



Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) primary function is to protect the university by providing campus level planning, training, and emergency management program coordination and implementation. Coordination includes ensuring proper partnerships through a community approach that integrates individual community member awareness and effective relationships with local, state, and federal agencies. The scope includes all Knox Area including UTSI. The OEM has responsibility for non UTK entities geographically assigned to the Knoxville campus like UT System employees and UT Health Science Center students.

The OEM provides management, communication, and coordination of a broad and diverse group of campus partners. The Director of Emergency Management facilitates two multi-disciplinary committees to help guide a sustainable, executable, and disciplined emergency management program. The Emergency Management Steering Committee helps guide the campus preparedness effort and develops initiatives to meet campus needs. The Campus Notification Committee determines procedures to ensure an effective campus communication, warning, notification and alert programs that improve campus safety and meet federal requirements.

The Director of Emergency Management chairs the campus Executive Safety Council which is made up of executive level leaderships from campus key operational areas. The council provides cabinet level guidance on priorities and initiatives, provides resources as needed, and makes decisions outside the authority and influence of the collection of safety related committees that operate on the campus.

The OEM employs an integrated all-hazards risk-based approach for mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery planning from campus. The office maintains the campus Emergency Operations Plan, Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment, Hazard Mitigation Plan and other security plans involving key facilities and university operations. OEM also advises on numerous campus operational activities like building design, building continuity planning, and Building Emergency Action Plans.

Campus preparedness includes conducting outreach, individual and collective training. The OEM conducts numerous communication and awareness activities, solicits and supports individual and unit emergency preparedness training focused on protective measures to be taken in different types of emergencies. The office also conducts key personnel training and exercises to ensure that the personnel assigned to the Emergency Operations Center are capable of executing their duties in response to a major emergency on campus. Examples are multiple table top and functional exercises and an annual summer workshop. The Director of Emergency Management acts as a special advisor to the cabinet and OEM personnel are responsible as the EOC managers for ensuring the EOC is equipped with the right technology, procedures and personnel to mount an effective and rapid response.

Critical to the mission of the Office of Emergency Management is maintaining productive relationships with local, state and federal entities that impact campus safety and security. The OEM are regular participants in the meeting, exercises and planning activities of organizations like the UT System, Knox County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Knox County Emergency Services committee, Emergency Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), Knox Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), and Tennessee Emergency Management (TEMA), Region 2 Complex Combined Terrorist Attack task force and many others. The Director of Emergency Management also has statewide responsibilities as the alternate Emergency Services Coordinator to TEMA.

Remaining up to date on industry standards is critical to an effective campus emergency management program. The OEM is active in many industry professional organizations to ensure the campus program is aware of and implementing best practices and meeting the standard of care expected of a college campus. These include but are not limited to the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, International Association of Emergency Managers, National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security, SEC Police Chiefs and Emergency Managers Consortium, and Emergency Managers Association of Tennessee. The Director of Emergency Management is on the board of EMAT.