



Hazardous Weather

Annex

H

GRAYSON COLLEGE EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT

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APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

Grayson College

Hazard Annex H – Hazardous Weather

College President

Dr. Jeremy McMillen

Date

Vice President for Business Services

Mr. Giles Brown

Date

Emergency Manager

Mr. Andrew MacPherson

Date

NOTE: The signature(s) will be based upon district administrative practices. Typically, the individual having primary responsibility for this emergency function signs the annex in the first block and the second signature block is used by the Emergency Management Coordinator. Alternatively, each department head assigned tasks within the annex may sign the annex.

RECORD OF CHANGES

Annex

Training, Testing, Exercise Annex

Page and Section # of Change	Date of Change	Entered By	Date Entered
01	November, 2016	Sultan Alsaadi	Creation of New support Annex

Storm-Ready College and University Program

Background

In 1999, the National Weather Service (NWS) established the Storm Ready® program. Storm Ready® is a national program that encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing clear-cut guidelines for emergency



managers. Storm Ready® is a program by which communities can help implement procedures to reduce the potential impacts from natural disaster events. The program focuses on improving communication and severe weather preparedness. The expansion of the program to colleges and universities provides for the voluntary participation of institutions of higher education in the “Weather Ready Nation” initiatives of the NWS.

Nearly 98% of all presidential declared disasters are weather related, leading to approximately 500 deaths per year, and nearly \$14 billion in damage. A Storm Ready® institution should be better prepared to respond before a natural disaster strikes. The Storm Ready® program is intended to:

- Help save lives by improving the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings for the campus community.
- Provide detailed and clear recommendations that help emergency managers establish and improve effective hazardous weather operations.
- Help justify costs and purchases that may be needed to support emergency response and hazard mitigation plans.
- Provides an image incentive and public recognition for colleges and universities that are recognized as Storm Ready®.

Becoming Storm-Ready member

To be certified as Storm-Ready®, communities must meet guidelines established by the NWS in partnership with **federal**, state, and local emergency management professionals. The program recognition guidelines are population based. Storm-Ready® University recognition requires the Grayson Community College District to meet the same criteria as a small-medium sized city (population 2,500 – 14,999). The guidelines, as established by NWS, are identified and met by the district as follows

Guideline	Requirement	Meet in
1 communication	Establish a 24-hour local warning (LWP)	Support Annex A
1 communication	Establish an Emergency Operation Center (EOC)	EOP
2 NWS Information	Establish at least 4 ways for the EOC or LWP to receive NWS warnings	Hazard Annex H
3 Monitoring	Establish at least 2 ways to monitor hydro meteorological data	Hazard Annex H
4 Warning	Establish at least 2 ways for the EOC or LWP to disseminate warnings	Support Annex A
4 Warning	Provide NWR/SAME receivers for public facilities	Support Annex A
5 Preparedness	Provide at least 2 annual weather safety talks	Support Annex E
5 Preparedness	Provide biennial storm spotter and dispatcher training	Support Annex E
5 Preparedness	Host / co-host annual NWS spotter training (Not a requirement for our population bracket, but assistance to local partners will be provided when possible)	Support Annex H

6 Administrative	Create and maintain a hazardous weather operations plan	Support Annex H
6 Administrative	Emergency manager must visit NWS at least biennially	Support Annex H
6 Administrative	Host visit from NWS to the district at least once annually	Support Annex H

Authority:

See emergency operations plan, Authority.

Introduction:

The Hazard Annexes to the Emergency Operations Plan organize the applicable college district positions, departments, and outside support agencies into groups according to their roles in response to a pre-determined category of hazard(s) that may create a campus emergency or disaster. Outside agencies may include: governmental, non-governmental, private sector, and other volunteer resources. The Hazard Annex provides basic information for hazard-specific operations and resources which might be needed for an incident that affects Grayson College. Hazard Annexes may trigger EOC and subsequent ESF Annex activations to provide response command and control.

Hazard Annexes provide hazard-specific guidance for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager and ESFs in response to all activation level emergencies as outlined in the EOP. Designated department and agency resources may be requested to respond or recover from emergency incidents that affect the district. Normally, the response and recovery actions will be coordinated from the EOC as Incident or Unified Command will use the resources at the incident scene.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Hazardous Weather Annex is to provide a hazard-specific framework for use during a weather related emergency or disaster impacting Grayson College.

Scope:

The Hazardous Weather Annex:

- Is applicable to all phases of emergency management for District impacts from hazardous weather.

