

SUBJECT: Emergency Conditions/Disaster Leave

PURPOSE: To establish a policy for employee leave time in the event of emergency conditions, including but not limited to dangerous weather or road conditions, natural disaster and power outages.

POLICY:

A. Emergency Volunteer Service

An employee who is a participant in any volunteer emergency service (e.g., fire protection, ambulance service, or search and rescue) shall not schedule him/herself for on-call duty during work hours. In the event an employee is required to respond to an emergency during normal working hours, s/he shall remain in full employment status and shall receive total regular compensation while performing the volunteer service for the period that s/he would have been working for the **employer**.

B. Emergency Road Conditions

1. Any employee who is unable to report to work due to road closures or hazardous road conditions caused by ice, snow, floodwaters, washouts, or slides shall not receive regular salary. Employees are advised to use their best judgment in making a decision of whether or not to report to work under such conditions. Should an employee decide to remain at his/her residence, all reasonable attempts should be made to notify his/her immediate supervisor. Any employee wishing to receive payment for time missed due to hazardous road conditions may do so by using either accrued annual leave or accrued compensatory leave time.
2. Any non-exempt employee who reports to work late due to road closures or hazardous road conditions will be compensated only for the actual hours worked. In the event the employee wishes to receive a full day's pay, s/he may use annual leave or accrued compensatory leave time to complete the normal work period.
3. Any employee who elects not to report to work due to hazardous road conditions or reports to work late under such conditions shall not be subject to discipline. In the event the supervisor is in doubt of the employee's reasoning, the final decision shall be made by the **employer** on the basis of documentation or confirmation of the hazardous conditions by either a law enforcement agency or the appropriate public works agency having jurisdiction over the roadways in question.

C. Disaster Area Declaration

1. "Disaster Area" is defined as a designated area affected by an event declared to be a disaster by a state or federal governmental agency duly authorized to make such designation. Employees who are unable to report to work due to a disaster may use accrued annual leave or compensatory leave time as compensation for scheduled time not worked.

2. In the event the County or a portion thereof closed due to a health, welfare, or safety issue, and such closure is authorized by the State or County Commissioner, employees who are unable to report to work due to such official closure shall be paid up to five (5) working days, per incident, at their regular rate of pay per day. **NOTE:** This shall not apply to employees in classified positions in public works, roads, water, communication, information tech, fire and sheriff departments, without approval by the County Manager.
3. Employees shall make every effort to report to work as soon as is reasonable under such conditions provided the **employer's** operation is open and functioning. An employee who has made such an effort, yet fails to report to work under such declared "disaster" conditions, shall not be subject to discipline. Employees shall make every effort to report their circumstances to their immediate supervisor.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW: The County Personnel Director and/or Administrative Officer will review this policy every 5 years or sooner as necessary.

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