Preparing the Parliament is a monthly production of the KSU Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. This new publication is provided to help prepare students, faculty and staff to be ready for emergencies and disasters that could occur on our campuses. We invite you to provide questions and or comments regarding this publication via email at oem@kennesaw.edu.
Autumn is my favorite season of the year. I love the colors, I love the cooler (well, mostly cooler) air, and I love college football. I’ve always viewed this time of year as a true season of change. With the leaves turning colors and falling to the ground, you can see the change all around us. You can feel the brisk air.

From an emergency management perspective, autumn reminds me of the adage of awareness. More specifically, it reminds me of “situational awareness.” Throughout the season, change is constant. We have to maintain our awareness of what is going on around us so that we can Be Ready for whatever may happen. Can we have a Tropical Cyclone in Autumn? Yep! We have to pay attention to that. Can we have tornadoes? Yes! November is part of a secondary peak for severe weather in Georgia. Could it be 25 degrees this weekend? Well, yes. It could be. How about 85? Yeah – that is possible too! November is quite literally a month where we could get almost anything weather wise. So, that is why this month reminds me so much that we must always maintain our situational awareness.

Situational awareness is, in reality, just paying attention to what is going on around you and what could be about to happen. We are all guilty of letting our situational awareness lapse at times. It might happen because we are deep in thought or doom-scrolling through Twitter on our phones instead of paying attention to the constant change around us. Maintaining your awareness is one of the best ways to mitigate and prepare for what may happen. Knowing what the weather forecast is, paying attention while walking across campus, and not texting while driving are just a few ways we can all maintain better situational awareness.

So, I will leave you with my favorite situational awareness story (which also explains what happens when two emergency managers raise a child): My 5-year-old went to a “end of summer” party back in late August. At this party, they had one of those giant inflatable water slides with a splash pool at the bottom of the slide. Well, my son comes flying down the slide and into the pool on his first trip and then sort of lingers in the splash pool. Unbeknownst to him, another kid is now coming down the slide at a high rate of speed and quite nearly wipes out my son. Luckily, he just missed. My wife looked at our son and said, “Charlie! You were almost taken out! Pay attention!” To which Charlie replied, “Sorry, Mama. I didn’t have good situational awareness. I’ll do better next time.”
Kennesaw State University Office of Emergency Management hosted the quarterly meeting of the Metro Atlanta Higher Ed Emergency Management group in November. KSU was joined by Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia, and Georgia State. This group meets to share best practices, lessons learned, and future collaboration opportunities.

KSU Office of Emergency Management also supported and presented at The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) Conference on the Marietta Campus in October. This conference was attended in person and virtually by emergency management practitioners and researchers from around the globe. In person attendees included representatives from as far away as Oslo, Norway. Dr. George Markowsky, a KSU Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Software Engineering and Game Development, is the President of the TIEMS USA chapter.
With cold weather quickly approaching, being prepared for the elements is important. One of the most widespread and severe threats we can see would be prolonged power outages. With power outages your primary sources of heat and preparing foods may be compromised. It is important to have a secondary safe source of heat and cooking. This can be a wood or gas fireplace or a generator strong enough to run space heaters, hot plates, and keep your cooling appliances running. Also:

- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by only using generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven. Never use a camp stove, charcoal grill, gasoline or propane heater indoors.

- Limit your time outside, but if you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

- Stay off roads, if possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.

If you do not have an option to store your perishables at the recommended temperature, you may be able to store them outside in a safe location if the weather is cold enough to allow this.

Be aware of any warming shelters that may be available that you can safely travel to and try to do so before you become trapped. During these times of power outages, it is imperative to check on vulnerable communities such as the elderly, children, and people with chronic illnesses. Also:

- Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping.
- Learn how to keep pipes from freezing.
- Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person’s specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets.
- Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

The Office of Emergency Management have plans in place for power outages at Kennesaw State. Departmental COOP plans should also address power outages. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to email us at oem@kennesaw.edu.
Timothy S. Murphy is the Captain of Special Operations at Kennesaw State University. Captain Murphy has served the public at KSU since 1997. Having studied at Kennesaw State University and Columbia Southern, he is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He holds intermediate, advanced, supervision, management and senior instructor certifications with the Georgia POST. He is the primary mobile field force instructor.

