

Please note our
new address!

UW Tower C-140
Box 359531
206-897-8000
disaster@uw.edu

Our VISION:
A Disaster Re-
sistant University
as a global model
for other institu-
tions of higher
learning.

Our MISSION:
To administer a
campus-based com-
prehensive emer-
gency management
program in part-
nership with UW
academic depart-
ments, operating
units, staff, admin-
istration and neigh-
boring jurisdictions
in order to save
lives, protect prop-
erty and safeguard
the environment.

Disaster Digest

VOLUME III ISSUE I

JANUARY 2012



From the Director

Steve Charvat, UWEM Director

People often ask me, “*What exactly does an emergency manager do?*” That’s a difficult question to answer as it is a relatively new profession and even newer here at the UW. Even at the federal level, FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) was only established in 1979 after the Three Mile Island accident. I like to use analogies to explain what we in Emergency Management actually do. The best one I use is that of an orchestra conductor. Alone, the conductor produces nothing, but he/she is the ringleader in making sure that members of the string, percussion and brass sections all work together and in harmony to produce beautiful music. Any one lone musician, while technically proficient and an expert in playing an instrument, needs the leadership of the conductor (emergency manager) to blend together the songs and harmonies of others to produce a singular melody.

In a disaster situation, the UW has at its disposal significant resources to bear to respond and recover. However, during 99.9% of the time, these resources (skilled people, equipment, information, supplies...) are used for non-emergency daily situations or may lay dormant. Emergency managers must ensure that the team works together when the BIG RED BELL GOES OFF to meet our primary mission: to save lives, protect property and safeguard the environment. By weaving together the strengths and resources of our partners (such as police, the medical community, facilities, IT, student life, financial management and many others...), the UW can quickly recover and ensure that we continue to operate within our core missions. Our goal is to continually increase the skills, capabilities and resources of our individual parts so that the entire “orchestra” can play beautiful music – even in the most trying of times.

We also are excited to celebrate a huge milestone: this January marks the 1-year anniversary of our move to the new Emergency Operations Center at the UW Tower. The new facility has indeed been a significant step in the UW’s overall disaster and readiness posture. We have trained nearly 2,000 UW partners in the new facility, hosted dozens of workshops and seminars, conducted numerous drills, and activated the center for smaller emergencies and crises over the past 12 months. The investment is already paying dividends. Over the next year, UWEM staff and our partners in the Emergency Management Planning Committee will continue to make improvements not only to the EOC center, but also to our policies and procedures. Our LEAN and Balanced Scorecard projects continue to grow and evolve as we discover new opportunities for improvement. Here is wishing our readers a Happy and Safe New Year!

Partner of the Quarter: Elizabeth “Buzzy” Mounce

UWEM was pleased to begin a new recognition program that helps celebrate the partnerships and support from the UW community that helps us keep the UW safe. Our very first recipient was Elizabeth “Buzzy” Mounce, a staff member over in Bioengineering in the Foege Building.

Buzzy has been active in a wide variety of emergency training, planning and response activities around the Puget Sound area. Her long-time support of UWEM has allowed us to hold some truly outstanding drills with an emphasis on realistic simulated wounds (called “moulage”) to better train emergency responders. Without the support of people like Buzzy and her department supervisor Ruth Woods, UWEM’s efforts to help the UW be prepared would be even more difficult. Such support helps the UW truly be better prepared with every drill.



Husky Ready/BARC Update

The Business, Academic and Research Continuity (BARC) program concluded the initial LEAN project in November. To steal a quote from Winston Churchill, “It’s not the beginning of the end, but I believe it is the end of the beginning” for the BARC program’s initial project. Awareness and recognition of BARC and the Husky Ready tool is continuing to grow. At the time of this writing we have 48 different departments using Husky Ready as part of their emergency planning effort.

We’ve had the opportunity to share Husky Ready with some notable groups, including the Administrator’s Forum, MRAM, the School of Medicine, Airlift NW and Harborview. If you’re interested in learning what the BARC program and Husky Ready can do for you and your department, please contact UWEM at disaster@uw.edu.





ROTC Helicopter Drill

In late October, the UW's Army ROTC (AROTC) program brought in two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from Joint-Base Lewis McChord, located south of Tacoma. The huge twin-rotor aircraft landed at the IMA sports field # 1. The visit of these aircraft, prompted by some training for the UW AROTC cadets, represented a unique opportunity for emergency planners for the UW to see what logistics supported by a military airlift might look like in the real world. In a regional disaster, air support to provide

critical supplies for the UWMC and the campus could very well be needed if the UW becomes isolated.

