



The Family Campers and RVers

Emergency Weather Guide and Procedures

**Prepared by Joseph L. Boswell
The National Disaster and Safety Awareness Director
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The Objective:

The purpose of this guide is to establish a procedure for the safety of all members of the Family Campers and RVers and their guests. Our membership reaches beyond the continental United States and includes our friends from the north in Canada. The overall objective is to enhance the safety of those who may be attending any or all of the following events:

- Chapter Campouts
- State/Providence Campouts
- The National Campvention
- The Retiree Rally

The safety and welfare of each and every member of the Family Campers and RVers is very important. Therefore, the following guidelines have been established. They are to be modified and are subject to change in order to fit any campout location in which one may be camping.

Weather conditions can change quickly and endanger the lives of all FCRV members at anytime and at any place. This guide takes into consideration the most likely time of year when FCRV member may be camping. Many camping activities take place during the spring, summer and fall. Our Retiree Rally takes place in during the winter months, in February or March and basic considerations have been taken under advisement in the preparation of this “Emergency Weather Guide.” This guide contains information and procedure for major weather conditions such as: Tornados, Floods and Hurricanes. This Emergency Weather Guide provides a plan of action dealing with these basic weather conditions. (Most campers will not be on the road or camping during Ice or Snow Storms.)

For clarity, this guide has been separated into six sections. They are as follows:

1. The first section is the general application guidelines
2. The second is for Chapter and State/Providence Campouts
3. Regional Campout Applications
4. The National Campvention and Retiree Rally Guidelines.
5. Flooding and Hurricane Procedures
6. Accountability Procedures and Forms

It is fully understood that each geographical location has its own set of special weather conditions that will affect the ways in which these guidelines can be implemented. The safety and welfare of everyone is the most important. Everyone needs to be kept safe during severe weather conditions. Use the guidelines that best fit your campout application.

Section 1

General Guidelines:

At the very first assembly of all participants and at any campout no matter the location the Wagon Master, State/Providence Director, The National Campvention Chairperson or the Retiree Rally Chairperson will announce to those assembled where to go for the “storm shelter” location.

Keep in mind that “storm shelters” will be different at each and every camping location. It is not safe to stay in the RV during violent weather conditions.

Review the following information as provided by the National Weather Service:

Alerts: broadcast by the local National Weather Service, or other local Emergency Services, it may include the following:

Watches: conditions are pending and could change quickly

Warning: conditions are life threatening and dangerous-take cover

The Wagon Master, State/Providential Director, National Campvention Chairperson, or The Retiree Rally Chairperson will have established the “storm shelter” location(s) prior to arrival at the campout site. If possible the Disaster and Safety Awareness Team (DASAT) Director will have this information readily available for everyone. If a program is published, it should contain a brief summary as to what to do, and where to go in case of a “severe weather” alert-or other emergency.

The DASAT Director or safety person from your Chapter, State/Provincial area who is present needs to be a part of any emergency plan implementation. In many instances they have taken various emergency training classes and can be an asset to the impending danger. In many instances this same person may have taken classes taught by the National Weather Service, and may be a part of the SKY WARN/WATCH program.

Remind everyone that when you evacuate from your RV for any reason because of a “weather” alert or other impending emergency to bring with you any medical paperwork or medications. A *flashlight* is needed if this occurs at night. It may be some time before you can return to the RV.

All in attendance will be informed of the local emergency procedures for this given camping location. In some instance, a “Horn or Siren” in the community will be activated or sounded pending the “weather” alert. Alerts may be broadcast on the local radio or TV stations. (Example: a tornado siren) All camping participants needed to be informed as to what it sounds like, and what to do if it is activated. Pay attention to the following:

Tornado Watch-means a tornado is possible

Tornado Warning-means a tornado has been sighted

If for some reason, no emergency “Horns or Sirens” are available, then a designated person(s) should go around sounding the alarm using a vehicle horn. Someone else needs to go around and knock on the doors of each and every RV to spread the “alert.” Evacuate quickly-go to the “storm shelter” location.

Pets-make sure they are permitted in the “storm shelter weather” locations. In many instance, they are welcomed as long as they are in a pet crate. Larger animals will need to be on a leash-and kept under tight control. Keep in mind that animals can be just as afraid as you in this given situation. Remember to bring with you any proof of vaccinations and medications if needed.