**How long have you been at KSU and why did you choose KSU?** I started as a student at KSU in 1992 and as a full-time employee in 1997. I had met several KSU Police officers, and they encouraged me to apply. I had applied at several police departments in the area and KSU Police hired me first. Interestingly, I was officered a job at another police department that I had applied at my second day working at KSU.

**What parts of police operations fall under "Special Operations?** Special Operations coordinates security and police staffing for all special events at KSU. We also support KSU OEM with special situations (e.g. COVID response) and training for departments on campus. The K-9 units are part of Special Operations, and they conduct sterility sweeps for all large events and support other law enforcement agencies on request. We also conduct the follow up crash investigations on hit & run and striking fixed objects/unattended vehicles. We plan, coordinate and assist KSU parking and transportation and Cobb DOT with traffic issues on and around campus. Special Operations assists area law enforcement agencies with large special events, special details and training.

**What role does your division play with football games?** Special Operations works with Athletics and Event and Venue Management on staffing, security and traffic plans. We schedule all the public safety assets (Fire, Police, OEM and EHS) working the games and write the Public Safety Incident Action Plan for the game.

**How does Emergency Management support your operation?** OEM supports Special Operations at all large events by staffing key roles and assignments for the event. OEM provides resources that would be needed if an emergency/incident occurs during an event. OEM also monitors weather conditions before and during the event. OEM has also assisted SOD in obtaining resources to be used during large events.

**What about your job continues to surprise you?** I am surprised by the work ethic of the staff members in Athletics and EVM. These staff members work extremely hard behind the scenes getting things done with no complaints. I enjoy working with people that like serving the KSU community.

**Do you have a favorite KSU Tradition or Event?** I enjoy the KSU Commencement ceremonies. I have worked hundreds of them over the years and find them the most rewarding.
Members of the Kennesaw State University Office of Emergency Management Crisis Coordinator Team once again supported the 12th annual KSU Pumpkin Launch on the 27th of October. The Launch is an annual competition of mechanical engineering students in the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. The winning team included Will Brack, John Lopez, Andrew Fasano, Justin Kerr, Mihalio Blagojevic, Nathan Elson, Tochi Ugoji, William Velasquez, John Calling, with a launch of 393 feet.

Crisis Coordinators are office managers, administrative staff, professors, instructors, etc. who volunteer their time to prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters on KSU Campuses. Thanks to all Crisis Coordinators who served to keep the competitors safe during the competition.

Interested in becoming a Crisis Coordinator? Email oem@kennesaw.edu for information.
What is COOP? COOP stands for Continuity of Operations. It’s part of the Recovery process after an emergency/disaster. How do we get back to a sense of normalcy after a disaster? How do we get back to doing what we do, which is educating students? How do we keep the KSU machine working if some of our cogs are out of order? This is where the COOP plan is executed. Every KSU department should have a COOP plan. As our website explains, it’s a major document that is used in recovery, and its purpose is to ensure continued operation of critical functions in the event of an emergency and to ensure a rapid response to any emergency situation requiring continuity plan implementation. It contains administrative and academic department plans that allow them, and their respective sub-departments, to define their critical assets and functions.

