



PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND UNIVERSITY POLICE
Office of Emergency Management

Swimming
Safety

Tornado
Myths

Campus
Safety Day
2024

Heat
Awareness

Lightning
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

So, what exactly is emergency management? I like to tell people that my job is to make immediate decisions based upon incomplete information provided by people of questionable knowledge. But that is only part of the story. Instead of giving you some textbook answer, I'm going to share a personal story to explain what emergency management really is.

My wife loves *Frozen*. I saw the first *Frozen* movie in the theater . . . twice. Note that we did not have any kids at the time. I saw *Frozen 2* in the theater twice, as well. Only once did our, at the time, 2 ½-year old son attend. Since my wife loves *Frozen* (and drinking coffee or tea), I decided to buy her a bone China *Frozen* teacup and saucer for Christmas several years ago.

I must also tell you that my wife's nickname is Mayhem. You know the commercials from All State Insurance with the Mayhem guy? That's my wife. Her Valentine to me last year had the line "will you be my emergency contact" instead of "will you be my valentine."

So, how does the above help me explain emergency management? Well, considering the delicate nature of the teacup and my wife's propensity for destruction, I must consider my pre-destruction options: **Mitigation and Preparedness**. I could **mitigate** mayhem in two different ways – either by preventing the teacup's inevitable destruction or by minimizing the impact in some way. So, I could prevent destruction by showing my wife her teacup and then carefully placing it on a high shelf in the China cabinet where she cannot reach it. I could also minimize the impact by wrapping the teacup in bubble wrap in just the right way so she can still use it, but it is more protected. Yes, she could still manage to break it, but at least the shards and damage would be relatively contained to the bubble wrap and not scattered across the kitchen floor, which would make cleanup easier and less intrusive.

Of course, she likes the teacup and wants to use it, so I can also **prepare** for its eventual shattering by having the appropriate resources ready – a broom and dustpan – for when she eventually breaks it. Once the teacup hits the floor, I will **respond** using the resources at my disposal to help as quickly as possible to help prevent further injury and damage. After cleaning up, I can **recover** the teacup a couple of different ways. I can put it back together with the pieces that scattered across the kitchen floor or I can replace it with a new one.

This is, essentially, a teacup-sized example of what we do in Emergency Management. We **mitigate** against and **prepare** for disaster, **respond** when they do occur, and then help the University **recover** afterwards to restore a semblance of normalcy.



A MOMENT WITH...

Zach Kerns

Assistant Vice President
Campus Operations



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

Assistant Vice President of Campus Operations, 9.5 years

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO KENNESAW STATE?

Opportunity, plain and simple. KSU is a place that is a wealth of opportunity and has been one for years. My personal opportunity came through my previous boss at Clemson. She came down to KSU in 2012 and we continued to talk about all the great things that were happening here. As the university ramped up for our first season of football, I was able to come in and help with all of the final planning and management. That kind of opportunity isn't one that comes along every day, so I hopped on it. This university has continued to be positioned to capitalize on opportunities in front of it, which makes for a fun place.

HOW DOES YOUR ROLE INTERACT WITH THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

Campus Operations and Emergency Management goes hand in hand. This may look like cleanup from a storm that comes through, tracking weather related to an event, building a cohesive communication plan or working together to be sure we're ready for the "what ifs" that come at us every day.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

We impact the lives of thousands of students every day. Sometimes this is directly, sometimes it is more in the background, but everything we do impacts how people interact with campus. There aren't many other jobs that have the ability to see such powerful results in such a direct way.

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

I'm pretty partial to the Sports Park. It's where my journey with KSU started and it's full of experiences from football games to going for a run around lake... not to mention my daughter took her first steps on the field of the stadium many years ago.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF WORK TO RELAX?

I tend to be someone that doesn't stop very often, and as such, am in no shortage of activities here. I enjoy hunting, fishing, woodworking, running, and a host of others. However, most of my time away from work focuses on my family- I have a wonderful wife with three amazing children that keep me going most of the time.

SUMMER SWIMMING SAFETY

Christy Hendricks

Continuity Planner

It's summertime, which means more time outside, extended daylight, and swimming! If there's one thing I'm adamant on, it's water safety. I grew up with a swimming pool in my backyard, so I've always known how to swim, but so many don't know how! When I was about 11 years old, I was at a pool party. There were plenty of adults around, but I was the only one to notice a little boy struggling in the pool. He was bobbing up and down in the deep end. I jumped in and saved him. His parents were so grateful that I was paying attention. Out of all the adults around the pool that day, not one was paying attention. So, now whenever I'm at a pool, I take on the responsibility of watching the children. Here are some tips to ensure water/pool safety this summer:

