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ADVISORY FROM THE OFFICE OF EMS

#2015.01

To: EMS Service Chiefs and Coordinators
From: Michael Fine, MD, Director of Health
Jason M. Rhodes, Chief of EMS
Date: January 26, 2015
Re: Blizzard Juno

MF
JMR

In preparation for Blizzard Juno, the Department of Health is concerned with the emergency medical care of all Rhode Islanders during this dangerous event, including its first responders. Accordingly, the Department is supporting the decision of local EMS services that choose to halt responses to calls for emergency medical services due to extremely adverse weather conditions during blizzard conditions. Because high winds and rapid snowfall rates can cause blinding conditions and nearly impossible road travel conditions, EMS service Chiefs may determine that an ambulance cannot travel safely on the roadways, thus delaying the response of the EMS units.

The moment the service's Chief or designee decides to cease emergency responses due to the blizzard conditions and poor visibility, the EMS service shall

- Contact ESF #8 at RIEMA at 462-7518 and/or, should there be no answer at ESF #8, the Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response over RISCON "Wide Area 3"
- Post on WebEOC (if available)
 - If internet is not functional, notification must be made or via RISCON "Wide Area 1".

The service's Chief or designee shall contact ESF #8 and post on WebEOC when his/her service resumes normal operations. Each municipal and private sector ambulance service shall notify their residents and clients of this plan during the process of receiving calls at the dispatch center.

This policy shall be in effect only during the duration of Blizzard Juno's impact.