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TRAINING DATES

- Fire Safety ........................................ April 6th at 2pm
- Basic Crisis Coordinator Training ...... April 13th at 12pm
- Reducing COVID Fatigue .................. April 20th at 1pm
- CERT Refresher Training* ............... April 27th at 2pm
- Save the Date - CC Symposium .......... May 18th at 1pm

*(Certified CERT Personnel Only)

Please email Mike Guerrero at mguerre8@kennesaw.edu to sign up.
Flexibility vs. Agility
By Andy Altizer, Director of Emergency Management, Kennesaw State University

Flexibility is a word closely associated with emergency management, but what about agility? Is there a difference? Does it really matter?

In many professions, including emergency management, flexibility is extremely important. Just reminding people to be flexible is an important part of the planning process. But, when it comes to emergency response, agility is even more important.

Checking the Dictionary
Using relevant Merriam-Webster definitions to set the stage:

- **Flexibility**: is characterized by a ready capability to adapt to new, different, or changing requirements.
- **Agility**: is marked by a ready ability to move with quick, easy grace; having a quick resourceful and adaptable character.

Based on these definitions, the key word in both is “ready.” The main difference, in the emergency management context, is that flexibility seems to center on preparedness, while agility centers on response.

Agility is more action-oriented and, at times, requires first and other emergency responses to make sudden decisions based on the changing situation. Agility would more likely be needed during immediate and problematic situations.

**Using the COVID-19 Vaccine for a Few Examples**

Let’s use the COVID-19 vaccine for a couple of examples that differentiate the two characteristics:

- **Flexibility** is needed when planning for the number of vaccinators needed at a Point of Dispensing (POD) site.
- **Agility** is needed when one of the vaccinators calls in sick the morning of the POD.
- **Flexibility** is needed when planning for vaccines based on the lack of reliable information on the number and timing of vaccine arrival.
- **Agility** is required when 800 doses were requested and 1,400 arrive.

Earlier this year, the CDC changed the definition of a close contact. The definition that caused a great need for a great amount of agility was the more restrictive time period that went from a continuous 15-minute time period to an accumulated time period over a 24-hour period. This change required agility in many settings, especially settings with congregate living and feeding—like universities, retirement homes or athletic teams.

There is no greater example of the importance of agility than when educational institutions suddenly had to shift gears from face-to-face to virtual teaching.

**Look at Another Example Beyond the EM Function**

Let’s take a quick look at another example beyond the emergency management function to illustrate the difference between flexibility and agility. Think of a quarterback changing the play at the line of scrimmage (flexibility) compared to the quarterback stepping back to pass, but with receivers covered, decides to run the ball (agility).

**Conclusion**

Flexibility and agility are both extremely important in emergency management, but agility is even more important during complex and fluid situations. Of course, many of the scenarios that require both flexibility and agility can be mitigated with additional contingency and continuity planning, as well as exercises that throw in “what ifs” and wrinkles that are so often associated with emergency.

This Article previously appeared in the February 2021 issue of the IAEM Bulletin, the official newsletter of the International Association of Emergency Management www.iaem.org

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Learn about the IAEM Certification Program at www.iaem.org/CEM.

Are you taking full advantage of your IAEM membership? Learn about IAEM member benefits online.
Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic

Updated Mar. 17, 2021

Important Ways to Slow the Spread

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

If You are at Risk of Getting Very Sick

- People of any age, even healthy young adults and children, can get COVID-19.
- People who are older or have certain underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Other groups may be at higher risk for getting COVID-19 or having more severe illness.
Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

- Authorized COVID-19 vaccines can help protect you from COVID-19.
- You should get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.
- Once you are fully vaccinated, you may be able to start doing some things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

What to Do If You're Sick

- Stay home except to get medical care. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider and get tested.
- Isolate yourself from others, including those living in your household, to prevent spread to them and the people that they may have contact with, like grandparents.
- Call 911 if you are having emergency warning signs, like trouble breathing, pain or pressure in chest.
How to Get a Test for Current Infection

- Visit your state, tribal, local, and territorial health department’s website to look for the latest local information on testing.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about getting tested. You and your healthcare provider might consider either in-person testing, an at-home collection kit, or an at-home test.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have not been vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, it is still important to stay home even if you are not tested.
What Symptoms to Watch For

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are

- Fever
- Cough
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Other symptoms are signs of serious illness. If someone has trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, or difficulty staying awake, get medical care immediately.
Tornado Safety Checklist

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornado intensities are classified on the Fujita Scale with ratings between F0 (weakest) to F5 (strongest). They are capable of completely destroying well-made structures, uprooting trees and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles. Although severe tornadoes are more common in the Plains States, tornadoes have been reported in every state.