The US military has a longstanding tradition of providing humanitarian aid to disaster-struck areas, both inside and outside of the United States. The US military continues to respond to hundreds of humanitarian missions domestically and internationally in dozens of countries every year. Naturally, there has been a strong partnership between emergency management and the military because of this assistance during disasters. Washington State's Emergency Management Division is part of the State's Department of Military, so that partnership is well-valued and in full force today.

UWEM was pleased to see this partnership continue at the local level with the UW ROTC program and looks forward to future opportunities to plan and train with our brothers and sisters in uniform.

To Venture Out in the Snow or Not to...

Ever wondered if you should put on your boots or snow tires to trek across the snowy Seattle campus during a snowstorm? Well, instead of looking out the window, you can now track the status of nearly 120 sidewalks and roads on the Seattle campus to see if they have been plowed or shoveled. Check out a [new website](#) for a map-based look at your Facilities Department hard at work keeping our campus open, accessible and safe!

What about getting to campus? Seattle Department of Transportation has created a [Winter Weather Response Map](#) to help you plan your trip through the snow. The map will show you where snow plows are working, what roads have been treated and live traffic camera views of the city.





If You See Something, Say Something

Transportation Services, in cooperation with UWEM, arranged for a class called First Observer Training from the International Parking Institute which was held in the UW EOC. The training is focused on recognizing suspicious or criminal behavior and/or objects and reporting them to police as well as a national call center that helps intake and process information of note relating to possible incidents.

A key component of the training is that reporting suspicious activity is based on observing and noting suspicious *behavior* rather than distinctive physical characteristics such as race, gender, age, etc. To sum up, it is behavior, not appearances, that becomes the focal point.

The intended audience for this round of training was various representatives from UW Transportation Services and other colleagues from around the region, in what is often referred to as a 'Train the Trainer'. Future training will be given to those UW staff that are out and about the University on their daily job duties, such as parking enforcement, grounds and maintenance staff. These individuals are a critical part of the University's ability to recognize a potential situation and respond appropriately to prevent it from becoming a larger problem or threat.

Eventually, this training could be tailored to be offered to a wide variety of UW employees across many departments, all in an effort to improve the safety and security of the University.



Training

Starting in January UWEM will be offering FREE training each month at the UW Tower. These courses are open for anyone in the University community to attend. To register for a class simply email Siri McLean, Plans and Training Manager for UWEM, at sirim@uw.edu with the date and training you would like to attend. During the first quarter we will be offering two 1-hour brown bag lunch classes: *Earthquake Awareness and Personal Preparedness* on Wednesday January 25, February 22 and March 28 from 11:30am – 12:30pm; *Map Your Neighborhood* on Tuesday February 7, March 6 and April 3 from 11:30am – 12:30pm (Check out the MYN [website](#) to learn more)

EOC Volunteer in the “Spotlight”



We have many first responders and volunteers that participate in our on going disaster drills, without them our drills could never be accomplished, let alone successful, and a learning experience for all of us at the University. We thank each and every one of you for your hard work, dedication and experience!!

We'd like to spotlight just one of our volunteers who participated in our September 22, 2011 disaster drill entitled “*Operation Short-Stop.*” First responder Connie Bartlett, Associate Director of Facilities and Administration, Finance & Administration, UW Advancement DAR, participated in switchboard and staff support services during our 7-hour disaster drill. Connie enthusiastically participated in this all-day drill and was a valuable asset! Thanks, Connie, for all your dedication, involvement and hard work! We appreciate it!!

The 2011 UW disaster drill took place at the new EOC (located at the UW Tower) the Magnuson Health Sciences Building and the South Campus Center. Nearly 150 UW officials assisted in the disaster drill, complete with simulated victims, media reports, rumors and official actions.

UWEM Finds GOLD in Green

UWEM and the EOC were notified on October 20th that we are the first Facilities Department (and 2nd in the whole UW) to achieve the “Gold Level” office certification for our efforts in environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts! The new EOC and adjoining offices are "state-of-the-art green machines" and proud of it!! Congratulations to the entire UWEM Team for a job well done!

The Green Office Certification Program at the University of Washington encourages staff and faculty to help make their office or workplace at UW sustainable. Staff and faculty members from campus departments can participate in an informal audit process about their office practices. The short online survey allows the office to see what steps they are already taking to be green, and areas where they can improve. The offices will be recognized at different levels of certification based on the criteria they meet.

The certification is based on workplace practices that help decrease energy consumption and waste in each office. The certification program involves several action areas, such as paper conservation, alternative transportation, waste diversion, energy conservation, and purchasing.

