

# 2000 Strong Emergency Preparedness Plan 2026.1

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish a comprehensive, legally compliant **Emergency Preparedness Plan** for 2000 Strong Youth Camps.

The objectives are to:

- **Define Clear Roles & Responsibilities:** Outline the specific duties of the **Emergency Monitor (EM)**—who must monitor weather alerts 24/7—and the **Emergency Points of Contact (EPOC)** assigned to individual cabins and activities to execute safety plans.
- **Establish Communication Protocols:** Set strict guidelines and response timelines for group messaging among camp staff, as well as mandatory emergency broadcast systems to notify parents and legal guardians.
- **Provide Threat-Specific Action Plans:** These detail operational matrices, safety thresholds, and evacuation/shelter protocols for severe weather events (such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, floods, and extreme Texas heat) as well as non-weather emergencies, such as an active shooter situation or a contagious illness outbreak.
- **Ensure Legal Compliance:** Address mandatory prerequisites, including conducting emergency training for staff and campers within the first 48 hours and distributing the emergency plan to parents before the camp begins.

## 2. General Prerequisites & Requirements

- **Emergency Training:** Emergency training must be conducted with all campers and staff during orientation. This is a legal requirement that must be completed no later than 48 hours of camp start; however, except for late-arriving staff, it is to be completed on the first evening of arrival at camp. Late-arriving staff must complete emergency training upon arrival.
- **Plan Distribution:** A copy of the camp's emergency plan must be available on the website for each camper's parent or legal guardian before the start of camp (legal requirement).
- **Operator Clarification:** The YMCA is considered the camp operator. It is the YMCA's responsibility to submit emergency plans to the state of Texas.
- **Scouting America Safeguarding Youth Training:** 2000 Strong Staff are required to successfully complete Scouting America's Safeguarding Youth Training yearly, and the training must be active for the duration of the camp. If applicable, the Safeguarding Youth Refresher Course may be taken, and if

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passed with 80% or greater, the course will meet the Safeguarding Youth Training requirement.

## 3. Emergency Monitor (EM) Role & Responsibilities

There must be one person on call at all times to monitor for potential emergencies (weather or otherwise), referred to as the Emergency Monitor (EM).

- **Designation:** The Camp Directors must designate the EM and specify how long they will fulfill this role.
- **Restrictions:** The EM cannot simultaneously serve as an Emergency Point of Contact (EPOC).
- **Shift Recommendations:** It is highly recommended to have either a day-and-night EM (12-hour shifts) or a day, evening, and night EM (8-hour shifts). Staffing should ideally rotate among the same 2 or 3 people for this role rather than constantly changing personnel throughout the camp.
- **Availability:** The EM does not need to remain awake for the entire shift unless a weather emergency occurs. However, they must be easily reachable and able to wake up quickly if the NWS issues a watch or warning, or if an EPOC needs to communicate a critical issue.
- **Contact Management:** The EM must possess contact information for both the Camp Director and the YMCA Director before the start of their shift. Additionally, the EM's contact information must be provided to the YMCA Director before the shift begins.

## 4. Emergency Point of Contact (EPOC) Role & Responsibilities

There must be a designated Emergency Point of Contact (EPOC) in all cabins and at all events or activities.

- **Communications Link:** The EPOC is responsible for maintaining a continuous line of communication with the EM.
- **Plan Execution:** In the event of an emergency, the EPOC is responsible for executing the appropriate emergency response plan for everyone in their respective cabin, activity, or event.
- **Designation & Acknowledgment:** EPOCs must be jointly designated by the Camp Director and the EM *before* camp begins. This assignment must be communicated via written notice (email or text). All designated EPOCs must formally acknowledge their assumption of the role in writing.

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## 5. Group Emergency Communications

- **Internal Messaging:** In the event of an emergency, the EM must immediately notify all EPOCs via a pre-established group messaging platform.
- **Parent & Guardian Notifications:** It is recommended that emergency contacts, parents, and legal guardians sign up for a camp email/text broadcast group to receive emergency notifications.
  - This system serves as vital legal documentation proving that camp management acknowledged and responded to the emergency and that it documented communication with families.
  - Should a parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact elect not to enroll in this service, they must sign a physical, written acknowledgment stating they have chosen not to receive the emergency notifications provided by the camp.
- **Camp Operator Messaging:** In the event of an emergency, the EM must immediately notify the designated Camp Operator emergency point of contact.

