I often get asked by people ... “What exactly does your office do whenever there is not an emergency, crisis or disaster happening on campus”? Interesting question – and an even more interesting response (I hope)! Put quite simply, most major crisis situations happen with little or no advance notice. Unlike a major hurricane grinding its way across the ocean with 4-5 days of notice on the Weather Channel, most of our NW disasters just happen – most usually at very inconvenient times like the evenings, weekends and over long holiday breaks. Knowing that, UWEM, and our partners throughout the UW system and external partners, are constantly doing things to help us prepare for the unexpected and inevitable. From small events to our BIG ONE (earthquake), UWEM stands ready to assist and coordinate the vast resources of the UW to effectively respond and recover from every kind of incident. Think of UWEM as the UW’s all-hazards insurance policy. We hope to never cash in our premium, but we can be thankful that the programs developed over the past 9 years will prepare and effectively respond to any kind of human-caused, technological or natural disaster.

In quieter times, UWEM staff provides the basics such as planning, training and exercise assistance. These services are not only for the main Seattle campus, but we also provide technical assistance to our Bothell and Tacoma campuses, field research stations, and any/all other UW owned or leased properties throughout the region (and the world). Thus far, our friends at the UW Rome Center have not asked us to conduct a field visit in Italy, but we are ready to go if asked! When not doing these bread-and-butter preparedness activities, we also have a very robust 24/7/365 response program. Our UWEM Duty Officer can be paged at any hour of the day to respond, which we do regularly. From the small residence hall burnt microwave popcorn incident, to an evening chemical spill at the UW Medical Center to a construction accident on West Campus – we respond and support other University and community first responders when requested. For anyone interested in seeing a historical timeline of major crises, emergencies, or disaster that impacted the UW, go to our UW Disaster Timeline (link here) and found on our UWEM homepage at: [www.huskyem.org](http://www.huskyem.org).

Check out all the events from 1946 to the present!

Another service we provide (all free-of-charge) is our continually expanding “Husky Ready” Business, Academic and Research Continuity (BARC) program. We invite any UW-affiliated school, department, unit, research center or group to take full advantage of this excellent preparedness resource. Our staff also is happy to come to your staff, class or employee meetings to discuss personal preparedness – the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. If you ask, we will come!
Partner of the Quarter: Darren Branum

Darren Branum serves the University as a Fire Prevention Specialist in the Building and Fire Safety Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).

UWEM has enjoyed a long-time partnership with Darren, working collaboratively over the years in many ways, including:

- Special events such as football, commencement and visits from the sitting President and Vice-President of the United States.
- Real-world response to fires, Hazardous Materials releases and other problems on campus.
- Shared participation in organizing and delivering University education and training events, in cooperation with UWPD and UWEM.
- Coordinating multiple disaster and fire drills.
- Serving as the Safety Officer for the UW EOC and the primary liaison with the Seattle Fire Department on behalf of the University.
- Supporting regional and community events such as SeaFair, Partners in Emergency Preparedness and the NW CitizenCorps Expo.

Additionally, Darren has volunteered his off-time to the community as a firefighter/paramedic, a CERT volunteer, an emergency manager and a safety officer. Through it all, Darren has proven to be a reliable partner for UWEM, often going above and beyond to support the University public. For all of these reasons, the UWEM Staff have chosen Darren to receive this well-deserved recognition.

Emergency Management as a Career?

