



PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND UNIVERSITY POLICE
Office of Emergency Management

Cybersecurity
Awareness
Month

Fire Prevention
Week
10/6-10/12

Disaster
Response in
Hurricane
Helene

Halloween
Safety

Preparing the Parliament is a monthly production of the KSU Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. This publication is provided to prepare students, faculty, and staff to be ready for and respond to potential emergencies and disasters which may occur on our campuses.

The Director's Desk

James Westbrook
Director of Emergency Management

Weather is hard. There are so many mechanisms and laws of physics in play that we still don't quite understand. Hurricane Helene is a great example. We were waiting with bated breath every update from the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service. NHC missed the track on Helene and, since the storm was moving SO FAST for a tropical system, it meant areas expecting to get lots of rain and maybe a little wind saw Hurricane-force wind gusts and 12+ inches of rain.

Here at Kennesaw State, we saw just under 10 inches of rain and wind gusts around 40 mph. If the storm had taken the track projected by the National Hurricane Center, the devastation many of you have seen from the Augusta area would be our reality. Helene wobbled east and we ended up with a lot of rain but little in the way of major impacts. But then you look 20 miles away at Atlanta and you see a significant amount of rain and flooding throughout the city. Again, if that had been us, what would our campuses look like? The Campus Loop Road houses would have flooded. Low-lying areas on both campuses would be inundated with water. If Helene had wobbled west instead of east, we would be the ones looking at no power for a week and no water.

This is the life of emergency management. We always prepare for the worst and hope for the best. We worked tirelessly before and during Helene to put Kennesaw State on the best possible footing for what could happen. Simply put, we got lucky the storm went east. Now, we are working to help our colleagues at Augusta University with their impacts. We know if roles were reversed, they would do the same for us.

The job never ends and we continue to move forward prepared for what may come.

A MOMENT WITH...

Rachel Kidd-Chancey

Construction Project Specialist
Planning, Design & Construction



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE KSU TEAM?

I joined the SPSU/KSU team ten years ago, pretty fresh out of college as a Wood Shop Supervisor for the College of Architecture and Construction Management. I was excited to continue learning about fabrication and have a job related to my Fine Arts degree.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW ROLE AT KSU!

I am now the Construction Project Specialist for Planning, Design and Construction (PDC). I handle the intake process for all project requests on campus, manage communications related to construction projects, and develop process and procedure to enhance safety, efficiency, and align expectations.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME (GOOD) SURPRISES SINCE JOINING PDC?

In my experience, construction has always been a very male dominated industry. I was surprised, and frankly inspired, by how many leadership roles here at Planning, Design and Construction are held by women.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO AWAY FROM CAMPUS?

I've got a 1.5-year-old at home, so my time away from campus looks a little different than it used to. When I'm not busy trying to keep a newly mobile toddler alive, I like to work in my vegetable garden and experiment with cooking new recipes. Who am I kidding? I just take a nap!

HOW DOES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS FIT INTO YOUR NEW ROLE?

Construction projects on a university campus are a huge undertaking as we've got so many different aspects of campus life to consider while trying to get the job done on time and on budget. Part of my new role involves navigating those complexities and ensuring all of our campus partners' expectations are met, including the safety of our faculty, staff, and students. I work with our Project Managers to anticipate potential disruptions and initiate communications with the campus community to bring awareness. Additionally, I've worked to establish a PDC Safety Council and participate as the unit chair at the University Safety Council Meetings. I act as a conduit for other units to share their questions or concerns regarding any construction on campus with PDC.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE KSU TRADITION OR LOCATION ON CAMPUS?

This is a hard one! My fondest memories here at KSU are in the sculpture studio, specifically the foundry at the Visual Arts building. My favorite spot on campus is on the third floor of the Architecture building on the Marietta campus. The Digital Fabrication Lab has extra-large windows overlooking a wooded area that is a really peaceful place to reflect (especially early in the morning before the machines get fired up).

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month! Cybersecurity awareness means being proactive and taking the necessary steps to protect our digital information on all of our devices. Remaining aware and informed about potential online threats is essential. We can protect ourselves and each other by using strong passwords, safeguarding our personal information, updating and using antivirus software, and helping others understand more about cybersecurity threats. Staying safe online is a team effort!

For more information about cybersecurity awareness, [visit CISA's website](#).

USE STRONG PASSWORDS

Passwords should be:

- Long: at least 16 characters
- Random: upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols
- Unique: use a different password for each account



UPDATE REGULARLY

Software updates fix bugs, patch security weak spots, and improve overall performance. Install updates as soon as possible. Stop hitting that “remind me later” button! Turn on automatic updates.