For more information on this new UW exciting program [click here!](#)



UWEM Website: More than Just a Front Page (and CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT)

With over 10,000 hits a month, the UWEM website (www.washington.edu/emergency), and our easier-to-remember shortcut version (www.huskyem.org), is one of the most popular UW department websites in Facilities Services. With only 2 permanent full-time UWEM staff, we made a deliberate decision back in 2006 to place as much information on our website as possible to allow our customers access to it on a 24/7 basis. We have discovered that not only does the UW community access information on our website, but people from across the region, state and the world do also. Using the McDonald's restaurant self-service model, UWEM staff continually strive to update, post and refresh information on our website to allow our customers to access core and critical information for their use. Watch an earthquake video at 2am or fill out a home hazard assessment while studying for your finals!

But while our website could perhaps benefit from a freshening up, we continue to place increasing amounts of critical and informative content on our website. A past customer survey validated the fact that the website is chock full o' information, but perhaps some of the information is buried or hard to find. We decided to host our first annual UWEM WEBSITE TREASURE HUNT! Time to sharpen up your UWEM webpage hunting skills.

The first person to email us at disaster@uw.edu with all 10 questions answered correctly will win a fabulous emergency preparedness prize (including core contents of a personal preparedness kit).

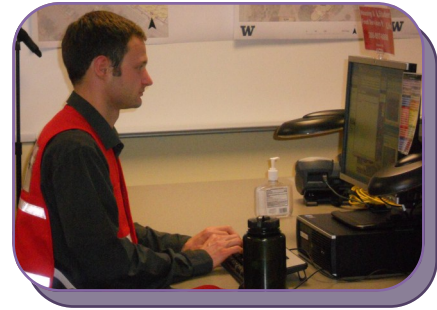
1. What is the annual goal (# of people) to be trained in emergency management (BSC Measure 4.2) for 2011-2012?
2. What does the term EMPC mean at the UW?
3. What radio station in the Seattle area should people tune into for official emergency information?
4. What is the full name of the UWEM's part-time Fiscal Specialist II employee?
5. Which one (1) local emergency supplies vendor provides a 15% discount to UW students, faculty and staff?
6. What does the acronym "SEMOC" stand for?
7. A _____ warning means that large amounts of falling or blowing snow and sustained winds of at least 35mph are expected for several hours.
8. Which UW Administrative Policy Statement (APS) requires business continuity planning?
9. What is the average walking time (minutes) from the George Washington Statue to the UW Tower?
10. Who (title) is the UW's Crisis Communications Team official spokesperson according to the approved and published Crisis Communications Plan?

Start your search engines. The official results will be announced in our April 2012 newsletter.

Occupy Protests and EOC Level 2 Activation

The rain wasn't about to stop these protesters. Late Thursday afternoon on November 17 the Occupy UW protesters gathered and marched to meet the Occupy Seattle protesters to ultimately shut down the University Bridge, thus creating a traffic nightmare in and around the University District.

In anticipation of this event, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was set up for a partial activation. Internal and external partners were brought in to help coordinate our response to this event. These partners included: UW Medical Center, American Medical Response (AMR), UW Transportation, UW Police Department, Seattle Department of Transportation and City of Seattle Emergency Management. This event was a perfect opportunity to test the coordination between our partners as well as the functionality of the EOC.



SEMOC on Scene at Occupy Seattle

SEMOC, the UW's Special Event Mobile Operations Center, rolled into action when the Occupy Seattle protesters came to the University District to block the Montlake and University bridges on November 17.

Serving as the UW's command post for this event, SEMOC was staged in the C-10 parking lot near the Burke Gilman trail, close to the action on the street, yet far enough away to not get caught in the "hot zone" if the peaceful protest escalated into an emergency situation.

UW responders for this event (Police, Emergency Management, Information Technology, Student Life and Media Relations) gathered on SEMOC to monitor protest activities from late afternoon to early evening, ready to respond as needed. SEMOC provided the campus responders with a highly functional and comfortable "field office" to meet in and coordinate with the Seattle Police Department and the UW EOC located at the UW Tower.

SEMOC was designed to provide on-site support for special events and serve as a command post for emergency response such as this protest. Originally part of Metro's articulated bus fleet, SEMOC was refurbished with work space and radio dispatch stations; a small kitchen with running water, microwave and refrigerator; a bathroom with toilet and sink; and a conference area. It is fully equipped with communication devices (phones, radios, scanners), office equipment and other amenities and supplies.

In the past few years, SEMOC has been on scene to support other campus activities such as the Apple Cup and the Presidential visit last year.

SEMOC is operated and managed by UW Information Technology (UW-IT). A special thank you to Treg Oistad and Mark Pringle from UW-IT for providing logistical and technical support on SEMOC during the Occupy Seattle event.



