ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Addressing Emergency Management Needs of the UT Austin Campus Community
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OVERVIEW

ABOUT US

The Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) implements programs and projects in emergency and disaster planning, training, mitigation, response, and recovery. We are tasked with creating a comprehensive emergency management program for the University to save lives, protect property, promote continuity of operations, and reduce the overall effects of large-scale disasters. In addition to planning for the entire campus, OEP assists departments with developing their emergency plans and acts as the primary liaison between the University and outside government emergency management agencies.

OEP is part of the Office of Campus Safety and works closely with the other Campus Safety departments, Environmental Health & Safety and Fire Prevention Services. OEP also works closely with other campus partners including, the University of Texas Police Department, Facilities Services, Athletics, Parking & Transportation Services, and the Dean of Students in order to build a disaster resilient university.

Although OEP is a small department, our team is passionate about and dedicated to ensuring The University of Texas is ready for whatever comes its way. With the help of our partners, we are building a disaster resilient university that can bounce back from anything so that our community can quickly get back to changing the world.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS STOPS FOR NO STORM

The picture on the left is the Chairman of the Board of Regent’s telegraphed response to a suggestion that UT Medical Branch close after the 1900 hurricane that hit Galveston Island. (See utsystem.edu/office/chancellor/blog/teams-stop-no-storm.)

Today, this sentiment reflects the philosophy of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the whole of the University to keep performing our mission no matter what.
Welcome to the 2019 Office of Emergency Preparedness Annual Report. As you read through this report, you will notice a slight shift in design and a focus on the Financial and Administrative Services (FAS) core values. The Office of Emergency Preparedness’ goal in 2019 and the years forward is to ensure our program areas, accomplishments, and actions align with the values set forth by FAS. This report will provide a glimpse into the programs and accomplishments this office performed in 2019 and the core values we aligned towards. I invite you to learn from this report the successes and challenges the Office of Emergency Preparedness has had over the past year and I look forward to many more over the next year as we continue to empower preparedness across The University of Texas at Austin.

Jonathan

JONATHAN ROBB
DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
The Office of Emergency Preparedness is under the Campus Safety office within the Financial and Administrative Services portfolio. Units under this portfolio continually strive to improve service to the campus and the broader community while meeting compliance and reporting standards.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DARRELL BAZZELL, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

CAMPUS SAFETY
JIMMY JOHNSON, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
JONATHAN ROBB, DIRECTOR

Explore UT 2019 Class Photo.
STATEMENTS

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

MISSION

The Office of Emergency Preparedness leads the university in becoming disaster resilient by enhancing capabilities required to prepare, respond, recover, and mitigate potential hazards and safety risks.

VISION

The Office of Emergency Preparedness enriches the university academic and research mission by being an innovative leader in emergency management both in higher education and the global emergency management field.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness is committed to the Financial and Administrative Services values of innovation, teamwork, diversity, integrity, stewardship, and service.

The rest of this report shows how our program areas and accomplishments for the 2019 year fulfill those values.
CORE VALUE

INNOVATION

The University is a unique environment because of our special population, resources, and geography. As a result, we must constantly innovate in how we approach emergency management.

In 2019, we adopted new and innovative practices to help protect our community from an emergency:

• Acquired and deployed unique barricades that protect attendees at special events.
• Published Emergency Preparedness Pocket Guides and distributed this one-stop-shop for emergency preparedness information to students, faculty, and staff.
• Installed Classroom Emergency Guides in each classroom on the main campus, providing a quick reference guide for key emergency procedures for all students and instructors.

In 2020, we look forward to continuing to address the emergency preparedness needs of our community in innovative ways.

Home football games are just one of the special events we help make safer with our innovative mobile vehicle barricades. Darrel K Royal Texas Memorial Stadium at Night by Brint03. Licensed CC BY-SA 3.0.
UT READY: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

With the constant turnover of students, educating our community on emergency procedures and personal preparedness is a constant challenge. UT Ready is just one of the ways we help mitigate a disaster on campus by helping make sure everyone on campus is prepared to act in the event of an emergency. Our unique Emergency Preparedness Pocket Guides and Classroom Emergency Guides are just two of our strategies to educate our community and help reduce any loss of life in an emergency.

MOBILE VEHICLE BARRICADES

The changing public safety landscape makes it ever more challenging to protect attendees at any event. At The University of Texas at Austin, we hold many large events all across campus throughout the year, creating an added challenge. In response to these unique challenges, we identified a creative solution in the form of mobile vehicle barricades.

These barricades are not commonly used in our area but are perfect for our needs. The barricades collapse to be stored in a trailer and can be deployed to an event. They protect attendees from someone with a malicious intent but are easy to move to allow access to emergency vehicles. Adding these barricades to our events improves safety for attendees and sets us apart as a public safety leader in our area.
CORE VALUES

TEAMWORK

We work collaboratively across our organizations on common objectives and develop efficient and cost-effective systems and processes for campus.

AND

DIVERSITY

We believe the best ideas are born from sharing viewpoints, opinions, and perceptions from colleagues with varied backgrounds and experiences.

We work with the entire university community to prepare for and respond to any emergency we might face. It is critical that we work effectively as a team with everyone from Facilities Services to the Austin Police Department during an emergency. We value the input and opinions of the entire university community as well as our regional partners. In 2019, we worked with our partners to plan and coordinate special events, held new training opportunities to bring our many partners together, and continued to build our Building Emergency Management teams to ensure that the entire campus is involved in preparing for any emergency.

