

Ensuring safety on campus

It is a responsibility of universities and institutions

Is your university

ready to protect the lives of students, staff, and faculty as well as various institutional assets and to provide necessary support to local governments and communities in case of emergencies?

The keys to ensuring safety on campus in case of emergencies

1. Establish an incident command system for emergencies. Individuals should be trained on their roles during emergencies with clear lines of authority.
2. Activate an emergency operations center or disaster countermeasure office which can be a temporary structure that will allow trained staff and leadership to come together in one location to facilitate decision making and manage resources.
3. Develop an emergency management plan with key stakeholders from the university. Train everyone on the plan.
4. Conduct regular exercises, drills, and simulations to train on and test the plan and determine its effectiveness.

Leadership

is indispensable during emergencies to make critical and prompt policy decisions, often with limited information. Having emergency plans in place, along with staff and leadership who have trained and exercised on those plans, can assist the decision making process to identify what needs to be done for immediate response and recovery. *Natural disasters are also a major part of emergencies and serious concern in many countries. There are common procedures and tools even among different types of emergencies such as natural disasters, pandemics and human-made disasters. This focuses specifically on natural disaster preparedness as part of an overall campus emergency preparedness strategy.*

In order to materialize the above key elements, a certain amount of investment by universities is crucial

1. Commitment from university leadership and inclusion of any legal authorities governing emergency management
2. Adequate funding to develop plans, purchase emergency equipment, and hire dedicated staff
3. A dedicated emergency operations center staffed with appropriate staff who have been trained.
4. Training exercises with staff and leadership
5. Mutual aid partnership with local entities outside of the university



Disaster management plan



The plan is the foundation of all the key elements. It should help your university prepare for and survive an emergency situation. It has to be developed based on capacity, vulnerability and need assessment and clearly identify *what needs to be done* in each disaster management stage.

Before a disaster/preparation: a guideline on how to protect assets and hazardous materials, a confirmation system to account for students, faculty and staff. What to do if communication systems fail or lifelines such as electricity and water fail. Establish an emergency countermeasure/response/management office. Conduct simulation exercises, evacuation drills, etc. to test the plan.

During a disaster/response: activating an incident command system or an emergency management center to disseminate accurate information and receive information in a centralized location. Immediately following the disaster, conduct damage and need assessments, safety confirmation of students, staff and faculty, and identification of immediate needs and actions.

After a disaster/recovery: reconstruction of damaged buildings and infrastructure, identification of longer-term assistance such as psychosocial care, provision of a special grant, etc.

Useful links for an emergency management and response plan:

By Florida International University (FIU): http://dem.fiu.edu/_assets/docs/FIU%20CEMP%202015.pdf

By the University of Sydney: <http://sydney.edu.au/dam/corporate/documents/campus-life/emergencies-and-personal-safety/University-of-Sydney-Emergency-Response-Plan.pdf>

Other useful links:

Office of Safety Health and Environment at National University of Singapore: <http://nus.edu.sg/osh/index.html>

APRU-IRIDeS Multi-Hazards Campus Safety Program: <http://aprumh.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/activities/campus-safety>

Collaboration with local organizations and communities

Universities are tasked ultimately to **contribute broadly to society**. It is important for universities to work together with local organizations and communities in case of emergencies as a part of the community. It will be possible by having discussions in advance on their possible partnership for disaster management, integrating a university emergency management plan with local and regional plans, as well as conducting joint response/recovery activities providing volunteers and technical experts.

APRU is a network of 45 universities in 17 countries in the Pacific Rim (www.apru.org). The APRU and the APRU Multi-Hazards Program (www.aprumh.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/) intend to play a key role in promoting and advocating for necessary initiatives for disaster management at the university level. The APRU Multi-Hazards Campus Safety Working Group consists of the representatives of the following universities: **Chulalongkorn University, Florida International University, National University of Singapore, Osaka University, Tohoku University, the University of Sydney, and University of Philippines.**

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