Once the alerts have been sounded and the impact of the emergency is known, fast implementation of the guidelines needs to be implemented quickly and efficiently for the safety of everyone involved.

*Remember RVs are **NOT** safe locations during “severe weather” emergencies! It is important for life safety purposes to evacuate.*

You cannot force people from their RVs but you can certainly remind the occupants that a “severe weather” alert has been issued and their own safety is in danger, it is advised to evacuate the RV. If they choose to remain, make sure you have their names and camping location for future rescue if needed.

After the “severe weather” threat or other emergency has passed assemble everyone and make sure all are safe and sound. This task will be easier at a Chapter or State/Providential Campout (This may not be possible at the Regional, National Campvention or the Retiree Rally. (See: The National Campvention/Retiree procedures below for clarification on this issue.)

Remind children, youth, and teens to remain in their secure location until the all clear has been established. These individuals have a strong urge to leave the secure location and attempt to locate their parents/legal guardians. The same can be said for adults. Simply stay put-or move to a “storm shelter” as directed until the danger has passed.

Once the “emergency” has passed stay in your safe location until the ALL clear has been given. If destruction has occurred, it is advisable for everyone to stay in place until all individuals have been accounted for and the grounds are safe for everyone. Remember downed trees can bring down power lines thus creating a dangerous situation for everyone-especially at night time.

Many individuals in FCRV are part of Profession and Volunteer Emergency Services in their given state or providence. (Example: Firefighters, EMT, Nurses, etc.) They can be valuable resources-make sure you can identify these individual who may be of assistance during an emergency.

The Wagon Master, State Director, National Campvention or Retiree Rally Chairperson or other designated person will contact any additional Emergency personnel through the 911 system as needed. By following this chain of command it will be easier for all involved and create less confusion during the emergency.

All paperwork pertaining to the evacuation procedures and action taken-should be turned into the Wagonmaster, State/Providential Director, and National Campvention or to the Retiree Director. This information should be turned into the “Security Office” or the “Campvention/Retiree Office” on location if applicable. Forms should be reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness at the camping site. Changes should be noted and acted upon accordingly. Once everything has returned to normal concerns and comments should be forwarded to the National DASAT Director for additional evaluation, consideration and reevaluation. (Copies should also be forwarded to the National President.)

Encourage all participants at your camping event to have a list of emergency names and contact phone numbers posted on the nearest window closest to the door of your camping unit to be viewed from the outside in case of an emergency. Rescue workers may need this information if applicable.

Section # 2

Chapter, State/Providence Campout Procedures

In the event of a “severe weather” alert at a Chapter or State/Providence campout the Wagon Master or State Director will alert all participants to the impending dangers. If the Wagon Master or State Director is unavailable, the Co-Chair or next person in charge will make the emergency decision. A DASAT person should be a part of this process if in attendance. This will be completed by informing campers to evacuate the RVs and go to the designated “safe” location until the danger passes.

The Wagon Master or State/Providence Director should have a list of names of the camping participants and their campsite location. This information can come directly from the registration applications. This way, once an evacuation plan has been implemented information will be accessible in case destruction has occurred and someone who stayed in their RV needs to be rescued.

Section # 3

Regional Campouts

Regional Campouts are the responsibility of the hosting state. In this instance the State Director is the event Chairperson. The Chairperson or designated person as appointed by the State Director will make the decision to implement the Emergency Weather procedures plan. If for some reason the State Director is not available, the Co-Chairperson will make the decision. The DASAT director from that state, if present, should be advised as to the implementation of the emergency plan.

It is difficult to have specific guidelines for our various camping site locations. Therefore, any and all of the listed policies and procedures from the other various areas in the guideline can be used accordingly.

The most important fact is to make sure the health and welfare of all participating campers is first and foremost.

See the following sections for policies and procedures that may apply to this application:

General Guidelines Section
Chapter, State/Providence Campout Procedures Section
The National Campvention and Retiree Rally Section

Section # 4

The National Campvention and Retiree Rally Procedures

Note: The chain of command will be for the Chairperson of the event to make the announcement that the emergency plan has been implemented. If for some reason the chairperson of the National Campvention or the Retiree Rally is not available then, the Vice Chairperson will make the decision. If the National Disaster and Safety Awareness Team Director (DASAT) is in attendance they will be informed that the plan has been implemented. If the National DASAT Chairperson is not available, then, the individual who represents the DASAT Director (or who made arrangements for the DASAT programs at the Campvention/Retiree Rally) will be contacted. All of the above mentioned individuals will have a radio(s)-from communications-at all times during the camping event. The National President of FCRV will also be contacted if on the grounds, it not he/she will be so advised as to the actions taken within 24 hours of the actual event. (The Insurance Company and Legal Counsel may need to be informed about this occurrence by a member of the Board of Trustees.)