Have you ever thought about a career in emergency management, infrastructure planning, or risk assessment? The University of Washington offers a fully online Master’s Degree in Infrastructure Planning and Management (MIPM). The program focuses on planning, emergency management, risk assessment, GIS, project finance, among a host of other subjects related to planning. Resident UWEM’s planning and training manager, Siri McLean, was a graduate of the very first class of this program back in 2006. UWEM is proud to support this program with our business continuity manager, Scott Preston, even teaching a couple of the courses. Since April we have also employed one of the programs students, Noah Tunick, who makes a mean pot of instant coffee on demand! If you’ve ever wondered about a career in this field, make sure to check out the MIPM homepage and well as our own UWEM site outlining great career tips.
Experience is Truly the Best Teacher

This past July, while on a vacation to see my extended family in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States, I recently got to experience a truly devastating disaster first-hand. One specific storm touched 12 states and the impacts lasted for weeks in some communities. How many of you remember hearing about the “derecho” storm on the night of Friday, June 29, 2012? From Wikipedia, “the June 2012 Mid-Atlantic and Midwest derecho was one of the most destructive and deadly fast-moving severe thunderstorm complexes in North American history. The progressive derecho tracked across a large section of the Midwestern United States and across the central Appalachians into the Mid-Atlantic States on the afternoon and evening of June 29, 2012, and into the early morning of June 30, 2012. It resulted in 22 deaths, widespread damage and millions of power outages across the entire affected region.”

When I landed in Washington DC on July 2nd, still three days after the storm, it became immediately apparent that even places like our nation’s capital were significantly impacted by this storm. My old neighborhood near the Pentagon in DC still was without power and hundreds of 50-foot trees were snapped like toothpicks. The situation got worse as we drove into rural West Virginia where my relatives live. Entire counties were without electricity for 7-9 days while I was there over the Independence Day holiday period. Temperatures hovered in the mid 90’s with humidity almost 100% (sure makes you appreciate air conditioning). I spent 2 days volunteering at a community-based water distribution center passing out donated and Federally-delivered cases of drinking water. The storm, people’s response to the tragedy and a “sense of community” reinforced my belief that no crisis is insurmountable. However, it also became apparent that those individuals, families and organizations that spent even a little time preparing for disasters were much more able to recover and survive the loss of something as simple as electricity. A few tips that worked for folks in the “derecho” storm that are just as applicable here for us in the Pacific Northwest:

- Have adequate emergency supplies for not just 3 days, but up to a week.
- Cash is King! The few stores, gas stations and restaurants that were open, were unable to accept credit cards – so have some emergency cash squirreled away.
- Remember the “Rule of 3’s”: You can survive 3 minutes without air, 3 days without water and 3 weeks without food. We can’t generally store air, but you can store water. Make this a priority.

Steve Charvat, UWEM Director

Steve Charvat, UWEM Director, passing out Emergency Water to West Virginia Disaster Victims
Applause and Back Slaps

Kudos to members of the UWEM staff who recently achieved a number of significant accomplishments and words of support from our community partners:

Plans and Training Manager Siri McLean recently received her Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) designation from FEMA after completing a federally-funded training program. Siri is one of less than 1500 certified MEP planners in the USA. She has brought our exercise and training program to a new level of professionalism.

Scott Preston, Business, Academic and Research Continuity Planning Manager recently attained his Certified Business Continuity Profession (CBCP) designation. Awarded through the Disaster Recovery Institute International, Scott continues to lead the UW and its schools, departments and units in the development of world-class continuity planning activities.

Steve Charvat, UWEM Director, was re-elected as the 2012-2014 Secretary of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and will be sworn-in at their annual conference later this month in Orlando, FL.

Finally, the entire UWEM department recently received this nice letter from the City of Seattle Police Department. Way to go Team!

Welcome New EOC & EMPC Members
Debra Hanna
Phoebe Ambrosia
Danica Little
Kate Allstadt

HELP WANTED!
UW Emergency Management is looking for volunteers to be trained and ready to work in the Emergency Operations Center upon activation. If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful opportunity please email: disaster@uw.edu

Seattle Police Department
Office of Emergency Management
105 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98104

Barb

Steve,
Thank you for all of the support your team provided during our Electrical Bus event here in Seattle. I especially want to recognize Scott Preston who patiently answered all of the questions our team had regarding your facility. As you might have already heard, the project was completed ahead of schedule and without any complications. Going into this event there were many unknowns and I felt it prudent that we develop a plan for relocating the Seattle EOC should the worst come to pass. It was very reassuring to know that you were there to help us if needed.