**Know the Difference**

**Tornado Watch**
Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

**Tornado Warning**
A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

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**What should I do to prepare for a tornado?**

- During any storm, listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about watches and warnings.
- Know your community’s warning system. Communities have different ways of warning residents about tornadoes, with many having sirens intended for outdoor warning purposes.
- Pick a safe room in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- Practice periodic tornado drills so that everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching.
- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged limbs from trees.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Watch for tornado danger signs:
  - Dark, often greenish clouds—a phenomenon caused by hail
  - Wall cloud—an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm
  - Cloud of debris
  - Large hail
  - Funnel cloud—a visible rotating extension of the cloud base
  - Roaring noise

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**What should I do if a tornado is threatening?**

- The safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement or safe room.
- If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.
  - Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes or other severe winds.
  - Do not seek shelter in a hallway or bathroom of a mobile home.
  - If you have access to a sturdy shelter or a vehicle, abandon your mobile home immediately.
  - Go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately, using your seat belt if driving.
  - Do not wait until you see the tornado.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter:
  - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
  - If debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:
    - Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
    - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
    - Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.

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**What do I do after a tornado?**

- Continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions.
- If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes when examining your walls, doors, staircases and windows for damage.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- Use battery-powered flashlights when examining buildings—do NOT use candles.
- If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out of the building quickly and call the gas company or fire department.
- Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Keep all of your animals under your direct control.
- Clean up spilled medications, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids that could become a fire hazard.
- Check for injuries. If you are trained, provide first aid to persons in need until emergency responders arrive.

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**Let Your Family Know You’re Safe**

If your community experiences a tornado, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org) to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don’t have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.

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For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org).

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Georgia State Defense Force Assist KSU at COVID Testing Site
Written by Major Lee Duncan

Throughout the month of February, soldiers from the 76th Support Brigade served alongside Kennesaw State University Police at a CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) Covid Screening site at Kennesaw State University. Troops acted as a force multiplier and assisted KSU Public Safety in providing traffic control on the site.

During this time, approximately 1,200 individuals were tested at the site. Individuals performed a self-administered, shallow nasal test – the results of which could be viewed via a testing portal within 4 days.

Troops from the 132nd Medical, 911th Support and 1st Engineer Battalions served on Tuesday and Thursday every week in February. Major Duncan of the 911th Support served as the missions Officer in Charge, and Sergeant First Class Tweedell, also of the 911th, served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the mission. The mission was led on the ground by Captain DaCosta of the 132nd Medical Battalion.

Soldiers worked closely with KSU Public Safety to assist with traffic control.
Members of the 76th who participated were very dedicated to serving the Kennesaw community, even though for some, their home communities were hours away. This is a testament to the hearts of GSDF soldiers to serve in any capacity the state of Georgia asks of them on behalf of its citizens. While we were utilized for traffic control during March, the KSU testing site has been in operation since August 2020 and is coordinated by several agencies (DPH, CORE, and KSU). With its 6 lanes, the goal for the KSU site was to not only stand up efficient drive-through COVID testing but also to support a future drive-through COVID vaccination operation with few, if any, changes. Should that occur, GSDF stands ready to support such an expansion of goals.

Traffic control may not be as exciting as some of the other missions we have had, but it does allow us to interact with the public. I can't tell you how many people waved at us with enthusiasm to show their gratitude to men and women in uniform who were, once again, serving to support them in crisis.
20 YEAR REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 | Noon
KSU CAMPUS GREEN

Please save the date.
COMING SOON
FOR MORE INFO
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