Chain of Command for the National Campvention and Retiree Rally:

The Campvention/Retiree Rally Chairperson and or Vice Chairperson will make the (call) decision to implement the Emergency Guide Procedures.

The Campvention Chair/ Retiree Rally Chairperson or Vice Chairperson will make contact with the DASAT Director, and inform the Communications Chairperson and Security Chairperson that the plan has been implemented.

The DASAT individual may have already made contact with the Campvention/Retiree Rally Chairperson with information about an impending emergency.

The Communication Chairperson-or designee will immediately contact communications who will send out the message to Security and all other personnel that the “Emergency Plan” has been activated. All will implement evacuation procedures to the “storm shelter” location accordingly.

All “First Aid” personnel will be contacted through communication and will report to the “emergency shelter” locations with their “First Aid” equipment. They will continue to monitor the situation in case they are needed elsewhere.

At this point in time, all communications will be for emergency purposes only. *All other traffic will be told to stand down.*

Communications will broadcast to everyone that the emergency plan has been implemented and to proceed accordingly.

Communication will broadcast the location of the emergency shelter(s), and that all “Trams” or modes of on grounds transportation are now transporting everyone to the “emergency” safe shelter areas only.

Extra “trams” may be directed to the “handicapped area” so that the handicapped can be transported to the “safe shelter” areas as quickly-as possible since mobility may be an issue for many in this location. (This will be done through communications-only-so that communications can keep track of where all of the “trams” are located at any given time.)

An announcement will be made to everyone in attendance, from the main stage, or through other communications if available, that the emergency plan has been implemented. (If a PA system is available on the grounds of your camping location-than an announcement needs to be made about the

impending emergency.) It should include where to go, and what to do so all will be safe during this emergency.

Since communications could be an issue, the message needs to be spread through the general members-by word of mouth.

A “Host” person or “safety” person should be appointed for each and every camping area. Depending on the amount of campers in that given area this could be two or more persons. For example: a person at both ends of the area and a designated person in the middle-thus the impending emergency could be sound quicker to everyone. These persons will be responsible to spread the message in their given area that an emergency exists and that they need to evacuate the RV to a safe location.

A folder/and or notebook containing all the names and contact information for each and every camper needs to be in the Campvention/Retiree Office. This should contain “emergency” contact information (phone numbers of next or kin) in case one of our campers is injured and cannot speak for themselves. This should contain the exact camping location of all participants. This way if the disaster has caused destruction of property the rescue workers will have the information as to who was at this campsite location-and whom to contact.

A designated person in each “safe” shelter area will record the names of all individuals at that location. This way, if necessary, or if destruction has occurred, rescue workers will only search for those who did not evacuate their RV.

All campers who evacuated their RVs are to remain in the “safe” location until the “all clear” message has been made.

Campers who may be in different locations other than their RV at the time of the “evacuation” emergency are to stay at that location seeking shelter. The person in charge of that designated building/location should compile a list of those who are present. This way accountability can occur to make sure all are safe and accounted for. Families may be separated, but the emphasis is for all to stay put, until the danger has passed before everyone is united once again.

Section # 5

Flooding and Hurricane Procedures

Flooding this may have occurred because of heavy repeated downpours or severe thunderstorms. This can be of short or long duration. Flash flooding could be forthcoming and poses a danger to the low lying areas in and around the campground location. Remember the following:

Flood Watch-means flooding is possible

Flood Warning-means flooding is expected

Procedures for flooding-check with the campground management or the grounds keepers first, they may already have a plan of action. This needs to be followed under their directions, especially for insurance purposes. If this needs to be implemented the groundskeepers will assist in this procedure and have the equipment to assist with the removal or relocation of the various vehicles, motorhomes and trailers. Keep in mind the campground may become flooded, on a short or long term basis. Once everyone has been safely relocated, update the contact information with the campout contact personnel. (For Communications, Security, etc.)

