

**OKALOOSA COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

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| <b>Title:</b>   | <b>Inclement Weather Operations</b>   |
| <b>Policy:</b>  | <b>425.00</b>   |
| <b>Purpose:</b> | <b>To ensure that medic units are properly maintained and operated during periods of inclement weather.</b> |

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**Policy:**

At temperatures below 20 degrees, diesel fuel may thicken enough to clog the fuel filter. This is usually caused by the naturally occurring paraffin in diesel fuel solidifying as it gets colder. The engine is equipped with a fuel filter/heater/water separator to help prevent fuel filter clogging. However, if the engine starts but stalls out after a short time and will not restart; the fuel filter may be clogged.

The engine block heater is used to warm the engine, which improves starting, provides for faster engine warm-up, and results in quicker response from the heater-defroster system. A three-prong outlet is located inside the engine compartment. Whenever temperatures drop below freezing (32 degrees F), use the outdoor power cord to plug into the engine compartment. (If necessary, IV fluids may be carried indoors. To eliminate frost from the windshield, cover the windshield with a sheet on the exterior of the unit.)

In addition to the above, units have been furnished with portable heaters. These heaters will be used to eliminate loss of fluids and drugs due to freezing. The heaters are to be positioned on the floor in an open area of the flooring with no danger to materials and/or equipment.

During high wind producing storms such as tropical storms and hurricanes or any weather system producing sustained winds of 50 miles per hour, all ambulance operations will be suspended until sustained winds reach safe operating speeds. The EMS Shift Captains will coordinate with the local Fire Chief and EMS Dispatch to determine required response procedures as the storm event progresses.

**Accountability and Compliance:**

It is the responsibility of all crewmembers to ensure that medic units are maintained and ready for immediate response during cold weather conditions and are operated safely during high winds.

Policy #: 425.00  
CAAS: 203.03.04  
Author: Vause  
Reviewed: Leadership  
Approved: Leadership  
Status: Active  
Effective Date: 10/01/08  
Revision Date: 07/27/16