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Safety

**MUNITIONS HANDLING PROCEDURES
DURING SEVERE WEATHER/ELECTRICAL
AND/OR THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 91-2, *Safety Programs*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 21-201, *Management and Maintenance of Non-nuclear Munitions*. It establishes procedures to suspend the handling of munitions in the event of a possible or actual electrical storm or other severe weather. This publication is applicable to all personnel engaged in operations involving the handling of explosives and loading/downloading of aircraft. These procedures apply to all personnel assigned to the 442d Fighter Wing (442 FW) Logistics Group and 442 FW Operations Group. Supervisors, superintendents, and flight chiefs are responsible for ensuring compliance with this instruction.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

This revision incorporates changes from AFI 21-201, and updates references and format.

1. Safety Precautions.

1.1. If there is sufficient time before arrival of the storm or severe weather, the supervisor concerned will ensure that all handling equipment (vehicles, trailers, etc.) is returned to the appropriate holding and/or storage area, and secured.

2. Procedures.

2.1. Normal notification of an approaching electrical storm and/or other severe weather will be from the Automated Weather Distribution System (AWDS) or by personal observation.

2.2. The following procedures will be implemented when severe weather is in the vicinity of Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB).

- 2.3. Munitions Control/Maintenance Operations personnel will immediately implement the applicable checklist and notify munitions personnel by the most expedient means available. Acknowledgment of the weather warning must be obtained from each operation in progress.
- 2.4. Lightning within 25 Miles: Munitions Control/Maintenance Operations will inform all munitions personnel that lightning is within 25 miles. Personnel will be aware of the possibility of lightning moving into the immediate area.
- 2.5. Lightning within 10 Miles: Munitions Control/Maintenance Operations will inform all munitions personnel that lightning is within 10 miles. All munitions operations will terminate when it has been determined that an electrical storm is within a ten-mile radius of the base.
- 2.6. When possible Munitions Control will coordinate with other agencies to make every attempt to return explosive laden vehicles to the munitions storage area prior to lightning being within 10 miles. If lightning within 10 miles is called while outside the munitions storage area, drivers should immediately return to the munitions storage area and if possible, pull into lightning protected facility before leaving the vehicle.
- 2.7. The munitions supervisor will terminate all explosive operations. Evacuate to public traffic route (PTR) distance from any vehicles loaded with munitions and parked outside of approved Lightning Protection Systems (LPS).
- 2.8. The continuation of explosive operations within an operating location equipped with a LPS is not prohibited. When continuing operations in LPS equipped facilities, the senior munitions supervisor will assess the need and urgency for doing so.
- 2.9. When local winds in excess of 40 knots are reported at Whiteman AFB, all outside maintenance will be terminated.
- 2.10. The senior munitions supervisor will determine when snow and ice covered roadways in the Munitions Storage Area are suitable for handling munitions. The scope of maintenance will be limited to those authorized by the senior munitions person until the roadways have been cleared or treated for ice and snow removal.
- 2.11. When, in the judgment of the senior munitions supervisor, the weather condition is severe enough to compromise the safety of personnel, all explosive operations will cease.

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