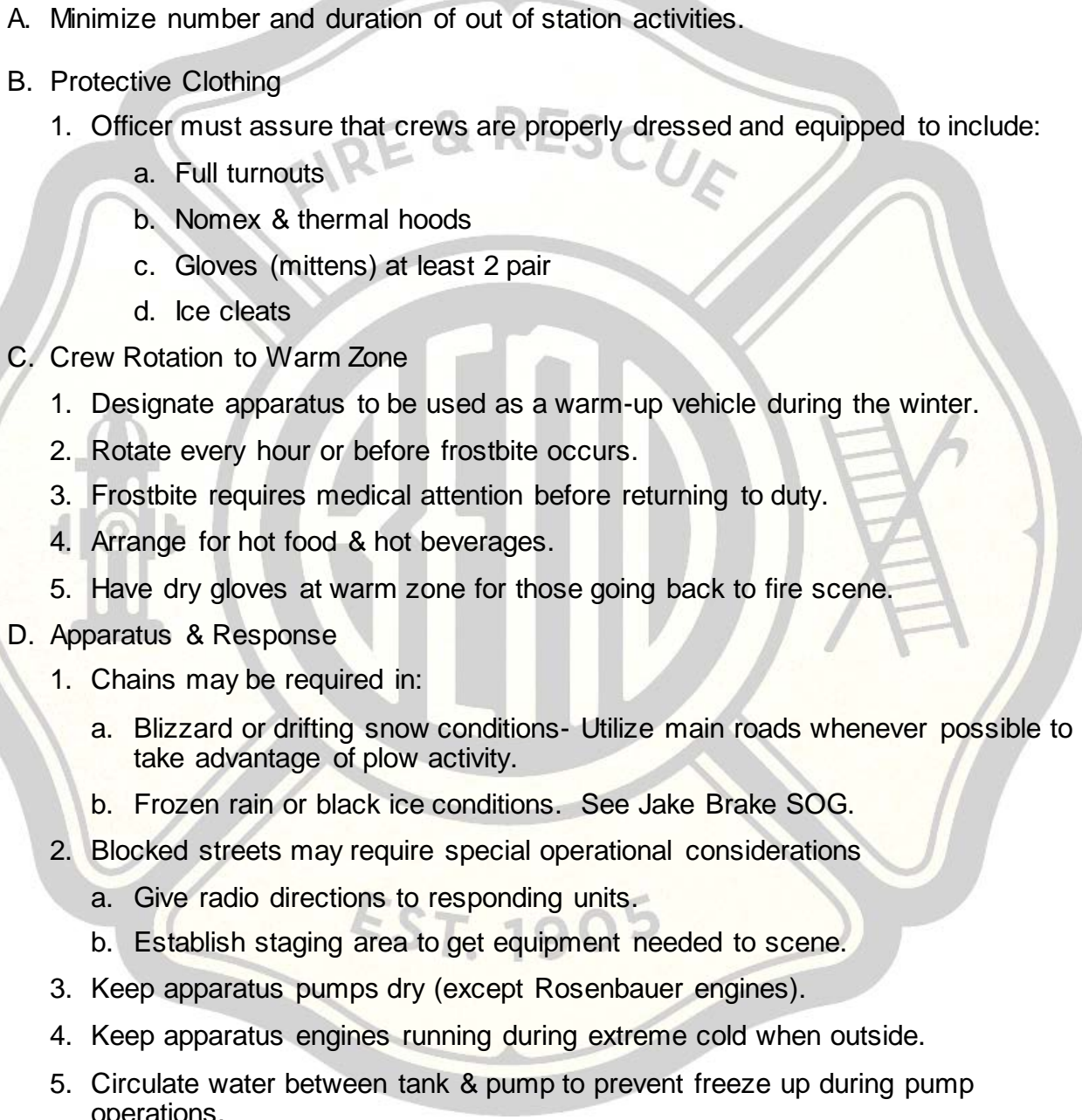


PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for operations during periods of cold weather.

