

# Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 611  
Emergency Operations  
Winter Operations  
02/11/04

**PURPOSE:** Provide guidelines to keep personnel and equipment safe and functioning in below freezing temperatures.

**SCOPE:** Covers all operations at temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit

## **BACKGROUND:**

Winter provides many opportunities for personal injury or equipment failure. Reduced visibility, unstable footing and surfaces, frost bite, hypothermia make simple fire ground operations more dangerous. Operations will be slower and require all personnel to become more alert.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

All personnel must recognize that operations will take longer and shall take extra care and be alert to any condition that present a hazard to people, equipment and operations

## **PROCEDURE:**

### Personnel Safety:

To keep people WARM establish and implement REHAB quickly.

Keep people well fed with light snacks such as candy bars, energy bars and/or fruit.

Keep people well hydrated with electrolyte replenishing fluids and water.

Be alert for frost bite.

Keep Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment **DRY**.

### Vehicles and Tools:

Check fluids weekly and immediately after every response, which ever is most frequent.

Operate apparatus at least 10 minutes each week unless a response was made, which ever is most frequent.

## **COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS**

Place a tarp on the ground on which to place tools to keep them dry and as clean as possible. Place SCBA in vehicles or warm areas when not in use.

Spend a minimum amount of time in the field for pick-up.

Reload using warm and dry hose in the Station.

### Water and Freezing:

Spray all discharge and inlet caps with RV antifreeze once a week and after each use. This will keep them from freezing.

Keep Pumps WET. "Dry" pumps have insufficient mass to repel the effects of freezing temperatures.

Operate pumps(75 to 100 psi) at temperatures below 30<sup>0</sup>F, circulating water to keep the valves free of ice.

Keep hose lines flowing at temps below 10<sup>0</sup>F,

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shutting down lines, one line at a time. This is best accomplished by placing a person at each coupling, so hose may be uncoupled and rolled immediately.