If you ever need assistance, please don’t hesitate to call me.

Thank You.

Kate
UWEM Assists with Haz-Mat Response at UWMC

On Monday, August 20 at 4:30 PM UW Police received a report of a minor hazardous materials spill in a room in the UW Medical Center. The Crisis Communications group was notified and UWEM dispatched an emergency management Duty Officer to assist with coordination at the scene. While on scene, the UWEM Duty Officer help with identifying resources and additional support needed as well as advising the on-scene police and UWMC officials on recommended actions. UWMC operations remained active and the hospital continued to receive patients and provide patient care throughout the duration of the incident.

The hazardous material was contained in a short amount of time by the Seattle Fire Department and UWMC brought in a contracted vendor to finalize clean-up and disposal.

This is one more example of how UWEM supports collaborative planning and response efforts on campus to the benefit of our campus partners and the whole of the UW Community.

EOC + URC = Hot Summer Destinations

This past summer the campus EOC and the UW Information Technology Unite Response Center (URC) were hot destination spots for groups interested in seeing how technology is used for Emergency and Disaster Response.

In August, the Washington State Chief Information Officer, Bharat Sharam toured both facilities and was so impressed with our operations that he made arrangements to have Rob St. John, Director of Consolidated Technology Services visit our facilities a few weeks later.

Then in September, a consortium of software developers representing 14 corporations from Japan also paid a visit to the campus as part of their Seattle tour. They were interested in learning how we incorporate information and communication technology in community service and emergency response.

David Morton from UW-IT gave a presentation on the mobile communication applications, usage and growth on campus. Andy Ward, from UW Information Technology, gave an overview on how the UW utilizes information and communication technology in emergency preparedness and response including our mass notification systems, UW Alert and WebEOC.

Tom Jenkins from UWEM then led a tour of the campus EOC’s state-of-the-art equipment and capabilities. He even surprised them with his ability to speak Japanese!
Create Your Smart Safety Profile

In an emergency, seconds count. Making sure 9-1-1 call-takers and emergency responders have all the information they need can mean the difference between life and death. To assist in this critical task, King County is launching “Smart911,” a supplemental data service that allows residents to create a personal safety profile in a secure database. That information can then be used to assist 9-1-1 call-takers and responders in the field.

Smart911 is free to every resident of King County, and registration is voluntary. To create a safety profile, users go to a secure website, www.Smart911.com. Then, they enter their phone numbers, as well as address, medical, disability, or other information that could be useful to emergency personnel. When a call comes in to a 9-1-1 center from a Smart911-registered phone, the additional data is displayed at the 9-1-1 call center. The information can also be accessed by medics, firefighters, and police officers responding to the emergency.

Today, about 70 percent of 9-1-1 calls are made from wireless phones. However, wireless phones only provide the general location of a caller, not their exact address. With Smart911, people can put their home, school, and work addresses into the safety profile associated with their wireless phone. These addresses will assist 9-1-1 call-takers in locating callers when lives are at stake. King County is the first jurisdiction in Washington State to implement Smart911. All 9-1-1 centers across the county will be operational by the end of the year. In addition, Smart911 is a national database, with many other communities across the United States already participating. If a King County resident has registered their wireless phone with Smart911, and has to call 9-1-1 in another Smart911 participating jurisdiction, their information will still be displayed.

2012 Update: UW All-Hazards Emergency Management Plan

Did you now we have an emergency plan? It’s that thing in the red binder sitting on the shelf collecting dust. No not really. No plan should ever just sit on a shelf. Plans are active documents that in many cases become outdated almost the minute they are printed due to constant changes. Every two years UW Emergency Management produces a formal update to the UW All-Hazards Emergency Management Plan all the while maintaining a working version with edits and changes as they happened. This year’s formal update will be released the first week of October.