USE MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Turn on Multifactor Authentication (MFA) for every account or app that offers it!

MFA methods include:

- Numeric codes sent through text/email
- Authenticator apps: new codes are generated every 30 seconds
- Biometrics: facial recognition or fingerprint identification

RECOGNIZE AND REPORT PHISHING

Resist clicking on links or attachments!
Do not click any links, including an “unsubscribe” link.
Report the message as a phishing attempt.

Recognize common signs of phishing:
Messages that require immediate action
Requests to send or confirm personal information
Incorrect email addresses or links





DO SMOKE ALARMS WORK FOR YOU?

Fire/Life Safety
Environmental Health and Safety

October 6-12 is Fire Prevention Week! Fire Prevention Week began as a commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which started on October 8, 1871, killed over 250 people, destroyed close to 18,000 buildings, and left over 100,000 people homeless. Later, in 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week as a national observance to promote fire safety and educate the public. Every year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) promotes fire prevention through local fire departments to educate the public on life safety initiatives. This year's initiative is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you." So, how would one go about getting the most out of smoke alarms in your home?

Fire deaths in the United States are still one of the highest of the industrialized world, but most of these can be prevented. Many fire deaths are easily prevented by installing smoke alarms in and around sleeping areas and all levels of your home. Test smoke alarms each month to ensure they work and replace them if they don't. Replace the smoke alarms in your home when they age out. These three simple steps can make smoke alarms work for you!

Installation

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping space and just outside every sleeping space, hallways and at least one alarm on every level of your home.
- New construction in most jurisdictions require smoke alarms to be hard wired together with battery backup so that if one smoke alarm activates all the smoke alarms activate.
- Older homes that don't have hard wired smoke alarms can use battery powered smoke alarms that contain factory installed batteries that can last up to 10 years.

Testing

- Test each smoke alarm monthly to ensure that they are working as designed, instead of testing twice each year to coincide with the time change.
- Make testing the smoke alarms in your home part of your monthly chores.

Replacement

- Smoke alarms have a life span of 10 years from the date of manufacture and should be replaced at that time. The manufacture date can usually be found on the back of the smoke alarm or in the battery compartment.
- An effective way of remembering that it is time to replace the smoke alarm in your home is to write the date of manufacture with a permanent marker on the alarm so that it is visible and does not have to be taken down to check.



Visit the [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\) website](https://www.nfpa.org) for more information on Fire Prevention Week.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

7 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Chastain Pointe 312 | 10AM | 2PM

24 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Norton Hall Police Precinct | 2PM | 5PM

8 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Chastain Pointe 312 | 10AM | 2PM

25 Basic Crisis Coordinator Training
Virtual via Teams | 11AM-1PM

21 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Chastain Pointe 312 | 10AM | 2PM

21 Crime Prevention 101
Academic Learning Center | 10AM-11AM

22 Personal Disaster Preparedness
Virtual via Teams | 11AM-12PM

[Register here!](#)

THE SCIENCE (AND ART) OF DISASTER RESPONSE TO HELENE

Wayne Randle
Emergency Management Coordinator

Devastating storms trekked through several southeast state's resultant of Hurricane Helene. Who responded, and how did it work?

Response is a "ground-up" process. It begins with local police, fire, and medical assets who provide initial response. When conditions exceed local capability, the process climbs through city to county, county to state, and then state to federal. The response stops at the level of competency. A storm such as Helene requires elevation in rapid order to the US Department of Homeland Security Emergency and Preparedness Division (EPR), otherwise known as FEMA.

The Robert T Stafford Act authorizes the President to issue two types of declarations that provide federal assistance to jurisdictions in response to disasters: an "emergency declaration" or a "major disaster declaration." It can also issue "mitigation grants" to address issues which cause recurring issues. An interesting note here is the federal government can not provide assistance during or after a disaster without the written request of the state or tribal government.

Aid under the Stafford Act include response measures, such as Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams, as well as human need aspect supplies and materials which can include water, tarps, cots, blankets, portable power, and much more.

During Recovery, FEMA provides up to 90% payment for debris removal, repair of roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, and utilities. Individual Assistance, if included, provides money for personal needs, rental assistance, and possibly low interest loans from SBA.

