



Winter Weather Emergency Action Plan Updated February 2022 Annual Review Required

NOTE: The following pages are intended as a guide in addressing Winter Weather Events for the Camden County, MO Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The Camden County EMA recognizes that every situation is different and that some actions will need to be modified on a case-by-case basis by the Emergency Management Director (EMD) or Deputy EMD. **Public information should be disseminated as the EMD/Deputy EMD deems appropriate by all media venues available.**

I. Foreword

Camden County is vulnerable to many types of severe weather events including but not limited to: severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, tornadoes, winter weather, ice storms, and wind events. While no steps can be taken to prevent these events, certain steps can be taken to minimize their impact.

II. Available Resources

The EMD or Deputy EMD should remain alert to the possibilities of severe weather events when circumstances dictate the need. The following resources are available:

- A. DSS Packet (Issued daily at 0600 & 1300) from the National Weather Service Forecast Office-Springfield
- B. Weather Watches & Warnings for Surrounding Areas and from other weather service agencies.
- C. National Weather Service-Springfield On-Duty Forecaster/Staff
- D. Online Weather Radar Services as well as in-house weather subscription services.
- E. SKYWARN (Amateur Radio) weather network 146.955
- F. CAMDEN COUNTY AMATEUR REPEATER 146.730
- G. NOAA Weather Radio (Lake Ozark-162.550)

H. Other sources as deemed appropriate.

The EMD or Deputy EMD will determine from these sources if a Duty Officer needs to be stationed at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to specifically monitor further weather activity and notify other agencies as needed.

If a Duty Officer is stationed at the EOC, they should begin a weather event log form (located later in this publication), ensure that all equipment (lights, phones, radios, computers, etc.) is operational, and notify the 911/Communications Center that they are at the EOC. Utilize the county mass notification to notify the EOC Activation List that the EOC is activated and at which level.

Camden County EOC Levels and Meanings:

Level 4:

Enhanced Monitoring – Lowest EOC activation

- A. Requires EOC staff in support functions only, with specified partner agencies providing additional support from their headquarters.
- B. Observational status. The Director and Deputy Director, along with some select CERT volunteers will observe and document a potential danger, such as a severe or winter weather system. The following systems are used to gather as much raw data as possible to keep our county and city partners updated on the status of operations: WebEOC, NWSChat Live, local news and weather channels, social media, direct phone, email, and radio communications (professional and amateur), Mass Notification System (Nixle for Camden County until it is changed in 2022), and storm spotters.
- C. CERT meaning: No deployment needed.

Level 3:

Partial Activation – Moderate EOC activation

- A. Requires EOC command staff and basic support functions, such as planning and logistics, and specified county agencies, depending on the threat.
- B. Every first responder agency, partner organization, volunteers, etc. named in the county’s Local Emergency Operations Plan, should physically send a representative to the EOC to operate and communicate information directly to and from their agency. No Federal or State Level involvement is included. Previously mentioned systems used for observations are used.
- C. CERT meaning: Deployment possible. Have your CERT pack ready.

Level 2:

Full Activation – Full EOC activation

- A. Requires EOC command staff, full emergency support function staffing, county agencies, and state-level partners, and necessary additional technical expertise. Does not include FEMA staffing.
- B. Every first responder agency, partner organization, volunteers, etc. named in the county’s Local Emergency Operations Plan, up to and including state offices, should physically send a representative to the EOC to operate and communicate information directly to and from their agency. No

Federal Level involvement is included. Previously mentioned systems used for observations are used.

- C. CERT meaning: Deployment imminent, whether to the EOC or directly to the scene. Have your CERT pack loaded in your vehicle and standby for deployment orders.

Level 1:

Full Response – Maximum EOC activation

- A. Requires EOC command staff, full staffing of all emergency support functions, county agencies, and state-level partners, plus integration of FEMA personnel to coordinate federal resources and support.
- B. Every first responder agency, partner organization, volunteers, etc. named in the county's Local Emergency Operations Plan, up to and including state and federal offices, should physically send a representative to the EOC to operate and communicate information directly to and from their agency. Previously mentioned systems used for observations are used.
- C. CERT meaning: Deployment imminent, whether to the EOC or directly to the scene. Have your CERT pack loaded in your vehicle and standby for deployment orders.