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## 6. Weather Emergencies & Threat Matrix

### ● Weather Radio Requirements

- The camp must have an operable weather radio on at all times to receive real-time weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service (NWS).
  - This radio must be monitored 24/7 throughout the camp.
  - In the event of a weather emergency, the Emergency Monitor (EM) must be the individual responsible for monitoring the NOAA Weather Radio 24/7 until the weather hazard has ended.

### ● Watch Issuance Protocol

*(Applies to Tornado Watches, Severe Thunderstorm Watches, or Flood Watches issued during camp)*

- The EM must instantly message all EPOCs regarding the watch issuance.
- EPOCs must respond within 60 minutes to acknowledge receipt of the notice.
- The EM must message the emergency contacts/legal guardians of campers who opted into notifications, stating that the camp has acknowledged the heightened threat and is continuously monitoring the situation.

### ● Warning Issuance Protocol

*(Applies to Tornado Warnings, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Flash Flood Warnings, or Flood Warnings)*

- The EM must instantly message all EPOCs regarding the warning issuance.
- EPOCs must respond within 10 minutes to acknowledge receipt of the notice and confirm that the appropriate emergency response protocol has begun.
- The EM must message enrolled emergency contacts/legal guardians to inform them that the camp has acknowledged the warning and that emergency severe-weather protocols are underway.

### ● Expiration Protocol

- The EM must message all EPOCs regarding the watch or warning expiration.
- EPOCs must respond within 30 minutes to acknowledge receipt of the notice.
- The EM must message enrolled emergency contacts/legal guardians stating that the watch/warning has expired and that the camp is either returning to its normal posture or continuing to monitor lingering hazards.

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## 7. Severe Weather Response Plans

### Tornado & Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

- **Immediate Shelter:** All campers and staff must immediately take shelter in the nearest well-constructed building.
  - **Approved Shelters:** Cabins, the dining hall, the education building, and camp administrative buildings.
  - **Prohibited Shelters (DO NOT USE):** The archery shelter, outdoor pavilions, the zipline tower, and horse stables.
- **Interior Positioning:** Upon entering an approved shelter, campers and staff should move to an interior room closest to the building's center that lacks windows (e.g., a windowless bathroom).
- **All-Clear:** Campers and staff may be released from shelter locations only after the warning has been officially canceled or allowed to expire by the National Weather Service.

### Flash Flood Warnings

- **Preemptive Evacuation:** While the threat of flooding at Camp Grady Spruce and Possum Kingdom Lake is statistically low, out of an abundance of caution, campers must evacuate the waterfront cabins and move immediately to the dining hall or education building, which sit on higher ground.
- **All-Clear:** Campers and staff may be released from these safer locations only once the Flash Flood Warning has been canceled or allowed to expire by the NWS.

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## Flood Warnings

- **Risk Assessment:** The flooding addressed by standard NWS Flood Warning products rarely poses an immediate threat to the camp since it is situated on a dammed lake.
- **Coordination:** Depending on the severity of the forecast and whether lake levels are expected to rise and inundate camp acreage, the EM will coordinate directly with the Camp Director to determine whether to postpone activities, end the session early, or cancel the camp entirely.
- **NWS Consultation:** Information provided in the text of the Flood Warning should generally be sufficient to make this operational decision. If the EM and Camp Director remain unsure, they should call the local NWS office directly to obtain specific data on expected water-level rises on Possum Kingdom Lake. (Note: The NWS provides data but cannot make safety or operational recommendations for the camp.)
- **Action Thresholds:**
  - Regardless of the magnitude of the projected rise, all water-oriented activities in the lake or along the shoreline must be suspended immediately.
  - Should lake water levels rise by 1 to 2 feet, some or all of the camp cabins will likely be inundated; the EM and Camp Director must seriously consider suspending or canceling the camp session.
  - Any projected or observed lake level elevation of 3 feet or more will necessitate the immediate cancellation of the in-person camp.

