



Severe Weather Operations

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Author	Lutman	Author Position	Head of Clinical Service
Document Owner	Polke	Document Owner Position	Coordinator
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Planning phase

Severe weather can affect the safety of patients and CATS staff. In some circumstances a transfer may be deferred until severe weather conditions improve.

Information regarding adverse weather conditions will be collected by CATS Administrator and CATS Ambulance technician and will be collated by the Clinical team, presented at the Morning Meeting and **reviewed immediately prior to and during transport.**

Safe journey planning is the responsibility of the St John Ambulance Technician and/or Pilot in Command and this information must be made available to the clinical team.

The CATS Ambulance technician should liaise with the SJA Contract Manager, and contact local Statutory Ambulance Services in order to evaluate the risk.

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk_forecast_warnings.html

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/traffic/traffic.aspx>

Contact the Highways Agency directly **08457 504030** with route information.

Any member of the team who has safety concerns at any point must escalate their concerns immediately to the St John Ambulance Technician and/or Pilot in Command and at the earliest opportunity to the Duty CATS Consultant.

Staffing

Staff should be contacted to establish their availability if there is major disruption to transport services that could affect service provision.

Transfer phase

Vehicles must adhere to local speed restrictions where Met Office Red Weather Warnings are in force. Exceptions to this must be agreed by St John Ambulance contract manager and will be reported to the Duty CATS Consultant and at the CATS Risk Action Group.

Vehicles will be tracked with regular position reports every 20 minutes [CATS Doc 15042011 – 5].

Situational awareness must to be maintained by the CATS Administrator, CATS Clinical team and CATS Ambulance Staff.