With every event, activation and exercise we are constantly learning ways to improve our processes and procedures. The Evergreen Quake exercise this past June brought about multiple updates with two major points being the new location of the EOC at the UW Tower and backup EOC in Polar. The biggest change people will see in the All-Hazards plan is the re-design of functions. In the past we divided parts of the plan by department and parts by function. In an effort to try and align the UW’s plan better with the FEMA standards of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) we redefined our functions listing the various departments responsible for that function instead of the other way around as previously noted. Please check out the new updated plan signed and endorsed by our new UW President, Michael Young, on our website.
Get Ready to Shakeout!

With 6.8 million people living and working in Washington, a major earthquake could cause unprecedented devastation. What we do now, before a big earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like afterwards. With earthquakes an inevitable part of Washington’s future, we must act quickly to ensure that disasters do not become catastrophes.

The Great Washington ShakeOut in October 2012 will involve hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians through a broad-based outreach program, media partnerships, and public advocacy by hundreds of partners. The drill will be held statewide annually on the third Thursday of October. The 2012 Great Washington ShakeOut earthquake drill will be at 10:18 a.m. on October 18.

A key aspect of the Great ShakeOut is the integration of comprehensive science-based earthquake research and the lessons learned from decades of social science research about why people get prepared. The result is a “teachable moment” on par with having an actual earthquake (often followed by increased interest in getting ready for earthquakes). The Great ShakeOut creates the sense of urgency that is needed for people, organizations, and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved.

Not just any drill will accomplish this; it needs to be big. It must inspire communities to come together. It must involve children at school and parents at work, prompting conversations at home. It must allow every organization, city, etc., to make it their own event.

The 2012 Great ShakeOut drill will be the largest preparedness event in U.S. history. All organizers ask is that participants at the minimum practice "drop, cover, and hold on" at the specified time. It is only a five-minute commitment for something that can save your life. For more information, visit: www.ShakeOut.org/washington.

How You Can Participate

The University of Washington has registered as a state participant in this drill. However it is up each department to coordinate their own participation in this drill. Feel free to contact UW Emergency Management at disaster@uw.edu with questions or needing assistance.

Visit an Outreach Booth
10/02/12 11:00am - 2:00pm UW Tower Café
10/04/12 11:00am - 2:00pm Health Sciences, Rotunda
10/19/12 11:00am - 2:00pm Suzzallo Library Café
10/10/12 11:00am - 2:00pm The IMA
10/11/12 11:00am - 2:00pm South Lake Union
10/16/12 11:00am - 2:00pm William Gate Hall Café
10/18/12 11:00am - 2:00pm The HUB
11/01/12 11:00am - 2:00pm Fishery Sciences

Attend an Earthquake & Personal Preparedness Training
10/02/12 11:30am - 12:30pm UW Tower, Auditorium
10/04/12 10:00am - 11:00am Health Sciences, K069
10/11/12 11:30am - 12:30pm South Lake Union, Auditorium
10/16/12 11:30am - 12:30pm William Gates Hall, Room 115
11/01/12 11:30am - 12:30pm Fishery Sciences, Room 203

Plan Your Drill:
- Make the commitment in your department, school or home to have a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill at 10:18am on October 18.
- Download a Drill Broadcast recording from http://www.shakeout.org/washington/drill/broadcast/
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes:
- Do a “hazard hunt” for items that might fall during earthquakes and secure them.
- Create a personal disaster plan.
- Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits.
- Learn more about earthquake hazards: http://www.washington.edu/emergency/hazards/earthquake

Why is “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” important to practice? You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls on you. Practicing helps you be ready to react. Visit http://www.shakeout.org/washington/dropcoverholdon/ to learn more.
Hurricane Season: Half-Time Report