PROCEDURE

Operational Guidelines

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- A. Minimize number and duration of out of station activities.
 - B. Protective Clothing
 - 1. Officer must assure that crews are properly dressed and equipped to include:
 - a. Full turnouts
 - b. Nomex & thermal hoods
 - c. Gloves (mittens) at least 2 pair
 - d. Ice cleats
 - C. Crew Rotation to Warm Zone
 - 1. Designate apparatus to be used as a warm-up vehicle during the winter.
 - 2. Rotate every hour or before frostbite occurs.
 - 3. Frostbite requires medical attention before returning to duty.
 - 4. Arrange for hot food & hot beverages.
 - 5. Have dry gloves at warm zone for those going back to fire scene.
 - D. Apparatus & Response
 - 1. Chains may be required in:
 - a. Blizzard or drifting snow conditions- Utilize main roads whenever possible to take advantage of plow activity.
 - b. Frozen rain or black ice conditions. See Jake Brake SOG.
 - 2. Blocked streets may require special operational considerations
 - a. Give radio directions to responding units.
 - b. Establish staging area to get equipment needed to scene.
 - 3. Keep apparatus pumps dry (except Rosenbauer engines).
 - 4. Keep apparatus engines running during extreme cold when outside.
 - 5. Circulate water between tank & pump to prevent freeze up during pump operations.
 - 6. Batteries – Turn off all unnecessary lights to prevent drain.
 - 7. Air brakes – Condensation can affect the operation of air brake systems. Vehicles without drier systems should be bled daily during cold weather.

E. Equipment

1. Air Packs

- a. Keep in warm compartments if out for extended time.
- b. If frozen, place in cab or warm area to thaw.
- c. Dry 2nd stage regulator after sanitizing to prevent freezing

2. Ladders

- a. Use caution if glazed with ice.
- b. Make sure ladder locks are not frozen when retracting ladders.

3. Small Tools

- a. Saws - Keep in a compartment if possible until needed.
- b. Start on ground to warm up as to make it easier to start on a slippery roof or ladder.

4. Generators – Start to keep warm if removed from compartment and not needed immediately.

F. Fire Ground Operations

1. Size up

- a. Visibility reduced by temperature inversions, smoke hanging close to ground.

2. Rescue

- a. Evacuation of high life hazard occupancies such as hospitals and nursing homes is life threatening in extreme temperatures.
- b. People displaced by the fire need immediate shelter.
 - 1. Consider implementation of EMS disaster plan.
 - 2. Request school busses or other vehicles that may hold / transport large numbers of people.
 - 3. Consider neighboring building or use of Fire Dept. vehicles for temporary shelters.

