

## **Incident Annex 4 – Severe Weather Emergencies**

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### **Coordinating Department**

Department of Public Safety (Emergency Management)

### **Supporting Departments**

Department of Public Safety (Police Operations), Department of Public Safety (Dispatch), Facilities Services/Auxiliary Facilities Services, Offices of the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors

### **Supporting Outside Agencies**

Colorado Springs Fire Department, Colorado Springs Public Works, Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, National Weather Service

## **Section I: Plan Activation**

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### **Scope**

The scope of this annex is to describe the response by UCCS to a severe weather event on or near the campus which has the potential to endanger lives and property or to disrupt campus operations. Such weather could include but is not limited to thunderstorm activity including tornadoes, lightning, and hail; high winds or heavy rains; or significant snowfall events.

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### **Concept of Operations**

#### **A. General**

1. The primary goals in any incident will be life safety, incident stabilization, and protection of property.
2. Weather events usually are preceded by some type of watch or warning issued by the National Weather Service. However, these predictions are not always accurate as to the size or intensity of the weather event.
3. Generally, watches and warnings that may impact campus operations will be announced via established methods.
4. All campus resources will coordinate their activities with the campus Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or Incident Command Post (ICP) as directed.

#### **B. Specific**

##### **1. Response**

- a) The primary role for campus resources will be shelter and evacuation, with additional roles for scene security, crowd control, traffic control in the event of damage to the campus.

b) In the event of violent severe weather, such as thunderstorm or tornado activity, heavy winds, and/or lightning, the Department of Public Safety (Dispatch) will make every effort to relay warnings and alert to the campus through established communication methods. This will not supplant individuals' responsibilities to be aware of local weather hazards.

- i. Individuals should seek appropriate shelter until the danger has passed.
- ii. Once the severe weather has passed, the Department of Public Safety (Police Operations) in conjunction with Facilities Services and other response entities will coordinate checks of the campus for property damage or injuries if conditions have warranted.

c) Snow events can have a profound impact on campus operations. As such, the Department of Public Safety will coordinate with the campus leadership to make closure, delay, or other modified operations decisions based on existing procedures.

d) Significant rainfall and melting snow has historically damaged campus infrastructure through flooded buildings washed out roads. During and following such events, Facilities Services and the Department of Public Safety will monitor for water damage.

e) Also refer to Tab T: Incident Annex 6 – Campus Evacuation regarding procedures in the event an evacuation is necessary.

## **2. Recovery**

a) Depending on the nature of the weather and the impact to the campus, recovery have varying requirements.

b) Immediate recovery from severe weather will primarily be the responsibility of Facilities Services/Auxiliary Facilities Services, and may include such tasks as plowing snow, mud and debris removal, downed tree removal, and temporary repairs such as boarding broken windows.

c) Heavier damage repair must be coordinated with appropriate outside response agencies and subsequent follow up with appropriate building inspectors and contractors.

d) Risk Management and Resource Management involvement will be required in the event of any damage to campus buildings and infrastructure.

## **Section II: Pre-Event Coordination and Planning Responsibilities**

### **Coordinating Department**

#### **Department of Public Safety (Emergency Management)**

##### **A. Mitigation**

1. Conduct pre-event scenario trainings and exercises to familiarize critical personnel with response roles.
2. Identify safe areas for sheltering from severe weather, and share information via Floor Emergency Coordinators.

##### **B. Preparedness**

1. Maintain Floor Emergency Coordinator plans and emergency packs.
2. Monitor weather trends and forecasts for possible hazardous conditions.
3. Work with campus leadership to provide as much decision making in advance of severe weather as possible.

### **Supporting Departments**

#### **Department of Public Safety (Police Operations)**

- A. Develop and exercise plans to provide damage and injury checks, evacuation, crowd control, and traffic control operations if required.
- B. Monitor weather forecasts and trends and modify staffing accordingly if necessary.

#### **Department of Public Safety (Dispatch)**

- A. Track approaching severe weather and disseminate warnings and alerts if appropriate using established emergency communication methods.
- B. Coordinate initial campus response to severe weather.
- C. Adjust staffing based on forecast conditions if necessary.

#### **Facilities Services/Auxiliary Facilities Services**

- A. Maintain mitigation infrastructure (gutters, storm drains, lightning rods, etc.) to minimize damage.
- B. Assist in initial damage assessment and recovery efforts such as plowing and debris removal.
- C. Coordinate long-term repairs and recovery to campus infrastructure.
- D. Adjust staffing in advance of approaching severe weather to provide response if necessary.

## **Offices of the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors**

- A. Support campus departments in implementation of mitigation and preparedness efforts.
- B. Oversee campus assets assigned in support of severe weather response and recovery.
- C. Use existing decision-making criteria to establish response to weather such as closures or delays.

## **Supporting Outside Agencies and Facilities**

### **Colorado Springs Fire Department**

- A. Respond as the first due apparatus to any weather events on campus requiring life saving or structural damage response.
- B. Coordinate initial damage assessment functions with campus officials.

### **Colorado Springs Public Works**

- A. Maintain damage mitigation infrastructure such as storm drains and stormwater drainage facilities.
- B. Provide debris removal and infrastructure repair to allow access and continued operations to the campus.
- C. Support campus assets with damage assessment and debris removal if requested and available.

### **Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management**

- A. Publish and maintain a severe weather plan in conjunction with the City Emergency Operations Plan.
- B. Coordinate with the UCCS Department of Public Safety (Emergency Preparedness) on planning, exercises, and incident coordination.

### **National Weather Service**

- A. Provide weather forecasts and severe weather modeling and predictions.
- B. Issue warnings and alerts as required.