



PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND UNIVERSITY POLICE
Office of Emergency Management

COOP:
Planning for
Absence

Run, Hide,
Fight!

Travel
Safety &
Security

National
Hurricane
Preparedness
Week
May 5-11

2024
Atlantic
Hurricane
Forecast

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

As we close out another semester at Kennesaw State, I am once again reminded of how things change. We are sending a new class out into the world to take flight. They will grow, succeed, fail, and succeed again. We hope they remember their past at KSU fondly.

In the Office of Emergency Management, we are also making changes. We are constantly reviewing what we do and how we do it. We are working on a few new initiatives and have recognizable faces in new places. We are working to expand our Continuity of Operations footprint across the University. We are making strides to have greater focus on our academic faculty partners to build up their preparedness. We are working to have greater connections with our students through their academic classes and through other means.

We are also working on a re-write and full update of the University's Emergency Operations Plan. This is a plan we are required to have and we are working diligently to make some constructive changes to how we as a University would operate under emergency conditions. We are moving towards a more collaborative, structured model that limits duplication of effort and streamlines communication and information sharing.

We are also going to be working on some other new initiatives this summer. These include a few new classes and a greater focus on our campus vulnerable populations as we continue to help ensure the safety of everyone at KSU.

Change is in the air and we welcome our exciting future.

A MOMENT WITH...

Lisa Bauer

Executive Administrative Assistant
College of Science and Mathematics
Crisis Coordinator



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT KSU AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE UNIVERSITY?

I am proud to say that I have been at KSU for almost 17 years now. I started as an Administrative Assistant in the Marketing and Professional Sales Department at the Coles College of Business. From there, I moved to University College as Assistant to the Dean. I am currently the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE OEM CRISIS COORDINATOR PROGRAM?

Before coming to KSU, I served as the facility manager for a public library. In that role, I was not only responsible for the facility itself, but also for all aspects of safety and handling of emergencies, including running drills, training, and facility inspections. Because of this experience, I was immediately interested in becoming a crisis coordinator when I came to KSU.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO AWAY FROM CAMPUS?

I love to sew, craft, cook, bake, and do jigsaw puzzles. My husband and I like to camp. Sometimes we prefer “glamping” in our fifth wheel and sometimes, we just like to just sleep under the stars and enjoy being out of doors!

WHAT IS ONE PREPAREDNESS TIP YOU WISH EVERYONE KNEW OR WOULD DO?

I think it is important to be open-minded and read everything you can about being prepared. You don't have to do everything you read about, but you will never benefit from any tips if you don't read them! Also, take classes from our Office of Emergency Management. So many of the classes can benefit you personally. You may be able to save the life of a friend or family member in an emergency or prevent a serious accident or fire in your own home by becoming more knowledgeable.

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

I have really enjoyed attending football games and arts events here at KSU. I don't really have a favorite spot, but any of the green spaces on campus, including the gazebo near Radow College, provide an opportunity to relax outside and get some fresh air

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CRISIS COORDINATORS!](#)



Christy Hendricks

COOP: PLANNING FOR ABSENCES

Continuity Planner

May is upon us! As we head into graduation season - and start to think of summer travels - let's plan ahead for those extended absences!

Stepping away from the office, whether for a well-deserved vacation or a necessary break, is essential for maintaining a solid work-life balance. However, for many people, the thought of being away from work causes concern about keeping operations running smoothly in their absence. Delegating authority effectively can ensure continuity of operations while you are out of the office. We're coming up on summer vacations, which means travel for many of us. If you're a key decision maker for your department/office, who will make decisions in your absence? Has your department been notified of this? When decisions need to be made and cannot wait, it is important for people to already know who they can go to in key moments. Even if you aren't a decision maker, but hold valuable information, who can you delegate to respond to emails while you're out? This can be particularly important if you are the person tasked with monitoring your department's resource email account. It's as easy as using the Out of Office feature in Outlook and letting people know who to contact if they have an immediate need.

If you have any Continuity of Operations questions, please
contact Christy Hendricks!



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THE BEST WE HAVE...

[RUN, HIDE, FIGHT]

Wayne Randle
Emergency Management Coordinator

In the 1960's, during grade school, we drilled crawling under our desks to practice for if there was a nuclear detonation nearby. Looking back, I find that laughable. We, of course, would all have been immediately incinerated and no desk would have changed that outcome. Today, we recognize that plan as folly – but not then. Back then, it was the best we had.

Today, Security Specialists around the country have recently started vocalizing a concern over the “fight” option of “Run, Hide, Fight” related to active shooter events. Questions are put forth: How can a room full of students, at any level, “fight” an intruder? How can a group of students find a way to come together, generate a plan, and effect a successful defense in less time it takes for wings and legs to disappear on Fried Chicken Thursday at The Commons? The classroom is not exactly a bastion of defense. But, alas, it's the best we have.

Thinking and rethinking the “fight” option, I keep returning to the same conclusion. Fight, as an element of response to active shooter, is, in fact, the best we have. Simon Osamoh, CEO at Kingswood Security makes this clear in his observation of Fight:

Remember 'Run Hide Fight': Despite some criticisms, the "Run, Hide, Fight" strategy remains a sound approach. It's a versatile protocol tailored to the specific situation. It's important to understand that this isn't a strict sequence, but rather a set of options depending on the threat faced. During an incident, you might find yourself employing one, two, or all three tactics. If you must confront, do it with determination.

To me, until there is a better action of last resort, Fight is, in fact, the best we have. We should “confront with determination” and use every tool in the toolbox to make a stand. While you will probably get hit by lightning before placed in an active shooter situation, it does not mean we shouldn't plan.