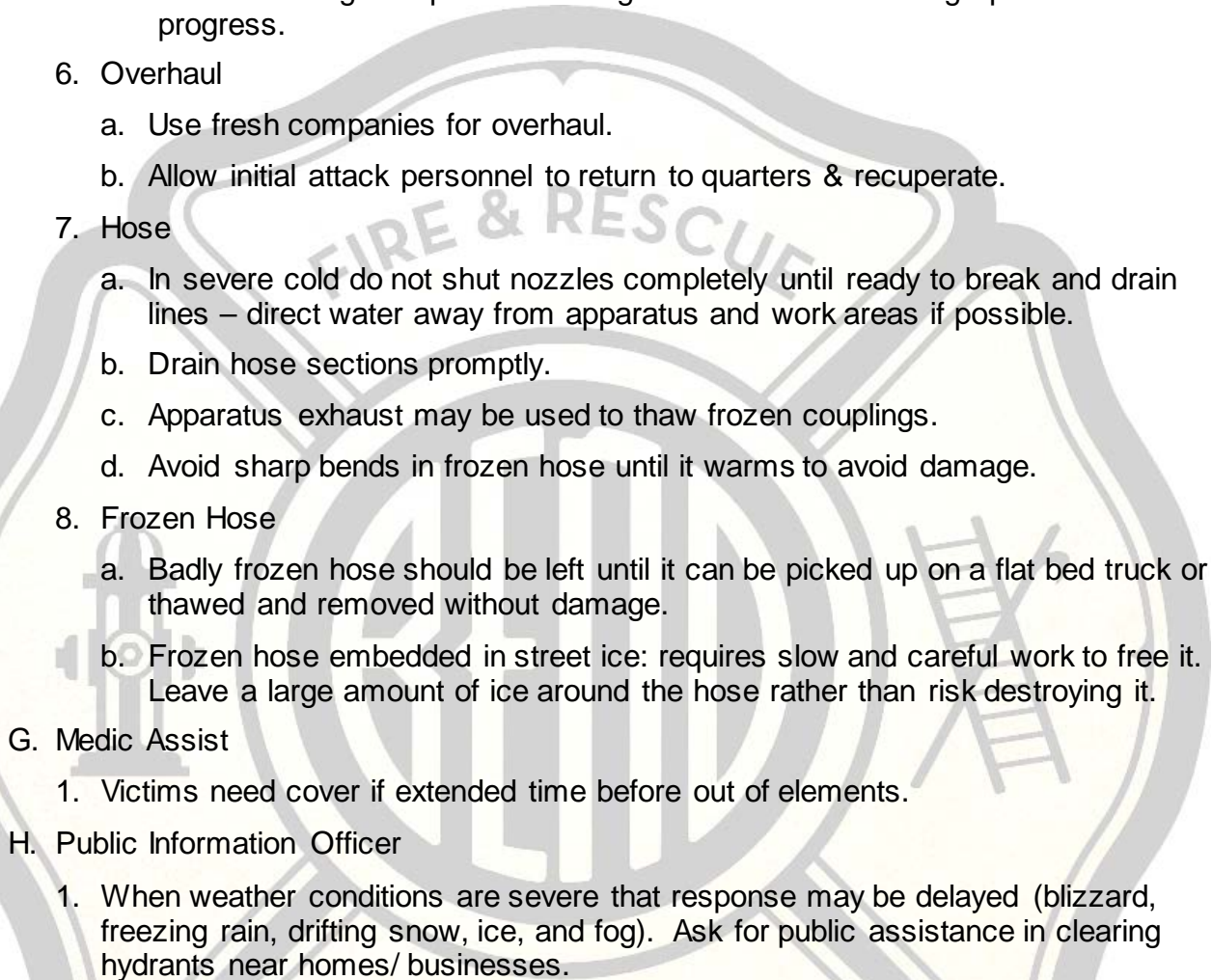
3. Water Supply

- a. Consider possibility of hydrants OOS due to freezing or concealment in snow berm / drifts.
- b. Consider water relay or dispatch tenders (Shift Commander's discretion).
- c. Ensure that hydrant has drained prior to capping to prevent freezing.

4. Ventilation

- a. Ice on roof may dictate use of roof ladders even on shallower pitches.
- b. Consider alternate ventilation tactics as appropriate.
- c. Consider use of aerial in high pitch icy conditions.

5. Snow Load

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- a. See Snow Load Emergency SOG.
 - b. Heavy snow loads increase weight on roofs.
 - c. May require shoveling area before cutting vent hole.
 - d. Heavy snow on pitched roof may avalanche due to warming or cutting.
 - e. Consider danger to personnel on ground when roof venting operations in progress.
6. Overhaul
- a. Use fresh companies for overhaul.
 - b. Allow initial attack personnel to return to quarters & recuperate.
7. Hose
- a. In severe cold do not shut nozzles completely until ready to break and drain lines – direct water away from apparatus and work areas if possible.
 - b. Drain hose sections promptly.
 - c. Apparatus exhaust may be used to thaw frozen couplings.
 - d. Avoid sharp bends in frozen hose until it warms to avoid damage.
8. Frozen Hose
- a. Badly frozen hose should be left until it can be picked up on a flat bed truck or thawed and removed without damage.
 - b. Frozen hose embedded in street ice: requires slow and careful work to free it. Leave a large amount of ice around the hose rather than risk destroying it.
- G. Medic Assist
- 1. Victims need cover if extended time before out of elements.
- H. Public Information Officer
- 1. When weather conditions are severe that response may be delayed (blizzard, freezing rain, drifting snow, ice, and fog). Ask for public assistance in clearing hydrants near homes/ businesses.