Aloha is a Hawai’ian word used to say both “hello” and “goodbye.” It is likely not a word you hear much in the Pacific Northwest — especially during our cold and wet winter months. And while we may daydream of being in a tropical paradise this time of year. We also need to face reality and devote our efforts to the future. So, to our dedicated readers, we wish you all “Aloha!” After serving and informing members the community, UWEM’s quarterly e-newsletter, the Disaster Digest, is publishing it’s last edition. Back in 2005, our campus stakeholders, process partners and our in-house advisory committee suggested that UWEM develop an alternate way of “spreading the word” about disaster/crises/emergency programs, resources, success stories and activities throughout the UW community. So, in 2006, the Disaster Digest was born!

Produced and written in-house by UWEM staff, interns, student employees and occasional guest columnists, our quirky little newsletter grew from 80 founding subscribers to over 2,500 today — including students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, other universities and even my retired parents living in Arizona! As much fun as we had publishing the Disaster Digest (yes, often with typos and misspellings), we learned last autumn that our e-newsletter would have to sunset after January 2017. This directive was based on a mandate tied to other larger UW administrative efficiency efforts. One of the recommendations is to consolidate and centralize communications to UW faculty and staff.

So, what’s next for our loyal Digest subscribers? Look for our news and stories as part of a new weekly e-newsletter for UW faculty and staff — called the UW Insider — starting sometime later this month. It will combine important messages from UW-IT Connect News, The Resource from Human Resources, The Whole U newsletter, UW Recycling and Combined Fund Drive into one centrally managed email. UW Insider aims to help make the most of the UW employment experience while reducing information overload. Not a UW employee or directly affiliated with the UW and want to stay in touch with UWEM? “Friend” us on Facebook and check out our ever-changing blog & website: Happy New Year and Aloha!

Steve Charvat. UWEM Director & Digest Publisher
Saying “Goodbye” to an Old Friend

A colleague of ours in UWEM recently joked to us that “the only people who still carry pagers are either doctors or drug-dealers!” While hard to admit after many years, this unfiltered and unsolicited advice has prompted a change in the way we communicate. Following in the footsteps of such beloved items as our analog televisions with “rabbit ears” antennas, the facsimile (FAX) machine, the chalkboard, and the bulky 19” CRT computer monitors, UW Emergency Management recently retired the use of our beloved digital pager. Once the backbone of our 24/7 Duty Officer program for off-hours contact, our pager has seen very little use over the past 3-3 years. So, we officially decommissioned it on 12/31/16. If you still have the old 206-797-0176 UWEM pager number, please immediately remove the entry from your lists or directories. It has also been removed from all UWEM websites and contact lists. Thank you.

and UWEM Recommends...

Disaster geeks rejoice! Out of the BBC film archives and now available only on Netflix is a streaming video series called *The World’s Worst Disasters*. Fifty-minute episodes using a mixture of rare archival footage and “dramatic 3D animated reconstructions” make up this delightful 13-episode series to show what happens when natural forces come into conflict with humans.

Each episode of *The World’s Worst Disasters* focuses on one type of natural disaster, giving examples of some of the largest or most devastating in recent years. From volcanoes, earthquakes, typhoons and avalanches - to those that we humans may have more of a hand in, such as forest fires and landslides, get ready to dive in to what could be your next Netflix binge session.
**YOUR Chance to Make A Difference:**

**Public Comment on UW's Disaster Plan**

_By: Elizabeth King, UWEM PT&E Manager_

Once again it is time for the UW to update and revise the Seattle Campus Emergency Management Plan. As the new Plans, Training, and Exercise Manager, I have the joy of taking this task on with a smile on my face and hop in my step. I rather enjoy the planning cycle and provides a unique opportunity to quickly learn the in’s and out’s of the “whole campus” concept of emergency management. As the first round of draft updates go out for public comments I wanted to take a moment to chat about what best practices the UWEM will be implementing during the updates and revisions.

**Planning Guidance & References** If you haven’t had the luxury of reading the following documents — that is OK. We recommend that if you are having trouble falling asleep, give one of these a quick glance. FEMA’s Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101 v2 - Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans; CPG 201 v2 - Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Guide; the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Guide for Developing High Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Institutions of Higher Education: At a Glance; and the National Incident Management System Refresh (2016).

What all of these mean is that during the update and revisions to the UW’s plan, the name will change to Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The name implies it is an all-hazards plan, and strives to embrace the “whole community” approach. The focus will shift from worst-case scenarios to the community impact and the most effective use of resources to manage the incident or disaster. This change is supported by the National Preparedness Goal and Mission Areas which will be a new addition to the plan (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery).

The plan will be formatted following best practices. It will provide a basic plan structure and highlight other items that are specific to higher education. The great thing about best practices is that we can write and create the plan that best fits the needs of UW, coordination with university departments and units will be a major focus during the update and revision process. The most important thing to remember about emergency planning is: (1) it is a team effort, (2) you are not alone in the process. and (3) planning is truly about the actual process of planning — not the physical document (although it can be rather handy at times) !

