

Town of Hanover

StormReady Policies and Procedures

Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on Earth. Each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 2,500 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, as well as an average of 6 deadly hurricanes. Potentially deadly weather impacts every American. Communities can now rely on the National Weather Service's StormReady program to help them guard against the ravages of Mother Nature.

Some 90% of all presidential declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. StormReady, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, OK, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives. StormReady makes a difference!

This purpose of this SOP is to provide guidance to the Town of Hanover in preparing for and dealing with the effects of hazardous weather conditions. NOAA's National Weather Service urges residents to keep abreast of local forecasts and warnings and familiarize themselves with key weather terminology.

Rev. 9/1/2022

PUB

STORM EFFECTS/STORM-DAMAGE REPORTING

Purpose:

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance for the reporting of a weather event's effect and damage to Hanover, to outside agencies.

Procedure:

Whenever a weather event significantly impacts Hanover, it is important that critical local assessment information reach certain outside authorities. Those outside authorities have been defined as the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service, in Norton MA.

This task shall be carried out by performing the following activities:

Storm Effects:

All weather-related effects to the community (downed trees, power lines) should be reported to the National Weather Service office in Norton, Massachusetts. For time-critical events, such as thunderstorm wind damage (trees down, hail, etc.), reports should be provided by calling **XXX-XXX-XXXX This is a non-published number for use by Emergency Managers/Dispatch officials only.**

Emergency Management shall also report these effects to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Web EOC

The following should be reported in real time:

<i>Trees/large limbs blown down</i>	<i>Utility poles blown down</i>	<i>Any other wind damage (windows broken, roofs blown off, etc.)</i>
<i>Hail, even as small as a pea – specify size if possible</i>	<i>Tornadoes or funnel clouds</i>	<i>Flooding (more than just the usual underpasses)</i>

For longer duration events, such as snowfall/rain reports, reporting may be accomplished by going to the National Weather Service at [REDACTED] and/or Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Web EOC.

Wind/Rain/Flooding

- Winds in excess of 40 MPH
- Rain, greater than 1" in one hour, or 2" greater storm total
- Flooding: Streams and Rivers, Street (when more than the usual drainage puddles)

Winter Weather

- Precipitation type change (rain to sleet/snow) when occurred.
- Thunder, when accompanied by snow
- New snowfall:

First 2"; every 2-3" thereafter
1 inch per hour or greater

WEATHER ALERT NOTIFICATION / DISSEMINATION

Purpose:

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance for the reception and dissemination of severe weather alerts.

Procedure:

Whenever a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Tornado Warning or Flash Flood Warning is issued by the National Weather Service, information will be disseminated in the following manner:

1. **Anticipated severe/hazardous weather** will initially be disseminated to all Department Heads, as part of the “Emergency Management Group,” through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) via Situational Awareness Statements containing updates NWS weather information and predictions. Periodic updates (typically every 12 hours before/after the event) will be sent automatically from MEMA.
2. **Unanticipated or impending severe/hazardous weather – “short fused” weather warning** will be disseminated to all Department Heads through the Hanover Emergency Management Agency (HEMA). Typically, this will be communicated from HEMA, Police Department Station Clerks and/or Regional Old Colony Communications Center.

Because of the emergent nature of unanticipated severe/hazardous weather, notification will include Department Heads and additional designees within each Department – as part of the “Severe Weather Group”. This is aimed at ensuring a broader grouping of staff are made aware of the unanticipated or impending severe/hazardous weather situation. This notification will be made via Text.

Sources of Information:

Sources of anticipated severe/hazardous weather will generally be from the following:

- MEMA Situational Awareness Statements
- TV & Cable – major news organizations such as NECN and The Weather Channel
- Internet – NWSChat, iNWS, WebEOC, twitter, other
- NWS – Area Forecast Discussion
- NWS – Hazardous Weather Outlook

Sources of unanticipated or impending severe/hazardous weather will generally be from the following:

- NOAA Weather Radio and/or EAS tone
- MEMA Situational Awareness Statements
- TV & Cable – major news organizations such as NECN and The Weather Channel
- Internet – NWSChat, iNWS, WebEOC, Twitter
- Wireless Emergency Alerts on Smart Phones

EOC ACTIVATION DURING A WEATHER EMERGENCY

Purpose:

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance for the activation of the Emergency Operations Center during weather emergencies.