New UWEM Vehicle

Can you imagine a fire department without a pumper truck, a police department without a cruiser or a paramedic squad without an ambulance? Well, for nearly 9 years since its establishment in 2003, the UW Emergency Management Department never had its own response vehicle (or any official department vehicle whatsoever). This has always hampered our ability to quickly respond to on- and off-campus emergency scenes as we were required to use our personal vehicles or walk. Our move to the UW Tower, while anticipated and an improvement to our physical training and exercise capacity, has also moved us further away from the core of the main campus.

We are excited to announce that after some internal discussions with our partners in Facilities Transportation Services (Motor Pool) and some creative budgeting using one-time surplus funds from an internal Homeland Security grant, UWEM is now the proud owner of a gently used 2001 Chevy Blazer 4x4 vehicle for more rapid and effective emergency campus response. UWEM took possession of this vehicle in November 2011. Our 24/7 responsibilities and response times will improve immensely, as well as our visibility across campus. Over the next year, UWEM staff will be working with our public safety partners, including UW Police, Seattle Fire, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) and Facilities/FOMS Unit 2 in retrofitting the vehicle with additional resources and tools for improved communications and response capacity.



Review Suspended Operations Policy

Another La Nina winter is upon us, which is predicted to bring colder and wetter weather during January–March. This could mean more frequent storms and possible suspended operations for all three UW campuses. Please take time to review the [suspended operations policy](#) and talk to your department about your responsibilities.



Jan: Action Plans

Earthquakes strike without warning. What you do in the first hour following can save lives, reduce severity of injuries and save property.

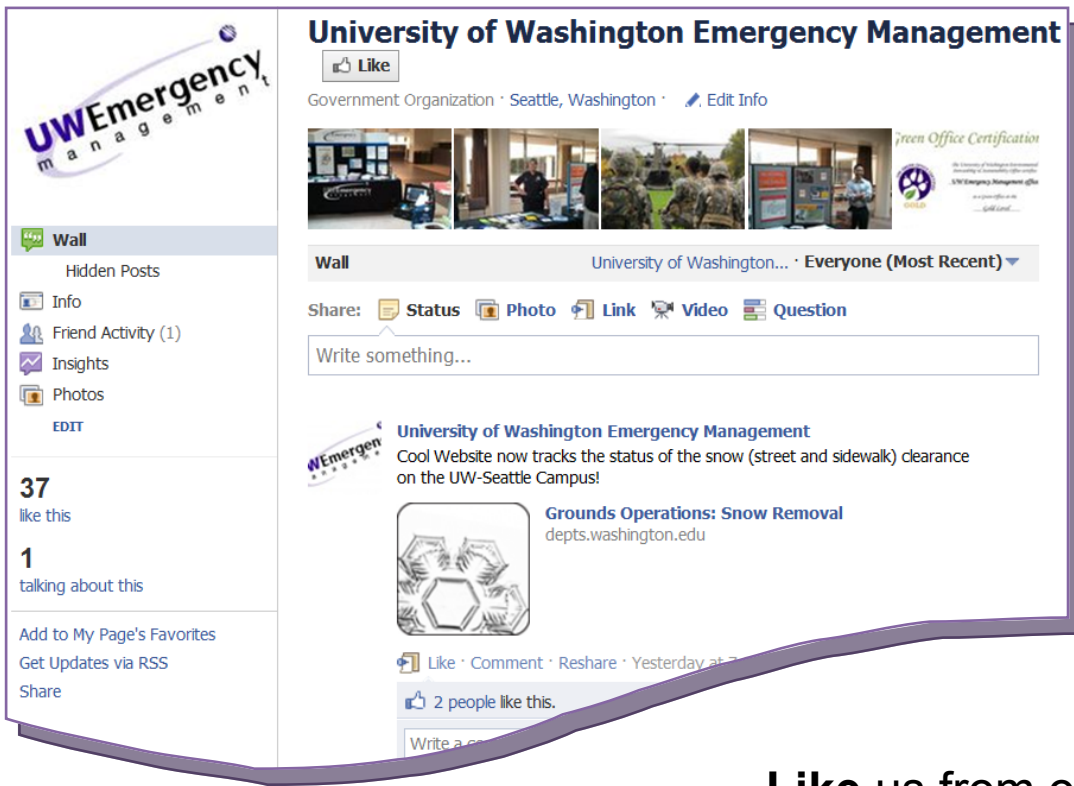
Feb: Out-of-Area Contact

If you are separated from your loved ones when disasters strike, you will immediately wonder how and where they are. The stress of the event may make it difficult to remember even routine information, like phone numbers. Consequently, we recommend that every household member have an out-of-area contact card in a wallet, purse, or backpack at all times.

March: Storing Water

Water is essential for survival. The ground trembling and shaking caused by earthquakes can crack or break the lines that bring fresh water to your house. You may have to rely for three days or more on the water you have stored.

Find us on Facebook



Like us from our webpage
www.huskyem.org