In contrast to the Hurricane Season of 2011, the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf Coast has seen calmer weather during the first half of the 2012 season. This may be the calm before the storm, however; meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), an agency operated by the National Weather Service, have revised their seasonal forecast for 2012. Originally calling for 10-12 named storms, with 2-3 developing into hurricanes, scientists are now calling for 16-17 named storms with 5-8 potentially coming onshore as hurricanes. As of this writing, Tropical Storm Isaac is bearing down on Puerto Rico with a projected path through the central Caribbean before making landfall on the North American mainland near Tampa, Florida. Tropical weather systems have 3 main classifications, based on the strength of their sustained windspeeds: Tropical Depression (Labeled with a number), Tropical Storms (Given names, alphabetically) and Hurricanes (They keep their TS names and are subcategorized as a Category 1,2,3,4 or 5 as they strengthen.) A Tropical Depression (TD) is any storm with a cyclonic (circular) rotation that has sustained winds of 38 mph or less. A TD is upgraded to a Tropical Storm and named when its sustained winds increase to 39-73 mph. Any tropical system with winds of 74 mph or greater is classified as a hurricane and given a category based upon its strength; a Category 5 hurricane is the most-severe with sustained winds 157 mph or higher! The type of damage produced by a hurricane is significant, and many of the hazards are familiar to residents of the Puget Sound area: Rainfall in excess of 2 inches within 12 hours, Damaging Winds, Flash Flooding and Mudslides are but a few. In addition, there is a near-constant threat of Lightning from thunderstorms that rotate around the storm center and coastal areas may be at risk of impacts from a “Storm Surge,” a flash flood-type event that comes onshore from the sea when a storm makes landfall. The 2012 Hurricane Season doesn’t end until December 1st, so if your education or career field take you to any states with a coastline east of the Rockies, pay attention to local weather reports. Hurricanes are massive weather systems that can cover multiple states, so the time to listen up & prepare is NOW!

Cyborg Cockroaches, Future Emergency Responders

Everyone likes a good cyborg story, but have you ever heard of cyborg cockroaches? Move over EMT’s, the first EMC’s (Emergency Madagascar Cockroaches) are here to do some rescuing! Researchers at North Carolina State University have produced evidence of roaches following a path directed by human controllers. They were able to direct the highly resilient insects by stimulating their antennae to make the roach think it was touching a wall and move in the opposite direction. Researchers believe that “Ultimately, we think this will allow us to create a mobile web of smart sensors that uses cockroaches to collect and transmit information, such as finding survivors in a building that’s been destroyed by an earthquake.” Is this the rise of the EMC’s? Only the future will tell!
El Niño in Seattle: Warm Winter Expected

In a quiet scientific press release over the summer of 2012, researchers at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the parent agency for our National Weather Service, noted that the multiple weather prediction models they use were all beginning to lean heavily in favor of a shift to El Niño conditions for the post-Election Season winter. The ever-present higher pressure that allowed Summer 2012 to show off near-record temperatures and dry spells will remain dominant offshore, with the main jet stream entering North America north of Vancouver, BC while a weaker jet stream diverts some disturbances further south of Eugene, Oregon. Overall, this translates to warmer temperatures compared to our average annual figures and a noticeably different winter this year compared to “Snowmageddon 2012,” when light, steady snowfall mixed with some freezing rain to put the hurt on the Puget Sound region. The decision between a season showing El Niño or La Niña conditions is all based upon the averaged sea-surface temperature for the Eastern Pacific Ocean, offshore of Chile & Peru. Temperatures within ±0.5°C (0.9°F) of the average water temperature are considered “neutral”; colder waters create La Niña while the opposite generate El Niño conditions. This seemingly-harmless difference affects the strength of high pressure offshore of California, which determines whether that weaker jet stream will be closer to Mt. Shasta, California or Cannon Beach, Oregon. The weaker the high, the further south the jet & the wetter our Washington winter will be. There is a firm likelihood that we will see a milder El Niño this winter with potential for heavier snowpack and spring floods in 2014. Areas north of Highway 20 should see great ski & snowboard weather this year, with an even “better” winter 12 months from now!