COOP plans differ from emergency action plans (EAPs) because EAPs are building-specific and short-term, whereas COOP plans are more long-term in the event of an extended emergency or disruption. (2 days to several weeks/months) Let’s look at some specific situations: a fire alarm. COOP plans do not include fire alarms because fire alarms are short-term and usually resolved within minutes and are building-specific. EAPs would include fire alarm evacuations. However, a COOP plan would be necessary if a building burned to the ground or if majority of a building was damaged by fire. What if the building was a residence hall? Where would we rehouse the displaced students? What if the building was an academic building, such as Social Sciences? Where would the academic departments within the Social Sciences building relocate classes? All of these critical functions would be addressed in the COOP plan. Another scenario is a pandemic; not that we would ever see that, right?! Wrong. 2020 showed us just how critical a good COOP plan is. What if suddenly, in the middle of a semester, everyone is ordered to quarantine/isolate in their homes? Which employees must continue to report to campus? What about international students who can’t just pack up and go home? What if 50% or more of your staff is absent due to illness? Who continues to perform essential operations during a long-term disruption? There are so many what-if’s but it’s important to concentrate on the most impactful hazards to our campus community.

There are multiple facets of a good COOP plan. Reach out to oem@kennesaw.edu if you have questions about your department’s COOP plan or if you’d like to learn more about it. Also, visit our website oem.kennesaw.edu for more information.
Kennesaw State University Office of Emergency Management offers preparedness and response training to the Campus Community year-round. Our courses include topics such as Classroom Preparedness, Preparing for the Unexpected, Basics of Emergency Management, Bomb Treats, Response to Active Shooter, CPR, AED, Basic Life Support, Weather Preparedness, and more. OEM works with groups, classes and programs to schedule courses around their availability. Interested in emergency and disaster training? Contact us at oem@kennesaw.edu.

**DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY**

Join us on November 17, 2022 at 1:00pm-2:00pm in the Academic Learning Center room 3200. Learn the psychological effects of disasters and how to cope with them. Register at oem@kennesaw.edu.

**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (CPR, AED, CHOKING)**

Do you know how to save a life when someone’s heart stops? Basic Life Support covers the methodology on saving lives through cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Monday, November 28, 2022 at 5:00pm-8:00pm, Norton Hall Police Precinct Conference Room, Marietta Campus. Register at oem@kennesaw.edu.

**CRISIS COORDINATOR QUARTERLY MEETING**

Everyone welcome! November 30, 2022 at 1:00pm-3:00pm in Prillaman Hall 1101

No registration needed.

**CITIZEN RESPONSE TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT (CRASE)**

December Norton Hall Police Precinct Conference Room, Marietta Campus. Date and time TBD.

**BUILDING AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR YOUR BUILDING**

Developing a Building Emergency Action Plan for each building at KSU is a priority of the Office of Emergency Management in 2023. This course introduces the “BEAP” process for Crisis Coordinators and Faculty and Staff leaders on the process of preparing your building and occupants for emergency and disaster. To be offered on both campuses in January 2023. More information coming.
Turkey Fryer Fire Safety

Frying food puts you at the greatest risk of cooking fires. Before you fry a turkey, review these tips to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Turkey fryers can tip over easily, spilling hot cooking oil over a large area. Make sure your turkey fryer is on a sturdy, level surface and do not move it once it is in use.

Make sure it is at least 10 feet from your home and not under roof eaves.

An overfilled cooking pot will cause cooking oil to spill when the turkey is put in. Test the amount of oil you need by filling your fryer with water. Place the turkey in the pot making sure the water doesn’t get too close to the top. Measure the water and use that as a guide for filling the pot with oil.

A partially frozen turkey will cause cooking oil to splatter when you put it in the cooking pot. Make sure your turkey is fully thawed without frost on it before you fry it.

Without thermostat controls, deep fryers can overheat oil to the point of starting a fire. If your turkey fryer does not have a thermostat, use a kitchen thermometer that attaches to the side of the pot. This will help you monitor the temperature of the oil.

The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles can get dangerously hot. Always use protective oven mitts. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet from the turkey fryer.

Consider using an electric or air fryer.

Visit usaf.fema.gov for more free fire-safety resources.
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Download LiveSafe
The free LiveSafe app provides students, faculty and staff with a direct connection to campus police so that everyone can easily communicate all their safety needs. Its easy-to-use features help you stay safe every day and enable us to provide better protection for you.

** When prompted, enable push notifications and location services to receive full benefits of the LiveSafe app
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Happy Thanksgiving from all of us in OEM!

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