

3.6 Safety



City of Oak Point Department of Public Safety Fire Department

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SECTION/TOPIC: General Operations

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APPROVED BY:

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These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 PURPOSE

Purpose:

To provide members of the OPDPS with general safety practices that should be used on general incidents or events.

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

3.0 POLICY/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Policy:

General Guidelines

- Members and Officers shall practice safety at all times and must perform their duties as safely and efficiently as possible
- Members and Officers having knowledge of dangerous buildings or conditions in an emergency area or in equipment shall immediately report the facts to the Officer in Charge.
- Members working water rescue emergencies or operating water vehicles shall not wear bunker gear of any type. Life jackets shall be worn when operating boats and high water calls. When it is necessary for members to wear bunker gear, they should be prepared to remove them quickly should the situation arise.
- All personnel in all positions while riding in or driving department vehicles shall wear seat belts. Personnel making emergency runs shall put on seat belts as soon as bunking out is completed. Ambulance and staff vehicles shall have their seat belts used at all times.
- Members will follow posted speed limits when responding to the station.

- During an emergency response, where lights and sirens are used, apparatus shall not exceed the posted speed limit no more than 10 MPH.
- During an emergency response, where lights and sirens are used, when an apparatus comes to a stop sign or red light, the apparatus shall slow and come to a complete stop, unless all lanes of traffic are clear or the driver has eye contact with all motorists at the intersection.
- During an emergency response, where lights and sirens are used, apparatus shall yield to school buses while loading or unloading occupants, unless directed by the driver of the bus or a police officer has directed to proceed around.
- During an emergency response, where lights and sirens are used, apparatus shall observe school zones and reduce speed; however, continue a lights and siren response.

Severe Weather

The City of Oak Point Early Emergency Warning System consists of a service which residents sign up for and the receive and email, text or phone message warning of an emergency situation. This is designed to inform residents who maybe outdoors, at sporting events, the lake or anywhere their cellular phone is with them and turned on, of a possible emergency. The system can be activated by sections but in most cases they are activated simultaneously for a city wide emergency. The system is not designed to alert those who maybe away from their cellular or home phone.

Activation guidelines for the system

- The National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning with the phrase “Destructive Winds of 70 mph or greater are likely with this storm” for the immediate area.
- Trained, SKYWARN storm spotters have reported a tornado in the neighboring cities, approaching the City of Oak Point, and/or have imminent potential to affect the City of Oak Point.
- Trained SKYWARN storm spotters have reported, confirmed winds in excess of 60 mph or greater in neighboring cities, approaching the City of Oak Point, and/or has imminent potential to affect the City of Oak Point.
- Reported hail of 1.75 to 2 inches in neighboring cities, approaching the City of Oak Point, and/or has imminent potential to affect the City of Oak Point.
- Other emergency as directed by the City of Oak Point, Mayor, DPS Director, or other individual authorized in Denton County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Hazardous condition such as a “gas cloud” or “toxic plume” from a fire, technological hazard, or terrorist event. (Such an event must be confirmed by an authorized person.) Activation for this condition should be with the advice and consent of the On Scene Incident Commander, to provide specific instructions and avoid confusion.

What to do if the Warning System is activated

If you receive a text or call while you are outside, please go inside and seek shelter immediately, refer to the TV or a FM radio for further information and instructions. Please do not attempt to contact the

fire or police departments to inquire why the alert is sounding. Call 911 only to report life threatening situations.

Security Plan

Severe (RED) – Severe Risk of Terrorist Attacks

- ALL personnel will display City of Oak Point UNIFORMS at all time on-duty.
- FIRE and EMS apparatus will always be attended outside of the fire station.
- All external station doors shall be closed and secured at all times. Apparatus bay doors will be opened when the apparatus are leaving the station, and then closed as soon as the apparatus has cleared the door way.
- On-Duty shift personnel will not be permitted to dine outside of the station. All meals will be prepared and eaten at the station.
- On-Duty personnel will conduct a perimeter and interior check of the station and near by City facilities of no less than every four hours.
- Daily radio checks will be performed on all portable and vehicle radios.
- All persons requesting entrance to the fire station must present two forms of I.D., which will be retained until the departure of the individual. The persons shall be escorted around the station until there business is completed and the departure of that individual.
- Station personnel shall implement a 24hr watch. The watch may be divided however the shift leader or Lieutenant agrees upon, such as the entire 24hr shift is covered.
- The on shift staff should monitor either local news or national news coverage of the current situation.
- ALL “ride-outs” or community service of non-department personnel will be suspended.
- ALL public education programs, public relation events, and station tours shall be suspended.
- Illegal parking near target hazards will be towed immediately.

The following actions may be activated, modified, or omitted as deemed necessary by department command staff.

- All private vehicles parking must be a minimum of 75 ft. from the fire station or target hazard.
- All certified peace officers, carry a duty weapon and wear ballistic vests.
- All scheduled leave to be canceled.

Moderate (Orange) – High Risk of Terrorist Attacks

- Immediate notification of the Shift Leader or Lieutenant if threat level changes to (RED)
- FIRE and EMS apparatus will be attended unless in full view of a department member or police officer.
- MEDICS will have all doors locked or monitored at a hospital.
- Apparatus bay doors and external doors shall remain closed and locked unless members are present in the bay area.

- Maintain the station in a state of readiness, in the case of a threat level change.
- At shift change, both on-coming and off-going members shall make a physical check of building perimeters and interior access areas together.
- On-Duty personnel will conduct a perimeter and interior check of the station and near by City facilities of no less than every six hours.
- The on shift staff should monitor either local news or national news coverage of the current situation.

Elevated (Yellow) – Significant Risks of Terrorist Attacks

- Special attention required for any fire code or city ordinance violation that would impede access to any target hazard location.
- All station visitors must be escorted at all times while in the fire station.
- On-Duty personnel will conduct a perimeter and interior check of the station and near by City facilities of no less than two times within 24hrs.

Guarded (Blue) – General Risk of Terrorist Attack

- Review Emergency procedures
- On-Duty personnel shall periodically perform visual checks of rooms, hallways, and window.
- On-Duty personnel shall periodically check for the proper operation of all doors and locks.
- Ensure the security of all keys, doors, and vehicles.
- Take extra care to protect uniforms and bunker gear.
- On-duty personnel shall conduct inspections and reviews of all target hazard locations.

Low (Green) – Low Risk of Terrorist Attack

- Ensure facilities, vehicles, and equipment are assessed routinely for vulnerabilities and all reasonable countermeasures are taken to prevent damage or misuse.
- Be aware, investigate, or report any persons “casing” or conducting surveillance of city facilities and unusual parking near city structures.
- Distribution of department equipment to non-members is prohibited without the permission of the fire chief.
- Immediately report the loss of any city equipment.