



COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Policing Excellence through Community Partnerships"

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Subject: Section 15 – Natural Disasters		
Amends/Supersedes: Section 15 – Natural Disasters	Chief of Police: <i>W.A. Hinkle</i>	
Distribution: All Personnel	Review Date: July 1	# of Pages: 3

1.0 VULNERABILITY

Hurricanes and Tropical Storms - While located in the central portion of the state, Columbia is still susceptible to damage from hurricanes and tropical storms. Storm damage can cause substantial damage from flooding, tornadoes, and even dam failure due to excessive rain.

Earthquakes - There are approximately 50 earthquakes per year in South Carolina. Approximately 70% of them are located in the Middleton Place-Summerville Seismic Zone. There have also been seismic activities in Bowman, Neeses, Aiken, McCormick, Greenwood, Liberty Hill, and the Savannah River area.

Flooding - Property adjacent to bodies of water and low lying areas within the City of Columbia are prone to flooding during inclement weather.

Tornadoes - With an average of 11 tornadoes each year, South Carolina ranks twenty-sixth in the United States for the highest number of tornado strikes and eighteenth in the number of tornadoes per square mile. Most of the tornados are relatively weak and short-lived and occur between March and May.

There are over 50,000 dams throughout the State of South Carolina; 34 are federally regulated, and over 2250 are State regulated. The integrity of any one of these dams could be threatened by upstream flash flood neglect, earthquakes, or sabotaged through terrorist actions, which could cause personal injury, death, or water damage and flooding to properties. Flash floods and failure of the Lake Murray dam poses the greatest threat to the City of Columbia.

2.0 NOTIFICATION

When the National Weather Service issues a special weather alert of impending hazardous weather conditions in the Columbia area, the Communications Center will notify on-duty personnel of the alert on all primary radio channels.

3.0 FIVE POINTS FLOODING PROCEDURES

During heavy rainfall the Five Points area may become flooded. In an effort to prevent vehicles and pedestrians from entering the flood prone areas, it may be necessary to close the streets.

When a severe thunderstorm or Tropical Storm warning is issued by the National Weather Service that indicates the potential for catastrophic amounts of rain, the Communications Center will notify the Superintendent of the Street Division. The Street Division will make arrangements for the placement of barricades near the following intersections so they will be available to the Police Department personnel.

- Blossom Street and Laurens Streets – west of the train trestle.
- Blossom Street and Saluda Avenue – south of the intersection.
- Blossom Street, Santee Avenue, and Congaree Avenue– south side of the intersection.
- Saluda Avenue, Greene Street, and Harden Street – west side of the fountain.
- Harden Street and Devine Street– west side.
- Harden Street and Blossom Street– west side.

4.0 STREET CLOSINGS

At the direction of the City Manager or designee, officers will barricade the streets going into the Five Points area.

The Communications Center must be notified when the street closing has been completed.

The Communications Center will be responsible for advising the Director of Public Works, Columbia Fire Department, and Richland County EMS of the street closing.

When the flooding has subsided, the Columbia Police Department will remove the barricades and notify the Communications Center to advise Columbia Fire and Richland EMS that the roads are open.

5.0 DAM FAILURE NOTIFICATION

In the event that notification is received from the SCE&G Control Room at Lake Murray by Columbia-Richland Communications Center, a Level IV Mobilization of all operational personnel is required.

6.0 DAM FAILURE TRAFFIC CONTROL POINTS

Upon notification of impending dam failure, the Watch Commander shall assign officers to assist traffic in exiting the downtown area.

The timely establishment assigned Traffic Control Points to assist in an emergency evacuation of the downtown area is critical.

Gervais Street and Assembly Street

Blossom Street and Assembly Street

Taylor Street and Bull Street

Assembly Street and Elmwood Avenue

Bull Street and Elmwood Avenue

Bull Street and Colonial Drive

Bull Street and Confederate Avenue

Bull Street and Harden Street Ext.

Main Street and Elmwood Avenue

Main Street and Hampton Street

Bull Street and Hampton Street

Harden Street and Calhoun Street

Harden Street and Hampton Street

Harden Street and Blossom Street

Millwood Avenue and Gervais Street

Devine Street and Saluda Avenue

Garners Ferry Road and Fort Jackson Boulevard

Garners Ferry Road and Atlas Road

Rosewood Drive and South Belt Line Boulevard

Belt Line Boulevard and Trenholm Road

Belt Line Boulevard and Two Notch Road (U.S. 1)

Main Street and Elmwood Avenue

Main Street and Monticello Road

Bull Street and Taylor Street

Assembly Street and Hampton Street

Bull Street and Gervais Street

Harden Street and Taylor Street

Harden Street and Gervais Street

Blossom Street and Saluda Avenue

Devine Street and Millwood Avenue

Devine Street and Belt Line Boulevard

Garners Ferry Road and Leesburg Road

Rosewood Drive and Devine Street

Rosewood Drive and Assembly Street

Taylor Street and Two Notch Road (U.S. 1)

Sunset Drive and Broad River Drive

Main Street and Sunset Drive