



NYS DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Index – Administrative Procedures

Effective Date- August 16, 2013

Reference# AP-007

Revised Date-

Subject – Severe Weather/Heat Stress Policy

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for instructors conducting training in hot weather, to provide for the safety of students and instructors.

2.0 Applicability

2.1 This Policy shall be applicable to all training courses delivered by Fire Protection Specialists, State Fire Instructors or others authorized to conduct training sponsored by or on behalf of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

3.0 Procedure

3.1 Review course to determine if skills completion are a component of the course if so:

3.2 Obtain a weather report, including heat index for the time period, this shall be done as close as possible.

3.2.1 National Weather Service web address: www.weather.gov

3.2.2 Find the “tabular forecast” for the training location

3.2.3 Ensure the “Heat Index” check box is checked

3.2.4 Document the Tabular Forecast for the training hours

3.3 Review the data to evaluate conditions anticipated during the training period, monitor actual conditions to determine accuracy and adjust accordingly

3.4 Determine the Effective Heat Stress Index

3.4.1 Determine the Heat Index then, if applicable:

3.4.2 Add 10 degrees Fahrenheit for skills requiring the use of structural firefighter personal protective clothing or fully encapsulating chemical protective clothing then, if applicable,

3.4.3 Add 10 degrees Fahrenheit for skills conducted in direct sunlight

3.4.4 If skills are conducted using structural firefighter or fully encapsulating chemical protective clothing and in direct sunlight add 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 together with the heat index to determine the total Effective Heat Stress Index

3.4.4.1 Example: Heat Index of 90 + 10 for PPE + 10 for direct sunlight = Total Effective Heat Stress Index of 110.

3.4.5 Effective Heat Stress Index Injury Threat Analysis

Effective Heat Stress Index ° F	Threat Category	Injury Threat
Below 60	None	Little to no danger under normal circumstances
60 to 79	Low	Fatigue possible
80 to 89	Elevated	Fatigue possible if exposure is prolonged and there is physical activity
90 to 104	Moderate	Heat cramps and heat exhaustion possible if exposure is prolonged and there is physical activity
105 to 129	High	Heat cramps and heat exhaustion likely and heat stroke possible if exposure is prolonged and there is physical activity
130 and Above	Extreme	HEAT STROKE IMMENIENT

3.5 Instructors shall ensure the following actions are taken

Effective Heat Stress Index ° F	Work/Rest Ratio (Minutes Work/Minutes Rest)	Fluid Intake per Hour	Special Actions
60 to 79	40/20	24 Ounces	None
80 to 89	30/30	32 Ounces	None
90 to 104	30/30	32 Ounces	Active Cooling if available
105 to 129	20/40	32 Ounces	All Live Fire Evolutions and evolutions requiring Fully Encapsulated Chemical Protective Clothing are Cancelled
130 and Above	No Work Allowed	Cancelled	All physically exerting skills evolutions are Cancelled

3.6 Severe Weather

3.6.1 Caution shall be exercised when a severe weather watch has been issued for the training area.

3.6.1.1 Identify areas of safe refuge in the event of severe weather

3.6.2 Upon issuance of a Severe Weather Warning or obvious evidence of severe weather for the training area when evolutions will be conducted outdoors:

3.6.2.1 Suspend outdoor activities;

3.6.2.2 Move students to a safe, indoor location;

3.6.2.3 Activities may resume, once the storm has passed and thunder is no longer heard for a period of thirty minutes

3.6.2.3.1 Should lightening detection be available, activities may continue until a strike is identified ten miles away and may resume once lightening is no longer occurring within ten miles upon passage of the storm

3.6.2.3.2 Should lightning be occurring, but a severe weather warning not be issued, follow sections 3.6.2.1 through 3.6.2.3 of this policy