Situation:

Weather related incidents have a high probability of impact at Grayson College. The District must address this hazard to aid in mitigating impacts and expediting disaster response and recovery.

Assumptions:

The District makes the following planning assumptions:

- Hazardous weather often has little to no lead time for warning.
- District resources will be quickly overwhelmed.
- Communication will be disrupted.
- Shortfalls can be expected in both support personnel and equipment.
- Local, state, and federal assistance may not be immediately available.

Responsibilities

The Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) or EOC Manager is the primary responsible party for addressing all phases of emergency management related to hazardous weather situations. Delegation may be made for various response functions through the EOP and its ESF annexes.

Emergency Management Coordinator

- The EMC shall maintain this Hazardous Weather Annex in accordance with Storm-Ready **Guideline #6 – Hazardous Weather Operations Plan**.
- The EMC shall visit the local National Weather Service Forecast Office in Ft. Worth at least once every two years to comply with Storm-Ready **Guideline #7 – Biennial Visits to NWS**.
- The EMC shall host a representative from the National Weather Service at least once annually to comply with Storm-Ready **Guideline #8 – Annual Visit from NWS**.
- The EMC shall attend the annual the NWS Severe Weather Workshop (National Tornado Summit).
- The EMC may coordinate the annual hosting or co-hosting of NWS Storm Spotter Training to meet Storm-Ready **Guideline #5 – Host/Co-Host Annual NWS Spotter Training**. This is not a requirement of the District for obtaining and maintaining Storm-Ready status, but local partners will be assisted in this training whenever possible.

Warning Systems and Activation Criteria

The GCALERT emergency notification system is the local warning transmission system for the district and is further described in support Annex A, Warning, published under a separate cover.

Receiving Warnings

The District maintains seven means of receiving warnings disseminated by the NWS to meet and exceed the Storm-Ready **Guideline #2 – NWS Information Reception**.

1. **NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Receivers.**
2. **Emergency Management Weather Information Network (EMWIN).**
3. **Television.**
4. **Emergency Alert System.**
5. **NWS-Chat.**
6. **Wireless Emergency Alerts.**
7. **Amateur Radio Transceiver.**

The NWS disseminates weather forecasts, watches, and warnings via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Wire Service, which is a satellite communications system that broadcasts to specialized receiver terminals. NWS watches and warnings are transmitted to the State Operations Center (SOC). The SOC, as the State Warning Point, retransmits these weather messages to communities, including Grayson College, by the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System and SOC e-mail distribution network. These messages are also distributed among the other reception means listed above. Some of the weather messages that are provided are:

1. Flood and flash flood watches and warnings.
2. Severe weather watches and warnings.
3. Tornado watches and warnings.
4. Winter weather watches, warnings, and advisories.

Severe Weather Warning Activation Criteria

The GCALERT emergency notification system is not activated for every severe weather warning in the District's service area. Some established criteria, as shown in the table below, identifies the minimum requirements for broadcasting alerts. Alerts may be issued outside of this criteria as deemed necessary by the EMC. GCALERT activation mode is dependent on impact areas. For example, a tornado warning may not trigger facility notifications (desktops and audio broadcast) if a campus will not be directly impacted, but text messages may be sent for those residing or travelling in the campus service area.

Weather Events	Description and Criteria
Tornadoes	<p>Tornado Warnings – Tornadoes are deadly and unpredictable. GCALERT will be issued for these warnings. Students will be notified by GCALERT SYSTEM to seek shelters.</p>
High Wind	<p>Winds up to 70mph – These winds are considered hurricane force and can be damaging or deadly. GCALERT may be issued when there is potential campus or service area impact. Students will be notified by GCALERT SYSTEM to seek shelters.</p>
Hail	<p>Hail up to 2.50” – Baseball size hail can be damaging or deadly. It can cause damage to cars and homes. GCALERT may be issued when there is potential campus or service area impact. Students should seek shelters immediately.</p> <p>Hail Any Size – When any planned outdoor event is occurring (baseball, softball, student life event, etc.) GCALERT or Route Alerting may be issued when there is potential campus or service area impact.</p>
Flooding	<p>Flash Flood Warnings – Flooding in high traffic areas leading to a campus or any area on or near campus that might affect safe travel. GCALERT may be issued when there is potential campus or service area impact.</p>

Severe Weather

Situation

The District's highest probability high impact hazard is that of severe weather. Grayson College located in the heart of Tornado Alley, a nickname given to an area in the southern plains of the central United States that consistently experiences a high frequency of tornadoes each year. Tornadoes in this region typically happen in late spring and occasionally the early fall, but may occur during any season. In addition to the risk of tornadoes, the District faces threats of destructive high winds, large hail, lightning, and flooding rains.