Helene response was massive on all levels: 3,000 federal responders, 50,000 personnel addressed power outages, 24 Urban Search and Rescue Teams searched for the missing. Thousands of responders were pressed into action by Helene. Response started with firefighters, police, and medical responders from down the street. They are true heroes.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Christy Hendricks
Continuity Planner



Halloween is a time for fun, creativity, and a bit of spookiness. While it's usually "for the kids", adults also enjoy it with parties, dressing up, and decorating. Fun fact: according to the National Retail Federation, the total expected spending on Halloween for 2024 is \$11.6 billion; \$3.5 billion on candy alone! That's a lot of candy! To ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Halloween, here are some safety tips:

COSTUME SAFETY

1. **Choose Flame-Resistant Costumes:** When selecting costumes, wigs, and accessories, look for items labeled as flame-resistant. This reduces the risk of fire-related accidents.
2. **Ensure Proper Fit:** Avoid costumes that are too long or have loose parts that could cause tripping. Comfortable, well-fitting costumes are not only safer but are also more enjoyable to wear.
3. **Use Makeup Instead of Masks:** Masks can obstruct vision, making it difficult to see obstacles or navigate in the dark. Opt for makeup or face paint instead.

PARTY SAFETY

1. **Drink Responsibly:** If you're hosting a Halloween party, ensure that alcohol is served responsibly. Do not serve alcohol to minors, and make sure guests have a safe way to get home, such as designated drivers or ride-sharing services.
2. **Invite Known Guests:** To avoid any unwanted situations, only invite people you know and trust. This helps maintain a safe and friendly environment.
3. **Monitor Candles and Decorations:** Use battery-operated candles instead of real ones to prevent fires. If you do use real candles, keep them away from flammable decorations and ensure they are never left unattended.

By following these safety tips and using a little common sense, adults can enjoy Halloween festivities while minimizing risks. Whether you're hosting a party, trick-or-treating, or simply enjoying the spooky season, a little preparation and caution can go a long way in ensuring a safe and fun Halloween for everyone.



Have a fun and safe Halloween!

HOME SAFETY

1. **Light Up Your Home:** Turn on exterior lights to make your home more visible to trick-or-treaters. This also helps prevent accidents on your property.
2. **Protect Your Pets:** Keep pets in a safe area to prevent them from getting scared or running away. Halloween can be stressful for animals due to the increased activity and noise.
3. **Inspect Treats:** If you're handing out treats, ensure they are individually wrapped and safe for consumption. Avoid homemade treats unless you know the recipients personally.

TRICK-OR-TREATING

1. **Stay Visible:** Wear bright colors or add reflective tape to your costume. Carry a flashlight or glow sticks to increase visibility to drivers and other trick-or-treaters.
2. **Travel in Groups:** It's safer and more fun to trick-or-treat in groups. Ensure at least one person in the group is sober and responsible.
3. **Be Cautious on the Roads:** Walk on sidewalks whenever possible and cross streets at designated crosswalks. Be extra cautious of vehicles, as drivers may have difficulty seeing trick-or-treaters in dark costumes.



KENNESAW CAMPUS SAFETY DAY



A huge thank you to our KSU community for coming out to join us on Campus Safety Day! Your engagement and interest in this event and our campus partners is what helps us make this campus a safer environment for everyone.

Thanks also goes out to our KSU OEM team: Director James Westbrook, EM Coordinator Wayne Randle, Continuity Planner Christy Hendricks, and EM Specialist Jamie Case.



Our deep appreciation goes out to everyone involved in making this event a success: KSU Events, KSU PD CORE, KSU PD RAD, KSU SAFE Center, KSU PD K9 Unit, KSU EHS, KSU Fire/Life Safety, KSU Athletics, KSU Sports and Rec, KSU CJ Program, KSU Employee Wellness, Student Health Services, Wellstar, Cobb-Douglas Public Health, National Weather Service, American Red Cross, Cobb County EMA, Cobb County Fire, Paulding County EMA, Cherokee County EMA, GEMA, FBI Atlanta, GBI Child Exploitation Unit, and more.

This event would not have been possible without your involvement. Thank you!!

CAMPUS SAFETY DAY 2024



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Presented by the KSU Department of Public Safety, KSU EHS Fire Safety, and KSU Office of Emergency Management

MARIETTA CAMPUS
K FIELD

OCTOBER 29, 2024
11AM-2PM

Exhibits | 11AM-1PM



Milwaukee Tools



Georgia State Patrol



Rollover Simulator



Dorm Burn | 1:30PM

SPONSORED BY

Sonny's BBQ
Atlanta Falcons
Andretti Indoor Karting & Games
Rodney's Catering
W.W. Grainger
Six Flags Over Georgia

DOOR PRIZE!

Obtain door prize tickets from any exhibit. Winners may choose prize on a first come, first select basis. Must be present to win.

Drawing at 12:45PM at the OEM tent!

Meet the Team!



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