Hurricanes-The National Weather Service provides the best information in this instance. It is important to listen to the local authorities on the radio and Television as to any and all evacuation procedures if and when the time occurs. One may be able to stay in place for a day or two before total evacuation of the campground is essential-time may be of the essence for safe travel to a different location away from the dangers of the Hurricane. In this case it is best to follow the procedures and directions of the state or local authorities as they have the best expertise in this situation. Remember roads become crowded and the availability of fuel can become difficult during the evacuation process. The Campout chairperson(s) or designee will make every effort to keep everyone informed and will present the plan of action to be taken as it presents itself. If you are traveling in an RV put water in your water tank as this may be essential at your next location. (Note: it also adds weight to you RV during windy conditions and can help with stability.) Total evacuation of the campground may be necessary. Be prepared.

Section # 6

Accountability Procedures and Forms

In any emergency, accountability is essential for the health and welfare of all participants. In many instances families may be separated at the time of a “severe weather” or other emergency. If this occurs, it becomes the responsibility of the attending Adult to make a list of the occupants within their care. For example: The Youth, Teen Director, Adult Coordinator or other program director or person who was conducting an event in a different location or building needs to make a list of those who are/were participating.

It is important to stay where you are unless you need to evacuate. Many emergencies are made more difficult because people leave a safe area and put themselves and others in danger.

Everyone at this location is to shelter in place, or evacuate to the “storm shelter” as needed. If you have evacuate than take this information with you to that (new) safer location. Take attendance-to make sure all have made it to the “storm shelter.” Update your information as quick as possible.

The attached basic information needs to be collected for accountability. All collected information will be turned into the Wagonmaster, State/Providence Director, or to the National Campvention or Retiree Rally office on site once the danger has passed. (If the Severe Weather Accountability Form is unavailable, the basic information can be compiled on a sheet of paper.)

It is also understood that some individuals will not or will choose to stay within their RVs during a violent storm evacuation. If you have made contact with such a person, take down the name of that family, how many people are involved, adults, children, youth, teens etc. and their site location. (Are they in a tent, trailer, motorhome, obtain the license tag number and state. Note the make and model of their camping unit.) This information needs to be turned into the security office for future reference especially if destruction has occurred on the grounds.

You have permission to make as many copies as needed of the following forms for your given emergency.

FCRV Severe Weather Accountability Form

One needed for each "Storm Shelter" location

(check only the one that applies)

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Child</u> (age 0-6)	<u>Youth</u> (age 7-12)	<u>Teen</u> (age 13-18)
1. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
2. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
3. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
4. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
5. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
6. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
7. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
8. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
9. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
10. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
11. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
12. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
13. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
14. _____	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N

FCRV Rescue/Recovery Form

(For those who did not evacuate)

Name(s): _____

Number of occupants:

Adults: _____ children: _____ youth: _____ teens: _____

Pets: _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Cat _____ Dog

Location: _____

Site Number: _____

Vehicle Identification: (circle one)

Tent Pop-up Trailer Fifthwheel Motorhome

Manufacture: _____

Tag Number: _____

State/Providence: _____

Emergency Contact Individuals and Phone Numbers:

FCRV Emergency Contact Information Form

1.) Name _____

Relationship _____

Contact phone number (home) _____

(cell) _____

(work) _____

2.) Name _____

Relationship _____

Contact phone number (home) _____

(cell) _____

(work) _____

3.) Name _____

Relationship _____

Contact phone number (home) _____

(cell) _____

(work) _____

Definitions and Clarification:

Campground-the exact location or site upon which a camping event is taking place, this includes a chapter, state/providential, the National Campvention or Retiree Rally location. This may be an actual campground and/or a fairgrounds used for this purpose.

“Storm Shelter”-the center most part of a building, surrounded by concrete or cinder block this may be the restrooms- a space without windows. A basement space is ideal, if available. It could also be a free standing building, made of cinder block, and concrete-a small concentrated space. Hallways or a large open space within a building is NOT a safe place to be during a tornado as this can become wind tunnel.

Emergency Preparedness Kit:

Water, food, first-aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools, emergency supplies, and specialty items such as baby formula, medical forms and medications. Put all items in a single easy to carry bag. Update these items at least twice a year.