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## Extreme Heat Hazards

Excessive heat is the greatest weather-related hazard facing outdoor summer activities in Texas. Heat response criteria are tied directly to local NWS thresholds.

- **Heat Advisory Protocol (Heat Index > 105°F):**
  - Non-water outdoor activities must be limited to 2 hours.
  - For any outdoor activity, there must be a sufficient cold water supply to provide each attendee with 24 ounces of water per hour spent outside (per CDC recommendations).
  - Regardless of the heat index, if a Heat Advisory is active, all campers must drink 16 ounces of water at each meal to ensure proper pre- and post-exposure hydration.
- **Extreme Heat Warning Protocol:**
  - **Cancellations:** The EM and Camp Director should cancel non-water-oriented outdoor activities if the air temperature reaches 105°F or if the heat index reaches 110°F.
  - **Activity Limits:** Water-oriented activities must be strictly capped at 2 hours when the air temperature is above 105°F or the heat index is above 110°F.
  - **Hydration Requirements:** Ample cold water must be available to ensure everyone receives 24 ounces of water per hour outdoors. All campers must drink 16 ounces of water at each meal.
- **Notification Rules:** Notification protocols for Heat Advisories, Extreme Heat Watches, and Extreme Heat Warnings will mirror the communication timelines established for severe thunderstorm and flooding hazards.

## Redundant Communications

- The YMCA operates an independent notification system equipped with outdoor sirens that sound during potential flash floods and tornadoes. Camp staff must treat this system as a tool for redundancy and an additional layer of safety alongside our primary internal communications.

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## 8. Non-Weather Emergencies

### Active Shooter / Suspicious Person

- **Siren Protocols:** Should the YMCA become aware of a threat first, they will sound a continuous siren signifying an immediate campus-wide shelter-in-place order.
- **Immediate Actions:**
  1. Staff and campers must take shelter in the nearest lockable room.
  2. The EM will immediately contact the Camp Operator to verify threat details.
  3. The EM must message all EPOCs to confirm the threat and verify that the shelter-in-place order is active.
  4. All EPOCs must reply acknowledging the shelter-in-place order within 10 minutes.
  5. The EM must notify all parents/legal guardians enrolled in the emergency notification system.
- **All-Clear Authority:** Only the YMCA administration has the authority to officially end a campus-wide shelter-in-place, even if the EM initially declared it for our specific group. Management will maintain constant coordination with the YMCA and law enforcement personnel until the YMCA director deems the threat completely neutralized.
- **Resolution:** Once the threat is resolved and the order is lifted, the EM will notify all EPOCs and parents/guardians that the shelter-in-place has ended and normal camp activities have resumed.

### Potentially Contagious Illness

- **Symptom Documentation:** The camp nurse must designate specific symptoms that trigger a mandatory medical checkup (e.g., vomiting, fever, unexplained rash). The nurse must document and submit this list of symptoms before the camp officially opens.
- **Quarantine Protocol:** Should the camp nurse identify any camper or staff member as having a potentially contagious illness, that individual must be immediately quarantined. They must remain isolated until they are either cleared by the camp nurse to resume contact with others or picked up by their parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact.

### Fire

- Wildfire - Follow the Camp Operator's fire evacuation protocol.
- Structure Fire - Follow the Camp Operator's fire evacuation protocol.

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**Missing Camper** - Immediately notify the EM if a camper is believed to be missing. The EM then notifies the EPOCs. EPOCs must verify all their campers are accounted for and report back to the EM within five minutes. If the missing camper is not located:

