CRISIS COORDINATOR COMMUNIQUE

FEBRUARY 2020

Featuring...

• CERT Training
• Crisis Coordinator Symposium
• CRASE classes

...and more!

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
IMPORTANT DATES

• February 3rd - 7th
  - Severe Weather Awareness Week in Georgia

• February 5th
  - Kennesaw Campus Radio Check at 10:00am
  - Marietta Campus Radio Check at 10:30am
  - First Wednesday Testing at 12:00pm
  - Rave Alert Test at 12:00pm
  - Siren and Alertus Test at 12:00pm

• February 7th
  - National Wear Red Day®

SAVE THE DATES

• Crisis Coordinator Training is February 6th from 12:00om - 4:00pm

• Crisis Coordinator Symposium is February 11th from 11:30am - 4:00pm

• CPR/AED Training is February 19th at 10am

• Crime Prevention 101 is February 26th at 10am

• CRASE is February 26th at 1pm
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FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH!

During American Heart Month each February, the nation comes together, igniting a wave of red from coast to coast. From landmarks to news anchors and neighborhoods to online communities; this annual groundswell unites millions of people for a common goal: the eradication of heart disease and stroke.

American Heart Month, a federally designated event, is an ideal time to remind Americans to focus on their hearts and encourage them to get their families, friends, and communities involved. Wear Red Day is taking place on February 7th – so be sure to mark your calendars and remember to wear red to show your support. Stay tuned for additional resources to help celebrate Heart Month on GoRedforWomen.org, as well as on Heart.org.
CAMPUS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING

Spring 2020 Schedule

We will be holding classes on the following days/time:

- Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 1 PM to 4 PM
- Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 1 PM to 4 PM
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 from 1 PM to 4 PM
- Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 1 PM to 4 PM
- Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 1 PM to 4 PM
- Thursday, March 19, 2020 from 1 PM to 4 PM

*Participants must be able to attend all of the classes; All classes will be held at Chastain Point 312

To sign up, email: oem@kennesaw.edu; Class is limited to 20.

What is CERT?

The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness and trains them in fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.
JOIN US FOR THE

ANNUAL

CRISIS COORDINATOR SYMPOSIUM

2020

WHO: Crisis Coordinators
WHAT: Annual Crisis Coordinator Symposium
WHERE: KSU Center
WHEN: Feb. 11th 1 PM - 4 PM
(pre-symposium QPR training at 11:30 AM for those interested)
WHY: Training, collaboration, and CC of the Year Presentation!
CITIZEN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS (CRASE)

by Michael Guerrero

In the past two decades, horrific mass shootings have been thrust into public consciousness. Mitigating the effects of these events is the responsibility of those who serve in our communities’ public safety organizations. The public expects an effective and swift response to these threats. Research has shown, however, that many of the mass attacks, or active attack events, are over before law enforcement responders arrive on the scene. Civilians who find themselves embroiled in such an event must be prepared to take immediate action to save their own lives before law enforcement arrives. The average response time for police response to an active attack event is three minutes. Without effective, preplanned response options for civilians at the scene of the attack, many victims can be seriously injured or killed during these three minutes.

The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) is built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD)/Run, Hide, Fight strategy. The Office of Emergency Management provide participants with the necessary tools and skills to be able to successfully deploy the Civilian Response program in almost any situation. The curriculum can be customized according to a group’s needs, requirements, and time constraints. The Avoid, Deny, Defend/Run, Hide, Fight strategy is practical and easily applied in schools, businesses, civic or faith-based organizations, hospitals, and other settings.

If you would like to attend, please sign up on OwlTrain, or if you would like to host a class for your department, contact Mike Guerrero (Marietta Campus Emergency Management Coordinator) at mguerre8@kennesaw.edu.

February class is scheduled for Feb. 26th. More classes will be posted when they are scheduled on OwlTrain.
FIRE ALARM?

Always evacuate!

Wait for Public Safety or the Fire Department to give the all-clear before returning inside.

If it doesn’t cause a delay, take your Crisis Coordinator radio and vest.
February 3-7 is Georgia’s annual Severe Weather Awareness Week. This is a week-long focus on preparedness efforts focused on the types of severe weather most often seen in Georgia. Each day will focus on a different topic and type of weather phenomena. The focus for each day is as follows:

- Monday, February 3: Family Preparedness
- Tuesday, February 4: Thunderstorm Safety
- Wednesday, February 5: Tornado Safety
- Thursday, February 6: Lightning Safety
- Friday, February 7: Flash Flooding/Flood Safety

The Office of Emergency Management will be performing a significant push of information during Severe Weather Awareness Week via Social Media platforms to encourage everyone to increase their preparedness in relation to severe weather events. Also, OEM will be performing our annual Spring Semester Mass Notification System Test on Wednesday, February 5th in conjunction with other schools and school systems throughout the State of Georgia. At noon, Kennesaw State will activate the Outdoor Warning Sirens, Alertus, and Rave Alert to test system functionality. This test will occur at noon.
Family preparedness is the focus of the first day of Severe Weather Awareness Week in Georgia. Unlike the other four days, there is not a focus on a specific hazard. This is because preparedness should consider all hazards!

The best way to be prepared as a family is to have a disaster plan. It is important to know what hazards you are likely to face. In North Georgia, winter weather, tornadoes, flooding, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme heat, and extreme cold are all potential weather phenomena you could face.

Make sure you and your family know what to do when disaster strikes. This can include having a meeting place, an out of state contact, and planning for others in your care, such as elderly parents, children, or even your pets. For more information on making a plan, visit www.ready.gov. In addition to having a plan, OEM encourages you to make a “Go Kit” to keep with you. This kit should include items you would need to survive on your own for 72 hours.