New School of Public Health Disaster Preparedness Checklist

The School of Public Health recently developed a disaster preparedness checklist that UWEM is very enthusiastic about. The checklist was originally designed to assist research laboratories in assessing and improving their research continuity planning efforts. However, the basic principles behind the checklist are universal as an emergency planning tool and apply to any planning effort, whether focused on business, academic or research continuity.

The checklist was recent shared at the Business, Academic and Research Continuity (BARC) workgroup and was well-received. If you’d like to see the checklist and perhaps use it as a tool in your own department, you can find it on the School of Public Health’s emergency information website.
Wheel of Misfortune

Admit it who doesn’t love to win free stuff? Throughout the year UW Emergency Management partners with the UW Police Department and Environmental Health and Safety to provide outreach and education across campus about safety and security issues. Each time we are out and about we try and learn new ways to engage our audience. But let’s face it most people don’t find emergency preparedness and safety to be overly exciting, accept disaster geeks like us. Free whistles, pens, duct tape etc are fun but we found most people would take the free items and not the printed materials or engage with us. Thus the creation of the Wheel of Misfortune!!! Our goal is to engage more people as they visit our booth and challenge their preparedness and safety knowledge before they get that free whistle or cool glow in the dark flashlight.

There are eight categories to land on for which questions will be selected. *Jibber Jabber* has to do with emergency communication (UW Alert, Out of Area Contacts, Facebook etc.). *It Happened* are history questions about events that have occurring at the UW or other disasters around the world. *This or That* is a choice between two things either emergency supply items or how you would react in a scenario. *Pop Culture* are questions relating to disaster movies. *First Aid* tests the contestant’s knowledge about first-aid, CPR or basic search and rescue. *Zombie* brings up a whole other group of stimulation conversation and questions around the zombie craze and preparedness. *Whoops* is you are not prepared and we will provide some preparedness tips. The final category is *You Survived*, an automatic winner and congratulations for being prepared.

The Wheel of Misfortune was unveiled during Dawg Days September 24 & 25 and was a huge success. Over 500 students and staff stopped by for a spin. You have a chance to give it spin during the October Great Shakeout road show. Stop by and spin for a prize. See who survives!
Twitter Will Protect You From the Flu in 140 Characters or Less

We use social media for everything, so why not use it to predict the spread of disease? Adam Sadilek of the University of Rochester has done just that, analyzing over 4 million tweets in NYC to act as your “social media epidemiologist.” Thru machine learning and natural language, his team was able to determine the health state of Twitter users and their geo-tagged posts. User posts were plotted on a map and noted how sick and healthy people interacted. With Sadilek’s accuracy, this type of technology could potentially predict the emergence of global epidemics. His theory and work could even be used to power location aware mobile devices that could warn a user in areas of high risk to flu. Check out Sadilek’s heatmap visualization of his study [here](#).

October: Fire Safety
When it comes to fire – be smart! If the fire is too big for you to handle, immediately get out of the house. Don’t stop to gather anything or to do anything. Once you are outside, stay outside. Intense heat and toxic fumes can kill you.

November: Shelter in Place
Your house provides a good first-layer barrier against chemical airborne agents. Additional protection is achieved by tightly sealing one room of your home that you have pre-designated and prepared. A safe room is one that easily and quickly can be sealed to protect you from airborne agents, and that has a few supplies to get you through the hours that you will need to stay inside it. All doors and windows of that room will be sealed with plastic sheeting and tape, and dampened towels or cloths will be placed under the doors. You will probably need to stay inside several hours, but not several days. So, choose a room that can accommodate your needs for several hours. A master bedroom with an attached bathroom is ideal to give you access to the toilet and running water.

December: Home Hazard Hunt
All of Washington State has the potential of being impacted by a major earthquake. Earthquakes strike suddenly and without warning. When they occur, they cause the ground to undulate and shake, perhaps violently. Buildings – and their contents – are vulnerable to this rocking and rolling. Fortunately, experts teach how to secure homes to their foundations, and contents to wall studs.

Follow us on Facebook

[QR Code]

[Like Button]