Want to comment on the plan? Click **HERE** to be taken to the online public comment website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 20, 2017**
UWEM in the Community

The Emergency Management Group (EMG) is a dedicated bunch of volunteers from throughout the greater Puget Sound region that provides and facilitates emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for many of Seafair’s signature events during the summer months. However, in February of 2014 and last December, EMG volunteers got together for slightly different reasons. Can you decipher the connection?

February 5, 2014 was the Seahawks Super Bowl victory parade that brought in an estimated 700,000 celebrators to downtown Seattle — while on December 13, 2016, the region celebrated the Seattle Sounders MLS Cup Victory with their own March & Rally. With less than 2 days to plan for this event, our very own Stacie Smith, UWEM Seismic Resilience Program Manager, was invited to brave the cold for this special community celebration — serving as the event’s Deputy Operations Section Chief. As with other current and past UWEM employees who volunteer in the community, Stacie ultimately put her training to the test after an unfortunate incident involving an Emerald City Trolley and a Seattle Police bicycle officer. At the time of this publication, the specific details of the accident are still under investigation; however, the police officer suffered no life-threatening injuries and the parade and rally continued without a hitch.

At the end of the day, it was a successful and morale-boosting event for the City of Seattle and the Sounders organization, including their many thousands of dedicated fans. UWEM is honored to have played a part in keeping our neighbors safe during such a historical affair!
Welcome to the Team Eli!

Elizabeth “Eli” King is the newest addition to the University of Washington Emergency Management Team. Mrs. King currently serves as the Plans, Training, and Exercise Manager and will oversee comprehensive emergency planning, policy guidance, and the development of specialized training and disaster exercises. She is a Master Exercise Practitioner and provided key leadership for Cascadia Rising 2016, the largest earthquake exercise in US history. Eli will be instrumental in providing emergency preparedness training to university personnel, emergency operations training to identified staff, and developing and facilitating the annual emergency operations center (EOC) drills and exercises. She is excited to support the 2018 Special Olympics at UW, as she previously served as a Coach and Local Coordinator for the Special Olympics in Latah County, Idaho, and cherishes the opportunity to work with athletes and their families.

Mrs. King is a nationally-renown educator and teaches for FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute, the Washington State Emergency Management Division, and the King County Office of Emergency Management. She is certified to teach FEMA’s Incident Command System (ICS), Master Exercise Practitioner Program, the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture (SA-COP), and the Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) Program.

Previously, she served as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Washington State University (WSU) where she was the coordinator with the City of Pullman, Whitman County, the branch campuses, and research stations across the state. Mrs. King was also responsible for crisis communication messaging during incidents with an immediate threat to the campus community, using the mass notification system and social media. In this role, she supported all WSU home football games and several UW football games, including the Apple Cups in 2013 & 2014.

Mrs. King earned a Bachelors Degree in Communications and Business from the University of Texas at Arlington, and a Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration with an emphasis in emergency preparedness from Bellevue University, in Nebraska. A passionate advocate for at-risk and marginalized populations, Eli’s graduate work, included developing emergency preparedness outreach programs in Idaho, including on-site education to certified family home providers, independent living facilities, and group home providers. Additional professional contributions include serving as the International Association of Emergency Management (IAEM) Region X Secretary and Treasurer (2014 – to present), a member of the Emerging Technology Caucus, and a member of the Diversity Committee.

Apart from her regular duties at UWEM, Elizabeth volunteers through King County Emergency Coordination Center Support Team and Seattle King County Public Health Medical Reserve Corp. Eli is an experienced outdoorswoman who enjoys hiking, biking, snowboarding, fishing, and anything that involves a campfire. She currently lives with her wife and their two cats in Covington, Washington.
The 2016 **Great UW ShakeOut Results** are in! In case you haven’t heard, almost 14,000 people on the UW Seattle campus voluntarily participated in the 2016 Great UW ShakeOut! In addition, our Bothell and Tacoma campuses used this opportunity to test their UW Alert systems. We are looking forward to an even greater turnout in 2017.

The *Disaster Digest* may be ending, but an updated program website, including a **dedicated blog for all things earthquake**, is coming soon! For future reference, our SRP webpage can be found at [www.uw.edu/uwem/seismic](http://www.uw.edu/uwem/seismic) - check back soon!

**You asked, we answered!** One of the most frequent request we get here at UWEM is vendor information, including discount codes! Well, rest assured that every vendor listed on our website has been contacted within the last 18 months to discuss what discount agreements can be met. Send a quick email to disaster@uw.edu to learn what kind of offers are available for UW departments and UW employees alike.
January: 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.

February: 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.

March: Home Hazard Hunt

All of Washington 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.

For more preparedness information please download your own copy of

Washington State Emergency Management’s

Emergency Preparedness Guide.