

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE****Index as:**

Disasters, Natural & Man Made
Earthquake
Tornado

NATURAL AND MAN MADE DISASTERS**492.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedure for Ferguson Police response during and following a natural or manmade disaster. The plan gives primary consideration to required actions necessary to protect human life and property. As resources permit, the department will work cooperatively with the city, county, state and federal authorities to respond to the needs of the surrounding community. Department facilities will have access to news and weather channels via cable television. In addition, the department has National Weather Service monitoring capabilities available to operational personnel.

492.01 POLICY

The department will make every effort possible to provide the highest level of preparation, security and deployment when it becomes apparent a natural disaster is likely to strike the area. The highest priority of the department will be the personal safety of members of the Ferguson Police Department, and citizens they serve.

Whenever possible, employees of the department will comply with department policies and procedures. Deviation from these policies and procedures may be necessary to handle situations as they occur, but the highest priority will be placed on the protection of human life. Guidance beyond the scope of this General Order is found in GO 490.00 *Emergency Operations / Unusual Occurrences*.

492.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. ***Earthquake*** - A sudden, rapid shaking or trembling of the earth's surface.
- B. ***Intensity*** - The earthquakes effects on people and structures.
- C. ***Magnitude*** - The amount of energy released by a single earthquake. Magnitude is rated on a (Richter) scale of 1-9.
- D. ***Tornado*** - Tornadoes are incredibly violent local storms that extend to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 mph.
- E. ***Tornado Watch*** - Tornadoes are likely. Be ready to take shelter. Stay tuned to radio and television stations for additional information.

F. ***Tornado Warning*** - A tornado has been sighted in the area or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately.

1. When a Declaration of Emergency has been made, the Chief of Police, or his designee, shall place into immediate effect the appropriate procedures.
2. Additionally, only those city employees who have been assigned emergency team duties will be allowed to enter the immediate disaster site.
3. Additional emergencies include but are not limited to, fires, explosions, hazardous materials incidents, power failures, civil disturbances, demonstrations, downed aircraft, and severe winter storms.

492.03 DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

The City Manager has sole authority to excuse employees of city government from reporting to work during extreme weather or other emergency conditions. Only the Mayor may issue a Declaration of Emergency stating that, employees should not report to work. Unless such a Declaration of Emergency has been issued, all city government employees are expected to report for work or take approved leave. If an emergency occurs in the city, only the Chief of Police, or his designee, will direct the evacuation or curtailment of work activities.

492.04 RESPONSE PROCEDURES

- A. In the event of an unanticipated natural or man-made disaster, the shift supervisor will immediately become the on-scene commander. Uniformed patrol officers will attempt to secure the area by stopping all traffic into the affected area (with the exception of emergency response units).
- B. The dispatcher will notify the appropriate medical and/or fire agencies, as indicated by the shift commander.
- C. The DFO Commander and any specialized department personnel should be notified. The Chief of Police, in consultation with the City Manager, will determine if the Emergency Operation Plan should be initiated.
- D. The shift supervisor will take appropriate action as on-scene commander until a higher authority relieves him.

492.05 POST-OCCURRENCE DUTIES

After the occurrence of a natural or man-made disaster, the duties of the department will be varied. Depending on the situation, these duties may include traffic control, riot control, or looting prevention. Even though the crisis may be de-escalating, additional personnel may be needed to ensure the safety of city personnel and/or property. The Chief of Police or his designee will determine the personnel needs. The re-establishment of normality should be the

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underlying goal of the contingency plans. It is the responsibility of the Chief of Police or his designee to implement a plan for the orderly de-escalation of personnel and resources following the conclusion of an unusual occurrence.

By order of:



COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

Distribution
All Department Personnel