Procedure:

The Emergency Operations Center may be activated (based on current conditions) for weather emergencies when one or more of the following *may* occur:

1. Significant rainfall is predicted by the National Weather Service. Significant rainfall is defined as five (5) or more inches of rain within a twenty-four hour period.
2. Significant wind storm is predicted by the National Weather Service. Significant wind storm is defined as sustained wind speeds of fifty (50) miles per hour or greater.
3. Significant snowfall is predicted by the National Weather Service. Significant snow is defined as six (6) or more inches.
4. Significant weather events (all) that require the close monitoring of the weather's effects on the community, that require town-wide response to protect the lives and properties of the citizens of Hanover, and those events that require the assessment of damage caused by the significant weather event.
5. Anytime a shelter is open.
6. During a technological or natural disaster, blizzard or severe thunderstorm.
7. Other times as needed or determined by Emergency Management Director or designee.

EOC Activation Levels:

The Town of Hanover EOC has designated three activation levels that increase in intensity, ranging from modest emergency effects associated with Level 1, to catastrophic emergency effects associated with Level 3.

- *Level 1:* EOC staffed virtually with key personnel meeting or communicating regularly to monitor the situation, facilitate occasional resource requests, and maintain situational awareness. "Virtually" may be defined as utilizing web-based meeting applications (such as Zoom) and/or teleconferencing, including the use of web-based chat applications and/or cellular phone text threads.
- *Level 2:* EOC partially staffed with key personnel to monitor the situation, facilitate occasional resource requests, and maintain situational awareness
- *Level 3:* EOC fully staffed with key personnel representing all departments/agencies within the emergency management team to monitor the situation, facilitate larger volumes of resources requests, and maintain situational awareness

Procedure for Police Department Station Clerks

Purpose:

The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance for Dispatcher actions during an unanticipated or impending severe/hazardous weather or “short fused” weather warning.

Procedure:

For unanticipated or impending severe/hazardous weather or “short fused” weather warnings, the following procedure shall take place:

When Station Clerk receives a short fused weather "Warning," the Specific Area Message NOAA Alert receiver will sound a warning tone for eight seconds followed by the voice broadcast of the National Weather Service.

A warning received from any source should initiate the below procedure.

Generally, a “Short Fused” Weather WARNING is: **Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, Flash Flood.**

A Weather Warning is defined as: The type of weather event the warning is issued for is imminent, occurring, or likely to occur for the Hanover/Plymouth County area. A weather Watch is defined as: conditions are favorable for the development of weather event in and close to a defined area. *A watch should increase your weather awareness, but **will not** activate this alert notification procedure.*

See attached Reference Sheet for NWS Norton WARNING/ADVISORY Thresholds.

Police Department Station Clerk: When you receive a Short-Fused Weather "Warning" from HEMA, NOAA Weather Radio or any other source, you will:

1. Notify Regional Old Colony Communications Center (ROCCC) via radio or phone.
2. Send information via text to “Severe Weather” Group within the Red Alert Paging System to following:

Example of Text Message:

“Severe Thunderstorm Warning Issued Until 7PM”

3. Notify Hanover Police Shift Supervisor and Hanover Fire Duty Officer via phone.
4. Standby for further instructions from HEMA and/or Public Safety

Notification Information – “Emergency Management Group”

Generally, *anticipated severe/hazardous weather* will be sent to the following via MEMA Situational Awareness Statements:

Position	Name	Cell Phone	Email
Emergency Management Director	Jason Cavallaro		jason.cavallaro@hanover-ma.gov
Fire Chief	Jason Cavallaro		jason.cavallaro@hanover-ma.gov
Deputy Fire Chief	Fred Freeman		fred.freeman@hanover-ma.gov
Police Chief	Tim Kane		timothy.kane@hanover-ma.gov
Deputy Police Chief			
Town Manager	Joseph Colangelo		joseph.colangelo@hanover-ma.gov
HPS Superintendent	Matt Ferron		mferron@hanoverschools.org
SST Superintendent	Tom Hickey		thickey@ssvotech.org
DPW Director	Victor Diniak		vdiniak@hanoverdpw.org
DPW Deputy Director	Kurt Kelley		kkelley@hanoverdpw.org
Finance Director	Chelsea Stevens		chelsea.stevens@hanover-ma.gov
CDMI Director	Ann Lee		ann.lee@hanover-ma.gov
Library Director	Virginia Johnson		vjohnson@ocln.org
Communications Director	Steve Ryerson		steve.ryerson@hanover-ma.gov
IT Director	Tom Nee		thomas.nee@hanover-ma.gov

Additional information will be sent to alternates at the discretion of each Department Head listed above, coordinated with the Emergency Management Director.

