spring green-up or after fall color, and the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) is high to extreme and the following forecast weather parameters are forecasted to be met:

1. A sustained wind average 15 mph or greater
2. Relative humidity less than or equal to 25 percent and
3. A temperature of greater than 75 degrees F.

Upon the issuance of a red flag warning impacting the City the following actions will be taken:

1. The Emergency Management Agency will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

2. Fire Department Administration will be notified of the event by automated weather warning.

   *A burn ban may be enacted by Fire Department Administration*
IV. Communications and Coordination

Disaster situations can strike at any time and can affect multiple population bases and a variety of businesses and industry, not to mention the employees of those operations. It is necessary to ensure that disasters are responded to and recovered from quickly through the Emergency Management System, specifically the readiness and deployment of personnel, equipment, materials and supplies. Response to major emergencies involves multiple organizations collecting, collating and communicating data and information to enable better decision making that minimizes social and economic impacts.

To ensure the continuation of community activities including the restoration of critical infrastructure, the City’s Warning Point and Emergency Operations Center will provide communications and coordination during severe weather events.

A. Local Warning Point

Rogers Central Dispatch will provide the following initial communication and coordination during severe weather events:

1. Offer warning reception capability.
2. Initiate City response procedures.
3. Activate local warning system(s).

B. Emergency Operations Center

The City of Rogers Emergency Operations Center will provide the following communication and coordination during severe weather events:

1. Assume weather related duties of the warning point, when activated.
2. Activate based on guidelines related to NWS information or weather events.
3. Offer warning reception capability.
4. Activate local warning system(s).
5. Communicate with adjacent Warning Points and Emergency Operations Centers.
6. Link with the NWS to relay real time weather information to support the warning decision making process.
V. Information Reception

The Local Warning Point and Emergency Operations Center each require multiple systems in place to ensure receipt of information disseminated by the National Weather Service.

A. Local Warning Point

Rogers Central Dispatch is equipped with the following technologies to ensure receipt of information:

1. NOAA weather radio all hazards receiver with tone alert featuring specific area message encoding.
2. Law Enforcement Teletype
3. Television with local and national channel availability
4. Radio Station with Emergency Alert System reception
5. GRlevelX weather software
6. Weather Message notification software

B. Emergency Operations Center

The City of Rogers Emergency Operations Center is equipped with the following technologies to ensure receipt of information:

1. NOAA weather radio all hazards receiver with tone alert featuring specific area message encoding
2. Amateur Radio
3. Television with local and national channel availability
4. Radio Station with Emergency Alert System reception
5. GRlevelX weather software
6. Weather Message notification software
VI. Hydro-meteorological Monitoring

The Local Warning Point and Emergency Operations Center each require multiple systems in place to ensure availability of ancillary weather information.

C. Local Warning Point

Rogers Central Dispatch is equipped with the following technologies to ensure availability of ancillary weather data:

1. Weather Monitoring Station
2. Web based monitoring (Radar and Weather Station)
3. Television radar source
4. GRLevelX weather software

D. Emergency Operations Center

The City of Rogers Emergency Operations Center is equipped with the following technologies to ensure availability of ancillary weather data:

1. Web based monitoring (Radar and Weather Station)
2. Television radar source
3. GRLevelX weather software
VII. Local Warning Dissemination

Early warnings allow individuals and communities threatened by hazards to act in sufficient time and in an appropriate manner to reduce injury, loss of life, and damage to property. Through timely and effective dissemination of information, the City of Rogers and its citizens can reduce risk and take timely actions in response to the hazard.

A. Local Warning Point
Rogers Central Dispatch is equipped with the following technologies to provide local warning dissemination:

1. City of Rogers Emergency Warning System
2. Emergency Alert System (EAS)
3. Use of Emergency Vehicles with siren and public address system
4. Area Wide Radio Network (City, County and State)
5. Weather Message automated notification software

B. Emergency Operations Center

The City of Rogers Emergency Operations Center is equipped with the following technologies to provide local warning dissemination.

1. Emergency Alert System (EAS)
2. Use of Emergency Vehicles with siren and public address system
3. Area Wide Radio Network (City, County, State, and Amateur)
4. Weather Message automated notification software
VIII. Zone of Protection

The City of Rogers has established a Zone of Protection consisting of a six mile radius around the City and adjacent areas. Severe weather watches and warnings occurring within the City’s Zone of Protection will prompt specific response activities on the part of City agencies as outlined within the Hazardous Weather Response Plan.
Figure HWRP-1: Zone of Protection
IX. Emergency Warning System

The City has strategically located outdoor warning sirens and emergency alert monitors in order to provide optimum coverage and notification.

Currently, there are 20 warning sirens located throughout the City. The warning sirens serve as the primary means to alert citizens of an emergency situation.

Emergency alert monitors are placed throughout the City in critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. The emergency alert monitors serve as a means to alert specific at risk populations of emergencies including hazardous weather events.

Both warning sirens and emergency alert monitors are activated via the City’s radio system.

A. Outdoor Warning Siren Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>CONTROL STATION</th>
<th>SERIAL NUMBER</th>
<th>SIREN ID</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<td>1001</td>
<td>94 YOCUM RD</td>
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B. Warning Siren Projected Coverage Area

Figure HWRP-2: Warning Siren Projected Coverage Area
C. Emergency Warning System Activation Procedures

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Title: Emergency Warning System Activation
Number: 101 Version: 1.1
Effective Date: 3/01/2010
Last Reviewed: 3/01/2010

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for activating the City of Rogers Emergency Warning System.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Currently there are 20 warning sirens located throughout the City. Emergency Alert Monitors are located at critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals serving as a means to alert specific at risk populations. Both sirens and emergency alert monitors are activated through the City’s radio system. The system is the primary means to alert citizens of an emergency situation.

ACTIVATION CRITERIA: The system can be activated for one of the following conditions:

Warning Sirens and Emergency Alert Monitors
- Tornado conditions are impacting or expected to impact the City’s Zone of Protection.
- Law enforcement, fire service, or a trained weather spotter reports a tornado in the City, or in a neighboring jurisdiction that has the potential to affect the City.
- National or State emergency at the direction of the President or Governor.
- Other emergency situations as deemed necessary by the Emergency Management Coordinator or designee.

Emergency Alert Monitors
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning impacting the City’s Zone of Protection.
- Other emergency situations as deemed necessary by the Emergency Management Coordinator or designee.

AUTHORIZATION: Obtain authorization from one of the positions identified below for any condition requiring warning siren activation. (Priority as listed)

- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Mayor
- Fire Chief
- Police Chief

NOTIFICATION: If time allows before the sirens are sounded the following notifications need to go out in the priority listed. Otherwise notify the list immediately after sirens are sounded.

1. Emergency Management Coordinator
2. Mayor
3. Fire Chief
4. Police Chief
5. Announcement on City Radio System
6. County Warning Point (CENCOM)

Figure HWRP-3-1: Emergency Warning System Activation Procedures
TORNADO WARNING
Activation: Outdoor Sirens and Emergency Alert Monitors
Call Key: 1
Instructions: 1. Depress “CALL KEY 1”
2. Verify message in display window
3. Depress “SEND”

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
Activation: Emergency Alert Monitors
Call Key: 2
Instructions: 1. Depress “CALL KEY 2”
2. Verify message in display window
3. Depress “SEND”

CANCELLATION
Cancels call key in the event the wrong key is selected.
Call Key: 7
Instructions: 1. Depress “CALL KEY 7”
2. Verify message in display window
3. Depress “SEND”

Figure HWRP-3-2: Emergency Warning System Activation Procedures (Cont.)