

CRISIS COORDINATOR COMMUNIQUE

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Department of Public Safety
Office of Emergency Management

Crisis Coordinator of the Quarter

Sherrie Gentry

Sherrie works in the College of Continuing and Professional Education and manages the KSU Center and the meeting and event space there. Sherrie has been with the University for twelve years and has been in the Crisis Coordinator program since its inception. She completed the CERT program this summer and is an encourager of others housed at the KSU Center to expand their safety training. Sherrie constantly strives to maintain safety & security at KSU Center. Congratulations!



'Tis the season...

STAYING SAFE DURING THE SEASON

The holiday season is a fun and exciting time, but with added activities, there is also a higher risk of emergencies.

Therefore, there should be an increase in your emergency planning. These three tips will help keep you safe during the holidays, while celebrating safely and planning ahead.



Beating the Burglars:

According to the FBI, nearly 400,000 burglaries take place in the U.S. during the holiday season annually. Make sure windows and doors are locked, even if you're leaving your residence for a brief period. Avoid having large displays of gifts that can be seen through windows or doors. If you're traveling, be sure to have someone collect your mail, consider an automatic timer for your lights, make sure someone shovels snow and keep a vehicle in the driveway if possible.

Tree Tips:

Fresh trees not only stay green longer, they are less of a fire hazard. To select a fresh one, remember that needles should be hard to pull from branches and should bend, not break. If there's a shower of falling needles, it's too dry. In your residence, keep the tree away from fireplaces and other heat sources. If it is a large tree, consider using wire to further secure it to a wall or ceiling. Position it away from foot traffic and doorways. Finally, before setting it in a sturdy, wide stand that always contains water, cut off about two inches from the trunk to increase water absorption and slow drying.

Fire Prevention:

Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and related injuries, so have an extinguisher close by. An extra-busy kitchen means an increased risk of burns and knife injuries, so keep additional people away to avoid confusion and accidents. Burning candles may add ambiance but they can also be dangerous - never leave these unattended or in the care of a child. Additionally, candles and holiday lighting increase the risk of fire, so be sure to check and make sure all smoke detectors are in working order.

Winter Weather Warning



Winter weather season is almost upon us! The NOAA Climate Prediction Center has issued a prediction of cooler than normal temperatures and wetter than normal conditions across the Southeast. This prediction is based upon the Strong El Niño weather pattern that is in place.

To prepare for winter weather, it is important to update your emergency kits in your cars and homes. In addition to the usual items, you should include a windshield scraper; extra hats, socks, and gloves; blankets; road salt and sand; and snacks that do not need to be heated. Stay aware of potential winter weather by checking the National Weather Service website at www.weather.gov/Atlanta. Also, be sure you know the difference in a Watch, Advisory, and Warning. A Winter Storm Watch indicates that conditions are favorable for winter weather and a storm is possible in the next 12 to 36 hours. A Winter Weather Advisory indicates that conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and could be hazardous. A Winter Storm Warning indicates that a winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

The Office of Emergency Management diligently tracks potentially dangerous weather conditions throughout the year for potential impacts to Kennesaw State University, including potential winter weather events.



Heating Up the Holidays

Did you know that space heaters are not permitted in offices at Kennesaw State University? Environmental Health & Safety says the reasons are due to how they interfere with the HVAC performance and most importantly, they are a fire hazard. When a space heater is running, it tricks the thermostat into thinking it's warmer than it really is. Also, space heaters get left on accidentally and they can cause fires. However, if you experience a problem with indoor temperatures in your office area, contact Facilities and they can temporarily provide an approved heating device. If you use space heaters at home, remember, they need space! Never place a heater near combustibles such as curtains, furniture or bedding. Also, be extra cautious if you place them where children sleep or play. It's important to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a space heater. Never plug it into an overloaded outlet and ensure it has an automatic safety shut off if knocked over.

The **Crisis Coordinator Communique** is here to provide monthly communication concerning KSU Crisis Coordination, upcoming training, and emergency and safety tips.

if you
SEE
something

SAY
something™

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IMPORTANT DATES

Siren Test

Every first Wednesday of the month at noon.

Radio Check

Every first Wednesday of the month at 10:00a.m.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

For information pertaining to school closings due to weather conditions visit:

<http://oem.kennesaw.edu/docs/Winter%20Weather%20Open-Close.pdf>

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