When activated, the Emergency Operations Center is staffed by partners from many fields, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, facilities services, and more. The Emergency Operations Center is where everyone comes together to respond to an incident or manage an event.
SPECIAL EVENTS
When large events like home football games or commencement happen on campus, we work with our diverse network of colleagues both within the University and in the local area to ensure that every event can happen. To do this, we bring together partners in law enforcement, emergency medical services, campus safety, campus services and more in the Emergency Operations Center. Assembling in one location helps make sure that everyone can quickly coordinate efforts to solve problems and respond to incidents during the event.

NCS4
In 2019, we had the unique opportunity to host a diverse group of Central Texas regional partners to learn the best practices in sport and special event evacuation and protective actions. Representatives from law enforcement, emergency management, health and safety, and venue management all came together to learn the best practices in special event safety and security to apply across a wide range of events.

BUILDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Every building on the main campus has a dedicated team to respond to any emergency that happens in a building. Each building’s team represents the unique departments that occupy the building and understands their specific needs. We work with each of these teams to develop an emergency plan for the buildings, help train them on the plan, and facilitate exercises that see how the plan works in action. We were able to develop many Building Emergency Plans in 2019 and look forward to expanding this program to our Pickle Research Campus in the coming year.
CORE VALUES

STEWARDSHIP

We are exceptional caretakers of the resources entrusted to FAS.

AND

INTEGRITY

We perform our work in a transparent, honest, and accountable manner. We also commit to meeting all compliance and reporting standards.

In the Office of Emergency Preparedness, we believe it is our duty to ensure that the university is prepared to respond to and recover from any emergency or disaster that may come our way. We cannot control the weather or the nefarious intentions of bad actors, but we can control how prepared we are and what we do if the worst should happen. It is our job to take care of the resources entrusted to the university in a time of crisis and adhering to the compliance requirements set upon us helps us do that. Overseeing the University’s Emergency Plans, safety hubs, and emergency notifications are just some of the ways we ensure that we are ready for anything.

Incident Action Plans and Operational Plans are critical components of our emergency preparedness program.
UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY PLANS

Texas Education Code and University of Texas System policy requires that we have an Emergency Operations Plan that addresses the emergency management needs of the university. We are committed not just to meeting this compliance standard, but to ensuring that our plans are the best possible quality. We review our Emergency Operations Plan annually to make updates, changes, and revisions. In 2019, we added additional operational plans that address specific situations or hazards not directly addressed in the Emergency Operations Plan.

SAFETY HUBS

Safety Hubs are just one of our creative programs designed to reduce any loss of life on campus. Each Safety Hub contains an Automated External Defibrillator, bleeding control (tourniquet) kits, a sign with the building’s name and address, and an emergency call box with a direct line to the University police department’s 911 center. In 2019, we completed the installation of the safety hubs on the main campus and expanded the program to the Pickle Research Campus.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Federal statute requires that we notify the campus community in the event that a situation poses an immediate threat to campus. Our office is responsible for the maintenance, testing, and upkeep of many of our emergency notification technologies. Taking care of these resources is one of our most important functions and we always try and go above and beyond the minimum requirements. In 2019, we had the exciting opportunity to host a symposium on Emergency Notification in Higher Education. This gave us the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from other institutions what the best practices are to ensure we can provide timely information to our community in the event of an emergency.
CORE VALUE

SERVICE

We are customer service oriented and offer responsive, reliable and seamless support.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness is proud to serve as the subject matter expert for emergency management at the University. We are always happy to help share our knowledge with other departments, partners, and groups with questions about what they need to do to make sure they’re prepared. We work hard to be accessible and offer timely support that our colleagues can trust.

CHARTER SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLAN

In 2019, our office had the opportunity to help a new partner prepare for an emergency: The University of Texas Charter School. New legislation required The University of Texas Charter School to develop a Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan. The Office of Emergency Preparedness was pleased to assist the charter school by lending our expertise to help the school meet its statutory requirements and improve its preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health and Safety, and the University of Texas Police Department respond to an incident on campus.
REUNIFICATION

In 2019, the Youth Protection Program came to the Office of Emergency Preparedness with a problem: The University hosts thousands of youth throughout the year in a variety of academic and sports programs. In an emergency, how would we be able to reunite these children with their parents? The Office of Emergency Preparedness was more than happy to help Youth Protection Programs develop a plan for youth reunification. This plan addresses the logistics of gathering children in a safe location, communicating with parents, and ensuring that children were reunited with their parents quickly and safely.

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

We rely on our fellow staff members to help respond to an emergency on campus. As such, it is our responsibility to provide training opportunities to support our colleagues. This helps ensure not only that our staff and the University’s staff involved in emergency response are prepared, but also confident in their abilities. In 2019, we were able to participate in exercises with local and regional partners including the Austin Public Health and Army North. We also hosted tabletop exercises with our campus partners to help ensure that our entire team is prepared for any emergency we may encounter. On two occasions, other departments requested specific tabletop exercises to test their plans internally, and we were happy to help facilitate those exercises. Training and exercises are just one of the areas where we strive to provide excellent service to our colleagues.
BECOMING DISASTER RESILIENT

OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

Disasters can occur at any time and cause a wide range of damage. Many times, the damage could be limited or prevented through comprehensive pre-disaster planning and mitigation. Resiliency is the ability to minimize the potential impact hazards have to a particular area. The Office of Emergency Preparedness strives to develop and implement resiliency efforts across campus to make the University of Texas at Austin a disaster resilient university.

A disaster resilient university recognizes the threats that are posed to its particular campuses, develops, and implements actions that will minimize or mitigate these threats. The commitment to become a disaster resilient university cannot be completed without an extensive partnership and collaboration with many on-and off-campus stakeholders. The programs, plans, and actions that our office develops and implements are designed to withstand the effects of the possible hazards by limiting the losses and interruptions to the University, thus becoming a disaster resilient university.