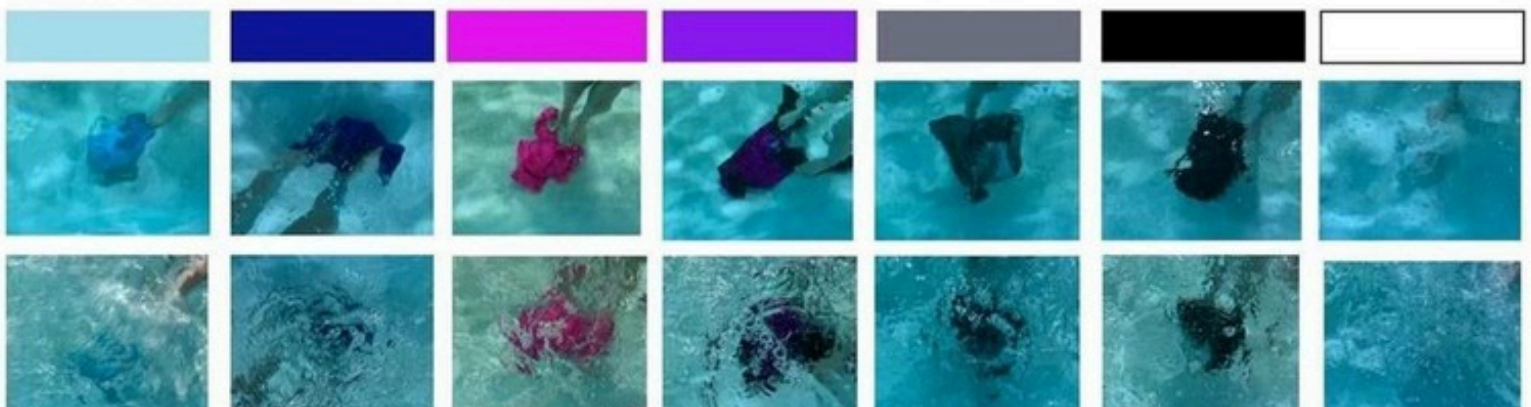
1. Identify and appoint one or two adults to actively watch the swimmers. Everyone assumes that someone else is watching.
2. Learn CPR.
3. Consider the color of swimsuits before purchasing. See graphic below.
4. Learn how to swim! Most local aquatic centers have swimming lessons.
5. Invest in good quality life vests for those who are learning to swim.

Swimming is great exercise and fun for everyone! My kids know I am a stickler for water safety. There are absolutely no shortcuts. Enjoy your summer!



ALIVE
solutions

SWIM SUIT COLOR TEST RESULTS



TORNADO MYTHS

Wayne Randle
Emergency Management Coordinator



Misconceptions about tornadoes can often lead to mistakes and a lack of preparation when experiencing tornadoes. Avoid these misconceptions by reading up on these myths:

“Overpasses are a safe place to hide from a tornado.”

False! Overpasses are extremely poor sheltering areas. By climbing up underneath the overpass, people are moving into a place where the wind speeds typically will be magnified.

“Downtown areas of big cities are immune to tornadoes.”

False! Many people think big cities are immune to tornadoes. That’s not the case! Many cities — including Dallas, Atlanta, and St. Louis (which has been hit a whopping four times) — have been hit by tornadoes. You may remember there were missing windows in the Weston Hotel in downtown Atlanta. Most recently, the Houston, Texas downtown area was struck with a devastating tornado.

“While a basement is a good place to take shelter from a tornado, no corner of a basement is safer than any other.”

True! According to the Storm Prediction Center, this myth arose from the mistaken belief that most tornadoes come from the southwest and that any debris they generate would fall into the northeast corner of a basement. However, tornadoes can arrive from any direction and their winds are spinning in a vortex and can be blowing from any direction.

“Open your windows in a tornado.”

False! Opening the windows is useless, a waste of time, and can be very dangerous. Not only could you get a bunch of debris blown into your house by tornado winds, but if a tornado hits your house, it will most likely break the window anyway. Do not take time to open windows. Go quickly to the basement or the center of your home away from the windows.

“Tornadoes only occur in the spring.”

False! Tornadoes can actually happen at any time of year. While it is true that each region may have specific times of year in which tornadoes are more likely to happen (known as their tornado season), you should never assume that a tornado cannot happen at another time.

Tornadoes can be devastating. Check your building and find the “Tornado Shelter” signs. When weather is bad, monitor weather apps, and make sure you are signed up for emergency notifications. Your safety is yours during a tornado. Plan now where you will go during a tornado warning.