This includes clothes, personal hygiene items, food, and water. Other emergency supplies, such as batteries, a flashlight, and cutting tool should also be included. Visit this link for a quick checklist.

Finally, it is important to stay informed during an emergency. There are many ways in which you can keep up to date on the latest information. Having a NOAA Weather Radio will ensure you receive the latest emergency weather warnings as they occur. You can also sign up for your local communities mass notification system, if they have one.

At Kennesaw State, all students, faculty, staff, and long-term visitors are automatically included in our mass notification system – Rave Alert. Lastly, local media outlets, such as television and radio, typically will provide information regarding weather watches and warnings as they occur.
Thunderstorms are the most common type of severe weather in North Georgia. Thunderstorms can produce hail, lightning, and damaging winds. Thunderstorms are capable of producing winds in excess of 100 mph – stronger than weak tornadoes. You may hear these referred to as a “microburst” or “straight-line winds.” As with any type of severe weather, it is best to have a plan of action before weather arrives. In any type of potential severe weather, it is important to remember the difference between a Watch and a Warning. A Watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather. During a watch, we should take precautions and prepare for severe weather to occur. A Warning means severe weather is here and we need to take immediate action to implement our plans.

When you hear of a Severe Thunderstorm, that is actually a specific definition from the National Weather Service. A Severe Thunderstorm is producing winds in excess of 58 mph (50 knots) and/or hail of 1” or greater. These storms are often also producing heavy rainfall and lots of lightning, although those two phenomena do not actually matter into the definition. If a Severe Thunderstorm is imminent, it is important to remain indoors, if possible. If you are caught outside during a thunderstorm, it is best to seek shelter in some type of sturdy structure. The Office of Emergency Management will push out information on Severe Thunderstorm Watches and Warnings that potentially impact Kennesaw State.
TORNADO SAFETY
by James Westbrook

Tornadoes are one of the most devastating weather phenomena we face in North Georgia. Tornadoes are a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm and is in contact with the ground. Tornadoes can last from a few minutes to over an hour depending on the strength of the storm. Tornadoes can produce winds up to 300 mph. Georgia averages approximately 6 days with reported tornadoes every year. These most often occur in the mid-afternoon to early evening timeframe, but can occur at any time of day or night. Tornadoes are “graded” based upon their wind strength using what is called the Enhanced Fujita Scale. This scale goes from 0-5. Georgia has never had an EF5 tornado.

Just as with Thunderstorms, it is important to know the difference in a watch and a warning. A warning means a tornado has been reported on the ground or is indicated by the National Weather Service and you should seek shelter immediately. There are four areas to avoid during a tornado warning: high roofs, wide-span roofs, exterior walls, and windows/glass. All buildings at Kennesaw State University have a severe weather refuge area. These have been identified as the least likely to sustain significant damage during a severe weather event. If you have questions about where those areas are in your building, please contact OEM and we will be glad to discuss it with you.
LIGHTNING SAFETY

by James Westbrook

Although tornadoes and hurricanes get more publicity, lightning is still one of the leading causes of weather related deaths in the United States. From 1995 to 2016, lightning caused 30 deaths in Georgia. Lightning results from a buildup and release of electrical energy between positive and negative charges between the thunderstorm cloud and the earth. A single bolt of lightning can be as hot as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit – which is hotter than the surface of the sun! The rapid heating and cooling of the air surrounding a lightning bolt is what causes the thunder we hear. Usually, but not always, lighting will strike the tallest object in the area, which is why being on the water is one of the worst places to be during a storm. At that point, you are the tallest object around!

So what can you do to protect yourself from lightning? Just remember this quick moniker:

When thunder roars, go indoors!

Being inside while lightning is occurring is the easiest way to protect yourself. If you cannot get indoors, don’t stand under a tree or any taller object. Enclosed vehicles, such as your car, are generally safe as long as you avoid contact with any metal surfaces.

Once indoors or in a safe place, you should remain there for 30 minutes after the last clasp of thunder you hear. This is the same approach we utilize for sporting events at Kennesaw State, only we actually have a radar system that shows us where lightning is occurring!

Once we have lightning within 8 miles of an event, we clear the playing field. Once the 8-mile area has been clear for 30 minutes, play can resume.
FLASH FLOODING/ FLOOD SAFETY

by James Westbrook

Flooding kills more people annually than any other weather hazard. Most deaths associated with flooding occur when people become trapped in their cars that have stalled while attempting to drive through flooded areas. Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle related. Generally, there are two types of flooding – Flash Flooding and River Flooding. Flash flooding is caused by slow moving thunderstorms that drop a significant amount of rain in an area in a short amount of time. This leads to water standing in low-lying areas that do not drain well. River flooding is usually caused by a gradual increase of water levels in a river or creek. These events usually occur over a wider area and, in Georgia, are often associated with tropical cyclone events.

Just like thunderstorms and tornadoes, flooding events can have watches and warnings and it is important to remember the differences. If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. It is important to avoid those areas where we know water tends to accumulate during these events. Avoid areas that are flooding – particularly roads. When we come upon an area of roadway that is flooding, it is important to find an alternate route. Turn Around, Don’t Drown! Oftentimes, roadways may have been damaged or washed away completely beneath the surface of the water that we can see. You can drive right off the edge and into rushing water without realizing what is happening until it is too late! This is especially true at night when visibility is already compromised. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. It only takes about 18 inches of water to float your vehicle!