



ORIGINAL

	STAFFORD COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT	
	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE 100.251	
	SUBJECT: Heat Casualty Prevention, Non-Essential Activities	FRD OPS-3019
		INITIATED BY General Order 08/21/09
	APPROVED:  J. Robert Brown, Jr., CFO, County Fire Chief	REVISED 00/00/00

A. PURPOSE

- 1.0. The purpose of this policy is to establish climatic guidelines that will reduce the risk of heat casualties and decrease firefighter fatigue for non-essential Departmental activities being conducted during hot weather. This guideline establishes a system of Heat Index Codes that are intended to reduce the firefighter's core temperature, thus reserving energy for essential duties and enhancing personal safety.

B. SCOPE

- 1.0. This policy applies to all Department personnel without exception.
- 2.0 Essential activities are generally defined as:
- 2.1 All emergency and non-emergency calls received by the Emergency Communications Center (ECC).
- 2.2 Activities associated with scheduled details, exercises or other major training evolutions where the disruption would cause undue burden on personnel or resources or significantly reduce a operational readiness (TBD by the on-duty Operations Deputy Chief).
- 2.3 Other activities authorized by the County Fire Chief.

C. PROCEDURES

- 1.0. Personnel conducting non-essential outdoor activities shall do so in accordance with the Heat Index Code Procedures Chart in Section 5.0. The index is based on **Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT)** provided by Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ) Weather Station. As temperature changes occur, MCBQ will provide updates of the current Heat Index to the on-duty Operations Deputy Chief and EMS, Health and Safety Officer. The Operations

Deputy Chief shall transmit the Heat Index Code in the follow manner:

- 1.1 Code Green: Stafford Alert, Stafford County FRD Career and Volunteer
- 1.2 Code Yellow: Stafford Alert, Stafford County FRD Career and Volunteer
- 1.3 Code Red: Stafford Alert, Stafford County FRD Career and Volunteer
- 1.4 Code Black: Stafford Alert, Stafford County FRD Career and Volunteer and notification to the ECC to transmit a special announcement on the main fire frequency indicating:

“ATTENTION ALL FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL. SET CONDITIONS AT CODE BLACK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ALL NON-ESSENTAIL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES SHALL BE HALTED”

- 2.0. It is the responsibility of any departmental person in-charge of any outdoor activity being conducted when the ambient temperature is over 80 degrees to ensure proper heat safety procedures are followed. In the event that an automated update has not been issued via Stafford Alert or the ECC, this information can be requested from the Operations Deputy Chief if it is felt that hazardous condition may exist.
- 3.0 Only authorized personnel may obtain climatic information directly from Heat Index and Destructive Weather Section at MCBQ. These personnel include the County Fire Chief, any County Assistant Chief, Operations Deputy Chief, EMS, Health and Safety Officer and the EMS, Health and Safety Division Chief.

Heat Index and Destructive Weather Section contact info by geographical area

- 3.1. MCBQ Main East of I-95: 703-784-2468.
- 3.2. MCBQ West of I-95: 703-784-5518.
- 4.0. All persons in charge of outdoor activities shall maintain constant awareness of the condition of each person operating under their span of control to ensure adequate steps are taken to provide for the health and safety of each member. If circumstances exist that cause you to suspect that conditions are such that outdoor activity should be curtailed, stop the activity and contact the Operations Deputy Chief for official instructions.

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5.0 Heat Index Code

HEAT INDEX CODE PROCEDURES



(Code Green): Use caution while conducting heavy exercise or training and ensure all personnel remain hydrated



(Code Yellow): Strenuous exercise, training and drills in full PPE (Personnel Protective Clothing should be avoided.



(Code Red): Outdoor activity will not exceed 6 hours per day with water breaks every 45 minutes or as needed. A medical monitoring station will also be in place.



(Code Black): All strenuous non-essential outdoor physical activity will be halted for all units. Essential activities are defined as those activities associated with scheduled exercises or other major training evolutions where the disruption would cause undue burden on personnel or resources, be excessively expensive, or significantly reduce a unit's readiness. Essential outdoor physical activity will be conducted at a level that is commensurate with personnel acclimatization as determined by the unit's commanding officer in coordination with the unit's medical officer or medical personnel. All efforts should be made to reschedule activities during cooler periods of the day



STAFFORD COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SUBJECT:

Heat Casualty Prevention, Non-Essential Activities

FRD
GO-2009-01

INITIATED
08/21/09

APPROVED:

J. Robert Brown, Jr., CFO, County Fire Chief

REVISED
00/00/00

A: PURPOSE

- 1.0 To establish immediate heat casualty safety procedures.

B: POLICY

- 1.0 Standard Operating Procedure **FRD OPS-3019** is immediately enacted by this General Order. The formal policy, attached, will be concurrently submitted for formal adoption per Article VI of the Stafford County Code.