

**1 APRIL 2003**

**Operations**



**SEVERE WEATHER WARNING PROCEDURES**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements AFDPO 15-1, *Atmospheric and Space Environment Support*. This instruction establishes warning and notification procedures. It applies to the 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland IAP OR.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

This revision changes unit designation from 939th Rescue Wing to 939th Air Refueling Wing. It deletes all reference to 303 RQS and 304 RQS. A bar ( | ) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

**1. General.** Weather warnings and advisories will be issued when weather phenomena or conditions that would adversely affect ground or air operations are forecast. The commander, or designated representative (the duty officer or ops supervisor), 939ARW Command Post, or other responsible person, such as the operations group commander or the logistics group commander, will be notified of adverse weather to ensure that:

- 1.1. Flying safety is not compromised.
- 1.2. Damage to facilities, equipment and/or aircraft is averted or minimized.

**2. Weather Warning/Meteorological Watch Advisory Criteria.** It may be necessary to take precautionary actions against any of the following reported or forecast weather conditions:

2.1. Weather Warning Criteria:

- 2.1.1. Tornadoes.
- 2.1.2. Severe thunderstorms (gusts greater than or equal to 50kts and/or hail greater than or equal to 3/4 inch).

- 2.1.3. Moderate thunderstorms (gusts greater than 35kts but less than 50kts and/or hail greater than 1/2 inch but less than 3/4inch).
- 2.1.4. Thunderstorm (winds less than 35kts and/or hail less than 1/2 inch).
- 2.1.5. Surface winds greater than 35kts.
- 2.1.6. Snow (2 inches/12 hours).
- 2.1.7. Freezing precipitation.
- 2.1.8. Heavy rain (2 inches/12 hours).
- 2.2. Meteorological Watch Advisory Criteria:
  - 2.2.1. Thunderstorms observed in the local area.
  - 2.2.2. Equivalent wind chill factor of minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit .
  - 2.2.3. Low level wind shear (observed).
  - 2.2.4. Ceiling and/or visibility equals or goes below 500 feet and/or 3/4 mile.

**3. Procedures.** The course of action to be taken upon receipt of a warning of impending severe adverse weather is dependent on a number of factors. Consideration must be given to the severity of the forecast weather, the hangar and protection facilities, the degree of precautionary action possible considering the amount of advance notice and other factors. Precautionary measures will be taken in accordance with the following schedule:

- 3.1. Phase I - Actions that are required as preliminary safeguards because of seasonable and climatic factors.
  - 3.1.1. All aircraft will be secured in accordance with technical data during all periods of nonuse.
    - 3.1.1.1. Maintenance has the primary responsibility for this.
    - 3.1.1.2. The aircraft commander is responsible for tie-down of aircraft returning from missions during non-duty hours. Maintenance's assistance may be required to comply with paragraph **3.1.1.**
  - 3.1.2. Maintenance will ensure that all maintenance stands or other equipment are properly stored, secured or stabilized.
  - 3.1.3. Duty officers or ops supervisors, when applicable, will maintain continuous knowledge of current and forecast weather and analyze its impact. Problems should be resolved at the lowest level possible. When it is necessary to take actions, which may require higher authority notification, it will be in accordance with chain of command (**Attachment 1**).
  - 3.1.4. Notification of adverse weather may come from several sources such as normal military channels, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service, civil broadcast, etc. Information from all sources should be analyzed. No source shall be disregarded.
    - 3.1.4.1. Military weather forecasts will normally be obtained from Davis Monthan AFB AZ.
- 3.2. Phase 2 - Additional protective actions which are required over and above Phase I to safeguard aircraft and equipment from a specific existing threat.

3.2.1. When necessary, weather warning will be dispatched immediately to responsible action agencies. Actions that should be considered are:

3.2.1.1. Repositioning or turning aircraft into the wind.

3.2.1.2. Disbursing or moving aircraft.

3.2.1.3. Diverting inbound aircraft.

3.2.1.4. Preparing aircraft for possible evacuation or storage as dictated by maintenance status.

3.2.1.5. Manning aircraft with aircrews.

3.2.1.6. Evacuation.

3.2.2. Personnel will be notified through normal channels or the unit recall roster.

3.3. Phase 3 - The evacuation of flyable aircraft.

3.3.1. Required personnel will be notified through normal channels or the unit recall roster.

3.3.2. Taxi and takeoff procedures will be normal.

3.3.3. Route of flight and destinations will be determined by flight crews based on weather conditions.

3.4. Phase 4 - Provides for follow-up actions to be taken after severe weather has passed.

3.4.1. Recall. Command and control will be through the 939ARW Command Post.

3.4.2. Repairs. Repairs to damaged facilities and equipment will begin as soon as possible with priority determined by unit commander.

3.4.3. Reporting. Reports will be dispatched by the 939ARW Command Post in accordance with applicable directives and procedures.

#### 4. Responsibilities.

4.1. When manned, the 939ARW Command Post will, after receiving weather warnings, notify the ops supervisor, flight management, X-ray and personnel listed in [Attachment 1](#), as required, and accomplish the Weather Warning Quick Reaction Checklist, if required.

4.2. When the 939ARW Command Post is not manned, the ops supervisor, upon receiving severe or adverse weather information will notify X-ray/Flag and personnel listed in [Attachment 1](#), as required.

MARK A. KYLE, Colonel, USAFR  
Commander, 939ARW

**Attachment 1****AFTER DUTY HOURS NOTIFICATION**

**A1.1.** The base command post will notify the 939ARW Staff Duty Officer of severe weather or forecast of severe weather. If, after analyzing the information, the staff duty officer believes action is required under this regulation, some or all of the following officers will be notified:

A1.1.1. 939th Air Refueling Wing Commander	939 ARW/CC
A1.1.2. 939th Maintenance Group Commander	939 MXG/CC
939th Maintenance Squadron Commander	939 MXS/CC
A1.1.3. 939th Operations Group Commander	939 OG/CC
Scheduling Officer	64 ARS/DOS
A1.1.4. 939th Air Refueling Wing Safety Officer	939 ARW/SE
A1.1.5. 939th Air Refueling Wing Command Post	939 ARW/CP
A1.1.6. Staff Duty Officer	64 ARS/SDO

**A1.2.** Home phone numbers may be obtained through the base command post from the Base Emergency Telephone Notification Procedures List. If conditions warrant, the operator may be tasked to notify the required personnel.