



TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BUREAU

GUIDELINE

INCLEMENT WEATHER OPERATIONS

I. PURPOSE

In the event of inclement weather, the Toledo Fire and Rescue Training Bureau will remain open for business purposes, and all staff and administration should report to work as scheduled. However, there may be times when the work day or classes and other activities may be cancelled or delayed. These guidelines are available to assist you with managing your safety and the safety of other members during such circumstances.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Always use discretion, common sense and the guidelines presented to make decisions for your safety and the safety of others. Along with these guidelines, refer to Department policies and employee agreements as the basis for decisions for training in inclement weather. The officer in charge, lead instructor and/or the safety officer shall be responsible for implementing the appropriate actions.

1. **Inclement Weather Conditions Defined** – Rain, hail, sleet, excessive snow, sustained high winds, tornado watch or warning, high heat index (≥ 85 degrees), low wind chill (below 40 degrees).
*For OUTSIDE training purposes, this also includes thunder and lightning.
2. **Thunder and/or Lightning** – If thunder is heard, or lightning is witnessed by any member, all outdoor training shall immediately cease, and all members shall immediately seek indoor shelter. If equipment is laid out, leave it in place and immediately seek shelter inside vehicles or a permanent building.

Before outdoor training/drilling can resume, 30 minutes must pass without thunder heard, and/or 20 minutes must pass without lightning seen (CDC standard).

3. **Tornado Watch** – If a tornado watch is reported prior to going to the training ground, the lead instructor shall establish some means of communications to stay informed about changing weather conditions.

FOR THE AIRPORT FACILITY:

Tornado Warning – Should a Tornado Warning be issued for Lucas County, the designated shelter area within the training administration building shall be the first floor classroom. Should it become necessary to seek shelter in this room, all members who have immediate access to a department portable radio shall have the radio on their person as an immediate means to issue a MAYDAY in the event of a disaster, and to be able to remain in radio contact with fire dispatch for any updates. A P.A.R. shall be conducted by the officer in charge.

FOR THE SCOTT PARK CAMPUS:

Tornado Warning – Should a Tornado Warning be issued for Lucas County, the designated shelter area at the Scott Park Campus training office and classrooms shall be the first floor hallway in the Classroom Center building. This Tornado waiting area is in the first floor hallway between rooms 1030 and 1230. This designated area is marked with signs for ease of recognition. Should it become necessary to seek shelter in this area, all members who have immediate access to a department portable radio shall have the radio on their person as an immediate means to issue a MAYDAY in the event of a disaster, and to be able to remain in radio contact with fire dispatch for any updates. A P.A.R. shall be conducted by the officer in charge.

FOR THE GLENDALE MEDICAL CENTER:

Tornado Warning – Should a Tornado Warning be issued for Lucas County, the designated shelter area at the Glendale Medical Center training office and classrooms shall be the basement, secondary classroom area. Should it become necessary to seek shelter in this area, all members who have immediate access to a department portable radio shall have the radio on their person as an immediate means to issue a MAYDAY in the event of a disaster, and to be able to remain in radio contact with fire dispatch for any updates. A P.A.R. shall be conducted by the officer in charge.

FOR OWENS CENTER FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Thunder and/or Lightning – If thunder is heard, or lightning is witnessed by any member, all outdoor training shall immediately cease, and all members shall immediately seek indoor shelter. If equipment is laid out, leave it in place and immediately seek shelter inside vehicles or a permanent building. (Do not use mock city or the burn building for shelter).

Before outdoor training/drilling can resume, 30 minutes must pass without thunder heard, and/or 20 minutes must pass without lightning seen (CDC standard).

Windy Conditions – Windy conditions are prominent at the center due to the open fields in and around the training site. The instructor must always be aware of the prevailing wind and establish training scenarios that are not hampered by the wind. Certain training activities will need to be limited if windy conditions present a hazard to the student. Activities such as raising ground ladders, climbing aerial ladders, any rope work, and perhaps the use of some fire props

may need to be canceled or rescheduled during high wind conditions. Sustained winds greater than 25 miles per hour or gusty conditions with gusts greater than 25 miles per hour shall be a benchmark for the lead instructor or safety officer to consider modifying or rescheduling outside training.

Tornado Warning – If a tornado warning is issued during training operations, leave all equipment in place and have all personnel immediately report to the collapse rescue simulator and seek shelter inside of the simulator. All who are seeking shelter must move toward the center of the prop away from the entry doors and sit or lie down in the tunnels protecting their heads. If time permits, take shelter in the bottom middle floor of the simulation tower inside the High Bay training area. The women’s restroom is also designated as a tornado shelter. Do not seek shelter inside any other structure on the training grounds. If time does not allow for access to the collapse simulator or the CEP building, immediately lie down on the ground in the lowest area you can find and remain in that area until the tornado has passed. A P.A.R. shall be conducted by the officer in charge.

FOR OTHER TRAINING LOCATIONS:

While at other training locations, use discretion, common sense and the above guidelines to make decisions for your safety and the safety of others. The lead instructor or the safety officer shall be responsible for implementing the appropriate actions. Not all situations can be predicted at all times. Remember that discretion, common sense and then communication with others are key factors in the effort to stay safe.