

Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Plan Instructions

Every member of the university community must take appropriate and deliberate action when an emergency strikes a building, a portion of the campus, or entire campus community. Emergency preparedness means we are all ready to act for our own safety and the safety of others during a crisis. It takes an effort by all of us to create and sustain an effective emergency preparedness system. Your support is important to achieving the best possible outcomes during a crisis event.

As a University faculty member, you are responsible for pointing out your classrooms' building emergency evacuation routes and for reviewing emergency procedures with students at the beginning of each semester.

This review should include a mention of the monthly emergency communications test (every first Wednesday at 11:50 a.m.) and the list of communications channels the university uses during emergencies. It should also include a review of the attached document outlining emergency terms (e.g., the difference between "shelter-in-place" and "lockdown") and instructions for faculty and students to follow during emergencies. As a matter of convenience, we recommend including this information in your syllabus along with the phone number for the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL: 512-232-5050). This is the number to call if you have concerns regarding the attitude or actions of students, staff, or other faculty.

Finally, at the end of your emergency preparedness review, request that students requiring assistance in evacuation inform you in writing of their needs during the first week of class. This information must then be provided to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to ensure the safety of your classroom. I assure you this small effort can yield much greater rewards should the unthinkable happen. If you would like more information regarding emergency preparedness, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/preparedness/>.

Thank you,

Gerald Robert Harkins Ed.D
Associate Vice President
Campus Safety and Security
The University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7546
Austin, TX 78713-7546
Phone: 512-471-5767
Fax: 512-471-5999
E-mail: <<mailto:bharkins@austin.utexas.edu>>

Emergency Communications

Emergencies may range from inclement weather, to building evacuations, to campus closures, and the university has a variety of tools to communicate with the public in the event of these and other possible emergencies. Depending on the type of emergency, we may use some or all of the following tools to communicate with faculty, staff and students:

Siren System

This system is tested around noon on the first Wednesday of every month, and delivers a siren warning and public address in the event of certain outdoor emergencies. Read more about the [siren system](#).

Emergency Web Site

You may want to bookmark the [emergency Web site](#) because it is updated with information during actual emergencies or campus closures.

Local Press and Social Media

University Communications staff send emergency information to the press and update social media with public safety messages. Because of the transient nature of our population, the university depends a great deal on the press and social media to keep students, faculty, and staff informed during campus emergencies.

Pager System

Our campus first responders, resident advisors, and some building managers are part of the AWACS paging system. The pagers send text messages about emergencies on campus and alert city responders (APD, AFD, EMS, Office of Emergency Management, etc.) to campus crisis situations.

Fire Panel Systems

Residence halls are equipped with fire panel systems that have a public address capability. Resident advisors are trained to use these systems in emergencies in order to make announcements to the entire building regarding evacuation, shelter in place, etc.

Text Alerts

The university collects cell phone numbers from members of the campus community for emergency text messages. [Sign up for campus text alerts online](#).

University Group E-mail

During emergencies, UT Safety Alert sends an “urgent” group e-mail to every student, faculty and staff member. The e-mail directs individuals to the emergency Web site for additional information and instruction.

Voicemail to Office Telephones

This tool leaves a voice message on every faculty and staff member’s office phone on campus.

Cable TV

Residence halls and several of our public gathering places have cable televisions where emergency announcements get posted.

Public Safety Patrol Car Announcements

UTPD patrol cars are equipped with PA systems, which officers can use to provide instructions to pedestrians during emergencies.

University Emergency Information Line — 512-232-9999

Students, faculty, and staff can call this main number for information about campus closures.

The implementation of each tool described above is assigned to an individual who has at least two backups who can also carry out the communications task. Individuals with electronic communication tools assigned to them have remote access (from their homes, etc.) to those tools. The police department and the associate vice president for Campus Safety and Security are typically the ones who deliver emergency information to university administration. Upon considering this information, administration develops the messages and activates campus-wide communications. The only exceptions to this are the sirens and pager system, which are activated directly by UTPD in extremely urgent situations where immediate action is required.