EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Message from the Director of Risk Management and Chief Emergency Management Officer—David Pajak

This past year and a half has been very interesting and challenging for higher education emergency management across the country. In addition to severe weather that stretched through the Midwest resulting in federally declared disasters, higher education has experienced another on-campus shooting at Virginia Tech, a series of bomb threats at the University of Pittsburgh, and a chemistry lab fire at SUNY Canton. Despite the mild 2011-2012 Syracuse winter, the University has not been exempt from emergencies. The University effectively responded to a federally declared disaster from a severe rain storm in April 2011. We also activated emergency response plans for an incident involving derailed train cars carrying propane gas south of campus on the day of a football game in November 2011. Looking ahead, the University continues to work with campus stakeholders and community partners (County Emergency Management, Department of Health, the City of Syracuse, etc.) to enhance its preparedness and response policies and procedures.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Dan Wears who joined the University in November 2011. Dan joins Risk Management as the Manager of Emergency Management and Business Continuity Planning. Most recently he served as the Urban Area Security Initiative Program Coordinator for the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management. In addition to his experience with Onondaga County, he also assisted the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with federal interagency response plan development, as well as strategic planning as a Senior Consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in the Washington, D.C. area.

Campus Emergency Notifications

Campus notifications continue to be a hotbed of discussion across the country as institutions respond to different incidents in and around their respective campuses. The University is committed to providing timely notifications to the entire campus community during any life threatening incidents. The Orange Alert program has continued to evolve and be enhanced since it was originally introduced to the campus community by the Department of Public Safety. As part of those enhancements, the software used to issue the alerts has changed, which has resulted in a change to the telephone numbers displayed when you receive a notification. If you have included the Orange Alert notification phone numbers in your contacts list, check to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. The Caller ID on a phone call from Orange Alert will appear as 888-286-1252; similarly, a text message will appear from the number 226787 or 67283. It is suggested that campus community members program these numbers into their wireless devices as “SU ORANGE ALERT.” While changing the contact information in your address book, it is also a good idea to check your contact information in MySlice to ensure we are able to notify you of an emerging situation on campus.

For information on procedures to follow in the event of an Orange Alert, refer to the University’s Public Safety website at http://publicsafety.syr.edu/.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC), chaired by Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Louis Marcoccia, continues to meet on a quarterly basis. At its most recent meeting in June, the EPC addressed on-campus emergency sheltering, student illness outbreak planning, utility outages, and spring 2012 fire drills and Orange Alert test results.

The EPC welcomes its newest members: Margaret Himley, Associate Provost for International Education and Engagement, Tom Rose, Vice President for Human Capital Development and Chief Human Resources Officer, and Erin Kane, Associate Vice President of News Services.
International Travel Assistance

Since the University has contracted with International SOS (ISOS) to provide medical and security assistance to all international travelers on official University business, we have had great success in responding to faculty, staff, student, and trustee needs while traveling abroad. ISOS has assisted the University with responding to 81 international travel cases in the past two academic years. These cases have ranged from travel advice and referrals to providing emergency medical and security assistance. As the University continues its relationship with ISOS, they have continued to enhance the services provided including the release of an application for smartphone users. Download the “International SOS Membership” application before your next departure by visiting the Google Play Store, BlackBerry App World, or Apple’s App Store. The application will provide direct dialing to an ISOS call center, up to date security and medical advice for your current location, and the University’s membership number without carrying your membership card.

As you prepare for your next international trip, take a few moments to register your trip using the “Personal Travel Locator” to expedite services while traveling.

To register your trip, find out more information about services provided or to obtain security and medical advice for your next trip, visit: http://internationalsons.com/MasterPortal/default.aspx?memnnum=11BCPA000177

Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning

This past June, Risk Management hosted FEMA’s Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education training course. The course provided emergency planning and response training for 37 people, including representatives from Onondaga Community College and SUNY ESF. This training will assist all participants with better preparing their respective departments to respond to incidents impacting the campus community. The University was represented by Physical Plant, News Services, Health Services, FixIT, Environmental Health and Safety Services, Housing, Meal Plan and ID Card Services, Syracuse University Ambulance, Department of Public Safety, Campus Planning, Design, and Construction, Auxiliary Services, and Risk Management.

Personal Preparedness Tips:

An emergency can impact you or your family at any time, without notice. Take some time to prepare you and your family:

- Prepare an emergency supply kit, visit http://ready.ongov.net/documents/supplyKitIntoTheBox.pdf for items to include in your kit
- Register to receive emergency notifications by registering for NY-ALERT at www.nyalert.gov

Congratulations!

Risk Management would like to recognize its staff who have reached a milestone in 2012 for years of service.

Risk Management
Donna Petrera—20 years of service
Sheena Buckley—10 years of service

Environmental Health & Safety Services Office
John Rossiter—20 years of service
Scott Manchin—20 years of service
Roger Stevens—20 years of service
Garret Moll—15 years of service
David Fullam—5 years of service

Front Row (L to R): D. Petrera, S. Buckley, S. Manchin
Back Row (L to R): J. Rossiter, R. Stevens, G. Moll, D. Fullman

Risk Management would also like to recognize David Pajak, who graduated from the Whitman School of Management