Follow-up information or additional notifications may be made by MEMA and/or Hanover Emergency Management.

Notification Information – “Severe Weather Group”

Generally, **unanticipated or impending severe/hazardous weather or “short fused” weather warning** will be sent to the following via Emergency Text Alert and MEMA Situational Awareness Statements:

Position	Name	Cell Phone	Email
Emergency Management Director	Jason Cavallaro		jason.cavallaro@hanover-ma.gov
Fire Chief	Jason Cavallaro		jason.cavallaro@hanover-ma.gov
Deputy Fire Chief	Fred Freeman		fred.freeman@hanover-ma.gov
Police Chief	Tim Kane		timothy.kane@hanover-ma.gov
Deputy Police Chief			
Town Manager	Joseph Colangelo		joseph.colangelo@hanover-ma.gov
HPS Superintendent	Matt Ferron		mferron@hanoverschools.org
SST Superintendent	Tom Hickey		thickey@ssvotech.org
DPW Director	Victor Diniak		vdiniak@hanoverdpw.org
DPW Deputy Director	Kurt Kelley		kkelley@hanoverdpw.org
Finance Director	Chelsea Stevens		chelsea.stevens@hanover-ma.gov
CDMI Director	Ann Lee		ann.lee@hanover-ma.gov
Library Director	Virginia Johnson		vjohnson@ocln.org
Communications Director	Steve Ryerson		steve.ryerson@hanover-ma.gov
IT Director	Tom Nee		thomas.nee@hanover-ma.gov

Additional information will be sent to alternates at the discretion of each Department Head listed above, coordinated with the Emergency Management Director.

Weather Media

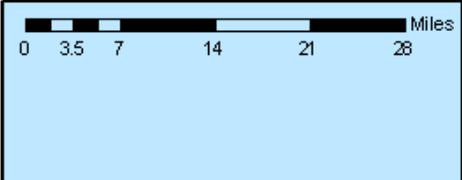
Station Name	Station Call Sign		Frequencies
ABC	WCVB		
NBC	WHDH		
CBS	WBZ		
Weather	The Weather Channel		
NECN	NE Cable News		
NWS NOAA Weather	KHB35		162.475 Mhz
Echolink	WX1BOX	(New Eng) Node	
SkyWarn	Boston	PL 88.5 Hz	145.230 / 144.630 MHz
	Walpole	PL: 123.0 Hz	146.895 / 146.295 MHz

NOAA Weather Radio - KHB35 162.475 MHz



Legend

-  Coverage and Alerting Area
-  No Coverage or Alerts



KHB35 Transmitter Details

Call Sign	Power	Frequency	Tower Height
KHB35	1000 W	162.475 MHz	39 m

County Coverage for KHB35

State	County	SAME
MA	Bristol	025005
MA	Essex	025009
MA	Middlesex	025017
MA	Norfolk	025021
MA	Plymouth	025023
MA	Suffolk	025025

Coverage Map Notes

The coverage statistics and maps are calculated using a computer model and station data assuming ideal conditions.

Coverage may be 5 to 10 percent below the computer predicted coverage for the following reasons:

- The computer model is sensitive to antenna performance. Antenna performance is a function of local conditions, causing signals to be stronger signal level in some directions than others.
- Most NWR stations are at existing antenna towers, provided at little or no cost.
- Placement of NWR antennas is dictated by the tower owner, which may result in a less than ideal set up.
- The antenna may be affected by nearby structures or bodies of water.
- In some special instances, the antenna may have been intentionally adjusted to be "directional" and provide better coverage to a specific area to the detriment of other areas.
- Most of the stations employ equipment technology more than 20 years old. Because of variations in local site conditions, the performance of an individual transmitter and antenna may be less than predicted or expected.
- Seasonal environmental conditions, such as icing or heavy rain, affect performance of a transmitter station and its various components, particularly those subject to continuous weather exposure.
- The coverage maps are shown in a single color format, which relates to an estimated signal level.
 - White: Signal level of greater than 18dBuV: Reliable coverage
- The county or counties that are marked with hash markings will receive alert tones from the transmitter. If your receiver is capable you can program the device to alert you when the transmitter sends alert messages. Use the SAME code listed in the county coverage to program your receiver for the county or counties to receive alerts.

REFERENCE SHEET FOR NWS-NORTON WARNING/ADVISORY THRESHOLDS
(Last Updated: July 1, 2022)

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Attachment