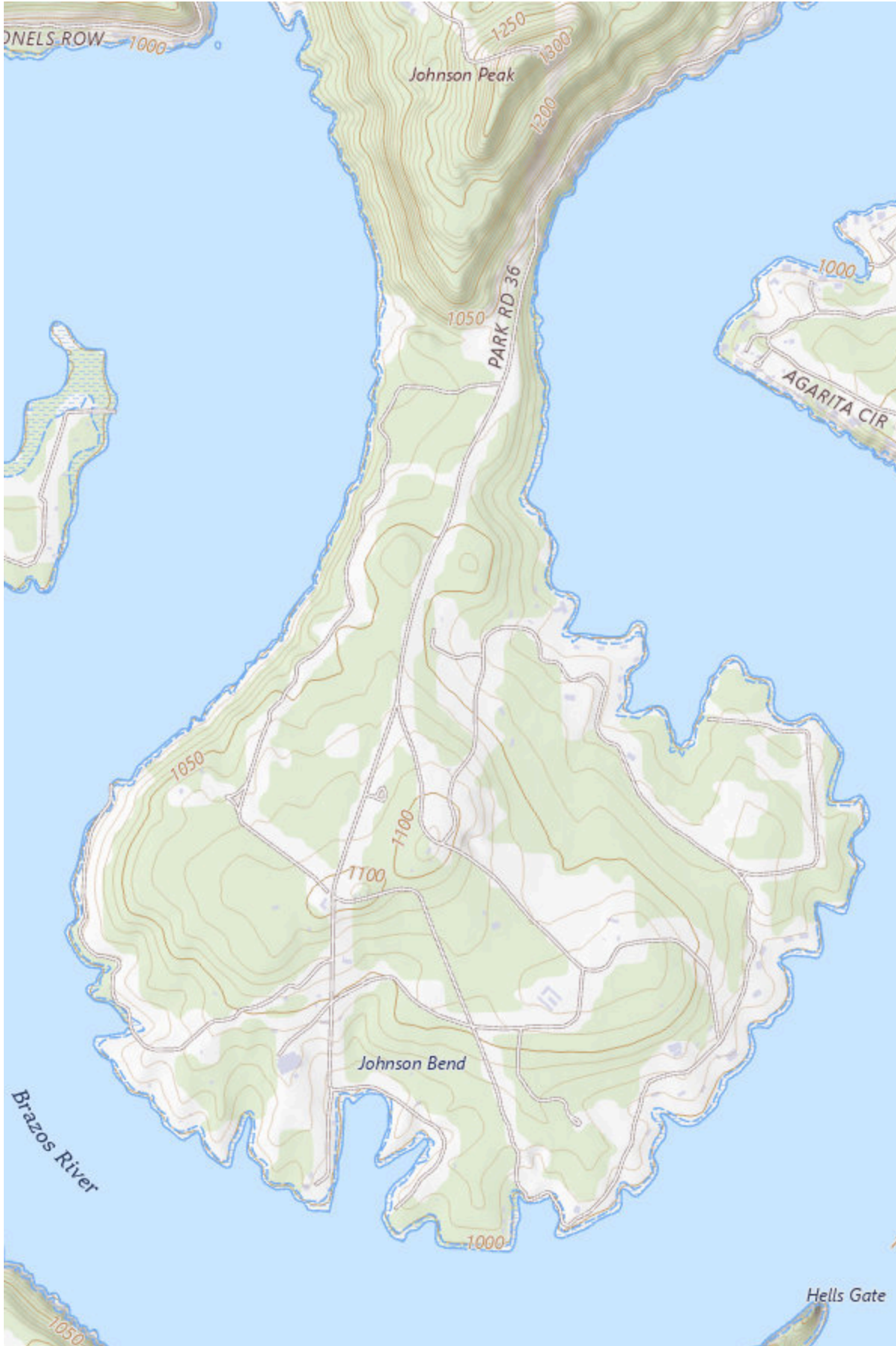
- The EM contacts 911
- The EM contacts the camp operator point of contact
- all campers are assembled in one common facility while the search for the missing camper is undertaken. The EM coordinates the search by the camp staff in cooperation with the camp operator and local law enforcement.

**Aquatic Emergency** - In the event of an aquatic emergency, immediately contact 911 and then contact the EM. The EM will notify the Camp Operator point of contact.

**Medical Emergency** - In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 and then notify the EM and the camp nurse.

**Snake bite** - In the event of a snake bite, call 911 and then notify the EM and the camp nurse. Once an emergency medical team arrives, ask them to call ahead to let the hospital know a snake bite victim is in route.

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USGS Map Name: [Fortune Bend, TX](#) Map MRC: 32098G4  
Map Center: N32.86200° W98.48115° Datum: NAD83 Zoom: 4m/pixel