Monitoring

The District Emergency Management Coordinator will monitor for potential severe weather impacts with information provided from the National Weather Service and the Storm Prediction Center. During this time the EOC will be at Level 4: Monitoring activation.

The District maintains at least two means of monitoring hydrometer logical conditions to meet the Storm-Ready **Guideline #3 – Hydro meteorological Monitoring**.

1. **Weather Monitoring Stations.** All two district campuses in Denison and Van Alstyne have internet connected weather stations. Stations provide the EMC's office and the EOC measured temperature, humidity, pressure, rainfall, and wind at each location in real time.
2. **Weather Radar.** Level 2 and/or Level 3 radar data is accessible through wired internet, wireless cellular internet, and broadcast media.

Monitoring established communications channels for warning reception, as outlined in Support Annex A, Warning, published under a separate cover, will be conducted in the EOC or Virtual Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to initiate warnings and direct protective actions. The National Weather Service will issue watches and warnings to the public and local emergency response agencies as conditions dictate and these messages will be formatted for distribution through the GCALERT emergency notification system.

Storm Sheltering

Upon the issuance of a warning requiring sheltering, the campus community in District facilities will shelter in the best available area of severe weather refuge. Sheltering locations are identified on emergency maps and with signage throughout the District. Spaces labeled as "Severe Weather Areas" may not be designed as reinforced storm shelters, but have been deemed as best available areas of storm refuge. Sheltering should always occur in these areas or

on the lowest level of a building in an interior room or hallway free of windows and glass when designated severe weather areas are at capacity, or signage/mapping is not present. It is not the policy of Grayson College to open District facilities for the severe weather sheltering of the general public.

Storm Impact and Damage Reporting

Basic storm impacts and damage reports from observers on the ground will be provided to the National Weather Service in real time to ensure that all relevant information to forecasting is available. The District EMC or designee will provide preliminary damage reports from the field to the NWS Forecast Office in Ft. Worth by established communication channels. Closure of campuses or areas of a campus due to storm damage will be the responsibility of the Emergency Support Functions to the EOP as necessary. Damage to facilities shall be immediately communicated to the EOC to activate ESF 9 and direct the first search and rescue operations to pre-designated “Severe Weather Areas.”

Winter Weather

Situation

The District is susceptible to winter weather events that may impact travel, utility services, and, as a result, life safety.

The District Emergency Management Coordinator will monitor for potential impacts with information provided from the National Weather Service beginning 120 hours in advance (H-120) of a storm. During this time the EOC will be at Level 4: Monitoring activation.

This hazardous weather support annex section for winter weather events is established to aid in closure or delay determinations.

Students, faculty, and staff should monitor GCALERT notifications, the college website, social media, local television, and radio stations for weather closing announcements.

Winter Weather Closure Protocol

The Winter Weather Decision Support and Action Guidance below will be followed for all winter weather events impacting the District. Closure and delay determinations may also be made at the discretion of the College President outside of the decision guidance.

Most winter weather closing decisions will be made during the night prior to the impact of a weather event, however, the institution may be closed during the regular class/work day if warranted.

Early dismissal during regular instruction and operational hours may occur upon order of the College President or designee. Only the College President or designee is authorized to close, delay opening, or accelerate the end of the class day.

Terms and References:

Acronyms

GC	Grayson College
EOC	Emergency Operation Center
ICS	Incident Command System
ICP	Incident Command Post
IP	Internet Protocol
IC	Incident Command

Definition:

Emergency Operations Center	Specially equipped facilities from which government officials exercise direction and control and coordinate necessary resources in an emergency situation.
Standard Operating Procedures	Approved methods for accomplishing a task or set of tasks. SOPs are typically prepared at the department or agency level. May also be referred to as Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).
Clery Act	The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act or Clery Act, signed in 1990, is a federal statute codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f), with implementing regulations in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations at 34 C.F.R. 668.46 that includes mandates for emergency notification and emergency procedure testing.

Distribution list:

This Emergency Support Function annex is distributed to the positions or locations indicated in the table below.

Distribution Area/ Position	Copies
President	1
Emergency management coordinator	1
Public Information Office	1
GC Information Technology Services	1
GC Police Department	1
Campus Dean- Van Alstyne	1
Vice President for Business Services	1