Look at your classroom or office. Do you have a fire extinguisher nearby? How about that computer monitor? What about that chair? Take action to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter. Attempt to incapacitate or disrupt the actions of the shooter. Act with aggression toward the shooter. We are not helpless. If there is no alternative, fight! Throw something! Take a stand! It's the best we have.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

May

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	

16 Crime Prevention 101
Academic Learning Center | 1PM-2PM

16 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Chastain Pointe Suite 312 | 9AM-11:30AM | 12:30PM-3PM

20 What to do in an Emergency at KSU
Academic Learning Center | 10:30AM-11:30AM

21 Civilian Response to Active Shooter
Norton Hall Police Precinct Conference Room | 10AM-12PM

22 Campus Fire Safety
Norton Hall Police Precinct Conference Room | 10AM-12PM

23 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Norton Hall Police Precinct Conference Room | 10AM-12:30PM

**All courses are
free for KSU
students, faculty,
and staff!**

[Register here!](#)

TRAVEL ABROAD SAFETY & SECURITY

Kelly Nichols
Associate Director
International Safety & Security



Summer is coming! And it is estimated that over 80 million Americans will travel internationally this summer...80 MILLION! Chances are that includes some of you! So, as the Associate Director of International Safety and Security, I wanted to take the opportunity to share some helpful travel tips.

The first, and perhaps greatest, piece of advice I can give you is to practice **situational awareness**, which can be simply defined as being aware of your surroundings, remaining alert to any potential threats, and acting accordingly.

Think of it as “trusting your GUT.”

Gathering information from the situation around you;

Understanding the information and how it might affect you;

Thinking ahead and acting on that understanding.

Situational awareness calls you to be alert, notice what’s going on around you, and avoid distractions, including:

- being glued to phones,
- listening to music,
- and being in constant conversation.

The idea is to be observant, so take a break every so often, look around, and process what you see. Be sensitive to anything that makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up or gives you goosebumps. Listen to your intuition!

Situational awareness also involves blending in and not bringing unwanted attention to yourselves. Wearing modest clothes in muted colors will help you blend in more than revealing, brightly colored clothing. You should also consider leaving flashy jewelry at home, along with anything else that shows off your wealth. Don’t travel with anything that is too expensive or flashy; anything that you can’t lose, leave at home.

My final piece of advice is to purchase a good travel insurance policy that includes medical, dental, and evacuation coverage. Policies under \$2.00/day are available, which is much less than the cost of surprise medical bills.

Sir Richard Burton said, “The gladdest moment in human life, me thinks, is a departure into unknown lands.”

May your summer departures into unknown lands be safe ones!

For more info on International Safety & Security, visit [their website!](#)



NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

May 5 - May 11

Jamie Case
Emergency Management Specialist

May 5th-May 11th is National Hurricane Preparedness Week. During this week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will lead discussions on how to best prepare for the fast-approaching hurricane season. They will cover topics such as:

- knowing your risk
- how to prepare before the season
- how to understand forecasts
- knowing when to act/evacuate
- how to stay protected
- utilizing caution after storms
- how to take action today



Can happen along any U.S. coast



Can impact areas 100+ miles inland



Most active in September



Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1-November 30



Know your risk and your evacuation zone.



Evacuate immediately if told to do so. If no evacuation is necessary, shelter in place by staying in a designated storm shelter or an interior room.



Monitor communications via text alerts, weather radios, etc. Follow instructions!



Make a plan to evacuate and be ready to shelter in place. Practice your plans!



Turn around, don't drown! Never swim, walk, or drive in floodwaters.



If using generators, make sure to use them outdoors and away from windows.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

Safety after the storm

- Follow re-entry guidance
- Have a professional inspect property
- Stay away from floodwaters
- Save phone calls for emergencies
- You are the help until help arrives

Visit the [National Hurricane Center website](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for more information!

2024 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

Cody Doyle
Emergency Management Specialist

Hurricane season officially starts on June 1st and ends November 30th! This year, forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting an extremely active Atlantic hurricane season. Their projects 23 named storms, 11 of which will become hurricanes and five of which will become major hurricanes with sustained winds of at least 111 miles an hour. This is the highest projection in the 27 years of forecasting from their team. In their report, they cite record warm ocean temperatures for the high projections.

You may ask, “how do hurricanes impact us at KSU?”

Over the last two years alone, our campus has gone through multiple tropical storms with winds sustained over 45 mph. We also have plans with coastal colleges to house their students in an emergency evacuation situation. Being prepared for these events is imperative and these events can cause long term power outages as well as downed trees and flooding rains. Thankfully, hurricanes and tropical storms produce a great lead time compared to our seasonal severe weather and tornado threats. This gives you the opportunity to prepare to be self-sufficient for a few days if needed.

[Click here to view
the full report!](#)



KSU OEM AT THE 2024 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

This past month, our Director and Emergency Management Specialist attended the 2024 Emergency Management Summit, hosted by the Emergency Management Association of Georgia (EMAG) from April 17-19.

There was a wide variety of training sessions, including National Weather Service sessions regarding vulnerable populations, Enhanced Family Preparedness for First Responders, and more!

These training sessions inspired us to create some new initiatives and focus more on our vulnerable populations here at KSU. We hope to build more connections with a more diverse group of departments, train and prepare even more students, faculty, and staff, and develop new trainings to target a larger audience.

We hope to continue building a safe and prepared campus for our community.

Meet the Team!



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