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

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

MARIETTA CAMPUS
K FIELD

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
11AM-1PM

Exhibits | 11AM-1PM



Milwaukee Tools



Georgia State Patrol



Rollover Simulator



Dorm Burn | 1:30PM

EXHIBITS

AirLife Medical Helicopter
Metro Ambulance Service
KSU Victim Services
KSU Safe Center
KSU Police Community Outreach
KSU Police Mobile Command
KSU Special Operations
KSU Police K-9
KSU OEM Incident Response
Cobb Sheriff SWAT Team
GA State Patrol "FAST CAR"
GA State Police Driver Simulator
Marietta Police Department
Marietta Police Crisis K-9

Seat Belt Simulator
Cobb Police Bomb Robot
Marietta Fire Department
Georgia Bikes
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
W.W. Grainger
Grainger Metal Safety
Ansell
Mechanix
MasterLock
Honeywell
Milwaukee Tools
Andretti Karting Safety

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!



HEAT AWARENESS

Jamie Case
Emergency Management Specialist

As we approach the summer months, we should begin to prepare for periods of extreme heat. Summertime in Georgia typically brings temperatures in/around the 90s, but we can occasionally reach up into the 100s.

While we want everyone to have fun during the summer, we also want to emphasize taking care of yourselves and those vulnerable to excessive heat conditions. Here are some tips!

Prevent Heat Illness

- Drink plenty of fluids. Encourage others to do so as well!
- Wear lightweight, loose clothing.
- Check on your family and friends.
- Avoid salty snacks and drink sports drinks.
- Take cool showers and baths.
- Never leave people or pets in a closed car.
- Stay in air-conditioned places as much as possible.
- Limit outdoor activity between 11am-6pm.
- Watch for heat cramps, exhaustion, and stroke.

How to Identify & Treat Heat-Related Illnesses

Heat Cramps

Muscle spasms caused by a large loss of salt and water in the body.

Look for:

- Heavy sweating with muscle pain or spasms

What to do:

- Move to a cool place.
- Drink water or a sports drink
- Get medical help right away if:
 - Cramps last longer than 1 hour
 - Person affected has heart problem

Heat Exhaustion

Look for:

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, clammy skin
- Fast, weak pulse
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Tiredness or weakness
- Dizziness-Headache-Passing out

What to do:

- Move to a cool place
- Loosen tight clothing
- Cool the body
- Sip water slowly
- Get medical help if:
 - Vomiting occurs
 - Symptoms last longer than 1 hour or worsen
 - Confusion develops

Heat Stroke

Look for:

- High body temp (104°F or higher)
- Hot, red, dry or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache-Dizziness
- Nausea-Confusion-Passing out

What to do:

- Call 911 right away**
- Move to a cool place
- Cool the body using wet cloths, misting, fanning, or a cool bath
- Do NOT give the person anything to drink

Hydrate. Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Avoid sugary, caffeinated, and alcoholic drinks.

Educate yourself. Follow forecasts, identify warning signs of heat illnesses, and know how to stay cool.

Act quickly when heat illness is suspected. Seek medical attention for any of the warning signs.

Take it easy. Stay cool and take breaks when spending time outside.

Learn more!

Visit the [National Weather Service](http://NationalWeatherService.gov) for more information on how to best prepare for the oncoming summer heat.

Heat Related Deaths ARE Preventable

LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK



The temperature in your car can quickly become deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°



weather.gov/heat

nhtsa.gov



LIGHTNING SAFETY

Cody Doyle
Emergency Management Specialist

Picture this, you are outside on a hot afternoon in the middle of June. You might be working in your garden, enjoying a round of golf, or walking to class on campus. Suddenly the skies darken and it begins to rain. Minutes later, you hear thunder. You are drenched and now in the middle of an afternoon pop-up storm. Does this sound familiar? These storms happen frequently during this time of year. One of the most significant hazards that is produced is lightning. Frequent cloud-to-ground lightning can be deadly, and dangerous. According to the CDC, Georgia averages 16-30 deaths per year due to lightning strikes. Moreso, the United States Fire Administration contributes approximately 17,400 fires per year nationwide as a result of a lightning strike.

So, what can you do? Being aware of forecasted weather is the number one priority. When seeking shelter, it is recommended to find an enclosed building with electrical wiring and plumbing and follow these tips:

- Avoid water.
- Don't touch electronic equipment.
- Avoid windows, doors, porches, and concrete.
- Don't use corded phones.

In the event you are caught outdoors and there is no shelter to be found follow these tips:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges, or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground. Crouch down in a ball-like position with your head tucked and hands over your ears so that you are down low with minimal contact with the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree. If you are in a forest, shelter near lower trees.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out of and away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (such as barbed wire fences, power lines, or windmills).

Remember the phrase: "When thunder roars, go indoors."

Meet the Team!



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