

# Lincoln County Fire and Rescue Association

## Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

Effective Date: May 1, 2012

Adopted Date: May 1, 2012

**Number:** 114

**Title:** Severe Weather

**Purpose:**

This SOG will establish guidelines so that Lincoln County Fire / Rescue Departments, in cooperation with Lincoln County Communications, will maintain clear, open, and prioritized communications during peak response periods caused by adverse weather. This guideline will assist in opening the Fire and EMS Dispatch Channel for dispatching emergency calls and to shift additional radio traffic to additional channels.

**General Information:**

1. Various weather conditions may require the commitment of many fire / rescue resources often at the same time.
  - a. This causes a great deal of radio traffic.
  - b. Often, unnecessary, radio traffic ties up the fire dispatch channel and causes a great deal of confusion and miscommunication among responding resources.
2. This policy will have minimal effect on the strategy or tactical portion for fire / rescues departments' responses during severe weather.

**Lincoln County Fire / Rescue Departments:**

1. Should make every effort to limit radio traffic to only vital information.
  - a. Service calls can generally be handled with face to face communications.
  - b. Emergency calls dispatched on the Fire Dispatch Channel shall promptly move radio traffic to a tactical channel.
  - c. If necessary Lincoln County Communications will move a particular incidents radio traffic to a tactical channel. This ensures the prompt dispatching of other emergency calls.
2. Power lines down:
  - a. It is manpower intensive for communications to ascertain an estimated time of arrival from the power companies to non-priority power line incidents.
  - b. In addition to being manpower intensive, most power companies will only issue standard ETAs to incidents, due to their call volume.
3. Suggestions
  - a. Departments may elect to cut responses back.
    - i. Example; Two departments for structural response.
    - ii. Example; Single department response for fire alarms sounding.
  - b. Units should be cleared as soon as possible to facilitate additional coverage needs.
  - c. Departments may find it necessary to staff each station with at least one member, to receive and record calls for service over the Opscad.
    - i. A list may be needed due to the amount of calls pending for each department.
    - ii. The person staffing the Opscad should try to contact resources face-to-face or via fire ground channel. This will be left up to each department.
  - d. If power line incidents are found to be on private property, fire / rescue departments may elect to cordon off the dangerous area and turn the property back over to the private owner.
  - e. When clearing a multiple unit incident, have one unit clear the entire box.
  - f. Units clearing should allow other radio traffic to be facilitated first. "If a unit is available, then that unit is available." In other words, just because Lincoln County Communications does not know a particular unit is available, doesn't mean that unit can't respond to additional calls.