Additionally, they should convey that they are available for consultation by the 911/Communication Center Staff if needed.

The Duty Officer at the EOC should also coordinate with the Senior Telecommunicator at the 911/Central Communications Center to advise that the EOC base station has been brought online and that the EOC Communications is able to take weather related communications.

The Duty Officer should announce that all weather related traffic should be coordinated on the EOC Channel.

If the Duty Officer and Senior Telecommunicator determine that the EOC should take over weather related event traffic, the Central Communications Dispatch should announce on the CCSD Repeater, Lake Fire, and all other agency frequencies deemed appropriate as well as EOC channels that the Camden County EOC is online and handling weather related traffic. At that time the EOC radio callsign shall be "Camden EOC".

At any time the Duty Officer may call in additional staff to help with the event if they feel that it is necessary.

A representative of Camden County, MO ARES will respond to the EOC upon notification, monitor the amateur radios, and give reports as requested to the Duty Officer.

III. Watch And Warning Operations

- A. If a **winter weather advisory or watch** is issued for Camden County the Duty Officer should ensure that the 911/Communications Center has a copy of the bulletin, and if between the hours of 0600-2300 hours, request that the condition be paged on the Law Enforcement frequencies, Lake Fire, other agency frequencies, and EOC Channels. At that time, the Duty Officer should ensure that the 911/Communications Center has appropriate emergency contact information. If the EMD or Deputy EMD places a Duty Officer **on standby only**, the EMD/Deputy EMD should ensure that they have appropriate emergency contact information for the Duty Officer and that the 911/Communications Center also has that information. Depending on the situation, the Duty Officer may also decide to activate the Lake Area Storm Spotters and have them report their findings to the Duty Officer. The procedures for this are listed later in this guideline.
- B. If there is a **winter weather warning** for a nearby county, within a two county radius, the EMD/Deputy EMD should respond to the EOC and activate operations to the level deemed fit for the condition.

IV. Weather Spotter Activation and Response

- A. Camden County has trained weather spotters throughout the entire county via the Lake Area Storm Spotters (LASS). These spotters have been trained on an annual basis, and receive frequent refresher courses from the National Weather Service. The majority of spotters are identified as ham radio operators, law enforcement personnel, and fire/EMS service personnel. These representatives, when called upon by the EMD/Deputy EMD or Duty Officer and alerted by the normal dispatch alerting procedures, report weather conditions to the EMD/Deputy EMD or Duty Officer for evaluation and consultation with the NWS.
- B. Upon activation of the EOC, the spotters will notify the EOC of their location and contact callsign, then transmit reports to the EOC via the EOC channel, amateur radio, Zello, or Facebook Messenger.
- C. Each spotter understands the importance of safety and is required by the Camden County, MO EMA to remain in a location that can offer a safe haven from the severe conditions instantly.

Camden County does not deploy weather spotters for the majority of winter weather events; however, certain conditions may require reports from the spotters' home locations.

WEATHER SPOTTERS WILL NOT BE DEPLOYED AFTER DARK DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS.

V. Area Frequencies

- A. Camden County has a host of interoperable communications frequencies for emergency communication.
- B. Use of those frequencies is secured and available only to those with a need to know.
- C. The communications and emergency personnel have access to the required frequencies to conduct operations in an appropriate manner.



SEVERE WEATHER MESSAGE

Message Number: _____

Date: _____

ATTENTION ALL CAMDEN COUNTY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, CAMDEN COUNTY, MISSOURI IS UNDER A:

- WEATHER ALERT 1 STATUS (ADVISORY)
- WEATHER ALERT 2 STATUS (WATCH)
- WEATHER ALERT 3 STATUS (WARNING)

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe T-Storm Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe T-Storm Warning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Warning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Warning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Weather Advisory | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Weather Warning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Weather Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

For Camden County, Missouri until _____.

Currently,

(ATTACH APPROPRIATE TEXT HERE)

FURTHER UPDATES WILL BE REPORTED AS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR.

