13.01B.01 PURPOSE AND POLICY

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for police operations during weather emergencies involving high winds and flooding of sufficient severity to cause a hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and/or other concerns for safety.

It is the policy of the department to staff emergency functions 24-hours every day and the public’s expectation is that police service will be accessible 24 hours day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. However, there are occasions because of weather conditions when police services must be reduced or stopped; for example, heavy snow, hurricanes, tornadoes, tropical storms and flooding conditions.

With the exception of extreme rapidly occurring weather conditions, the Watch Commander will make the determination when to reduce or cease street operations (i.e. Sworn Officers, Parking Enforcement and Crossing Guards etc.). When time permits, the Watch Commander should consider consulting with the Fire Safety Officer or Emergency Manager to determine when to reduce, cease and resume field operations.

The information used in this directive to determine unsafe conditions in the two types of environments was gathered from multiple sources.
13.01B.02 DEFINITIONS

Sustained Wind - The wind speed obtained by averaging the observed values over a one-minute period.

Tropical Storm – sustained wind speeds of 39 – 73 mph.

Hurricane – sustained winds speeds of 74 mph or higher.

Moving Water – water that has movement, current or tide flow, to include the channel of the Potomac River. Especially dangerous is flash flooding flows.

Fixed body of water – still, calm, or non-moving water.

13.01B.03 PROCEDURES

Wind

Wind speeds during a Tropical Storm range from 39 mph – 73 mph sustained. Hurricane force winds occur at 74 mph and higher.

During a Tropical Storm the Watch Commander is to monitor weather conditions and should call the Emergency Operations Center 703-838-6257 to obtain current wind speed.

Wind speeds from 39-73 mph (Tropical Storm strength) can be an increased safety risk (falling trees and flying debris) and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Watch Commander.

Water

Employees should recognize any law enforcement activity in, near and around water is inherently dangerous. Never let emotion and urgency drive decisions.

Moving water is particularly dangerous and six inches of moving water can knock the average size person down. Because employees will not receive the equipment and training necessary to work in this environment (and most injuries occur in this area), they are prohibited from working within 15 feet of moving water. Employees should
never tie a rope to themselves or others and attempt to wade into moving water to help someone. Rescuers die each year that way, stuffed under cars or entrapped in debris.

Flooding is the #1 cause of weather-related fatalities in this country. In fact, as many as 60 percent of flood-related deaths occur because people try to drive through the water. Water weighs 62.4 pounds per cubic foot and usually travels between six to 12 miles per hour, depending on the slope. For every foot the water rises, it pushes with 500 pounds of lateral force against a vehicle. In addition, water gives even the heaviest car some buoyancy. Indeed, every foot of water lifts around 1,500 pounds of vehicle weight. That's why two feet of water will float a 3,000 pound car.

A good rule of thumb: If you can't see the yellow or white line on a road, you're in trouble. Employees are prohibited from driving through an unknown depth of moving water.

The City has many fixed (flat or calm) water sites (ex. Lake Cook). Employees often feel compelled to assist citizens or others in rescue type operations in, near and around fixed water. However, employees should realize their level (or lack) of proficiency in this type of endeavour and consider other pertinent factors such as training, equipment needed for a rescue, the weight of the officer's equipment etc.

Whenever possible, employees should avoid entering fixed water or operating within 10 feet of the water line.

By Authority Of:

Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police
ANNEX 1
MOBILIZATION PLAN

REFERENCES:
Police Directive 4.11C, Change of Address
Police Directive 11.11, Hostage/Barricade Situations
Police Directive 4.2, Attendance and Leave

PURPOSE:
To define operational procedures for the mobilization of off-duty personnel in the event of a disaster, civil disturbance, or other emergency requiring more personnel than normally available on duty.

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I. DISCUSSION

II. COMMAND AND CONTROL
III. PROCEDURES

B. All commanders will provide up-to-date succession of command lists to communications at least quarterly. The lists are due by the first of January, April, July, and October.

C. Commanders will notify their subordinates who in turn will notify their subordinates. If a subordinate cannot be contacted then an employee from each work group will be designated by the commander to contact other members of that particular group. [46.1.11.b]

1. Supervisors will notify employees assigned to their supervisory group. Contacted employees will be instructed on:
   a. The nature of the emergency [46.1.8.c]
   b. The reporting location and time
   c. Whether to report in uniform or not [46.1.8.d]
2. Supervisors will attempt to contact everyone and will make one repeat attempt to reach any employees not contacted.

3. After completing the calls to his/her group, the supervisor will contact the commander or designee of their unit and report the number of officers/employees responding along with the names of persons not contacted.

4. The commander or designee will provide these results to the Communications Section. The Communications supervisor will then contact the watch commander with the results.

5. If directed to do so by the watch commander, the Communications Section will continue to attempt to contact employees not previously contacted until either they have been contacted or the emergency is over.

6. Mobilization of the Special Operations and Hostage Negotiation Teams will be in accordance with Police Directive 11.11. [46.1.8.e; 46.2.1.b]

IV. ASSEMBLY AREAS [46.1.8,c]

A. Primary and Secondary assembly areas will be designated by the incident commander. The incident commander must be cognizant of the parking influx of personnel and equipment.

B. Movement from the assembly area to the incident site will be via department vehicles. [46.1.8,h]

V. DE-MOBILIZATION

Mobilized personnel will be demobilized as soon as practical and returned to named work shifts. Consideration must be given to ensure there is a sufficient transition to allow for adequate rest. All overtime will be submitted in accordance with Police Directive 4.2. [46.1.8,i; 46.1.2,s]
VI. REHEARSALS

A. Communications will conduct a partial mobilization drill every October. A report will be submitted to the police chief detailing the bureau or division called, the total time consumed in the call back and the percent of successful contacts.

B. Communications will conduct a full-scale mobilization drill every April. A report will be submitted to the police chief detailing the time required to complete the drill and the percent of successful contacts for each bureau and for the Fiscal/Fleet Management Division and Office of Intelligence & Internal Security.

B. Mobilization drills will be unannounced and made at random hours to accurately measure the effectiveness of the call back system. All deficiencies, such as inaccurate telephone numbers, will be reported to the appropriate commander for corrective action.