

# Emergency Management 2020 Year in Review



Washington University in St. Louis

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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YOURSELF  
BE READY**  
[EMERGENCY.WUSTL.EDU](https://www.emergency.wustl.edu)

# WashU EM at a glance

The WashU Emergency Management (EM) department **serves over 30,000 faculty, staff and students** at Washington University in St. Louis. The department maintains a presence on the Danforth and Medical campuses to serve the campus community as a whole.

▶ Our **vision** is to be the standard of excellence in higher education emergency management.

▶ **Mission:** The Washington University Emergency Management Department leads mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts in collaboration with campus and community partners in order to cultivate a disaster resilient university.

The department incorporates programs that address the **four phases of emergency management**. These programs increase the university's ability to respond to and recover from an emergency.



- ▶ **Prevention/Mitigation:** Reducing the likelihood of an emergency or reducing the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies.
- ▶ **Preparedness:** Increasing our ability to respond in the event of an emergency.
- ▶ **Response:** Saving lives and preserving property.
- ▶ **Recovery:** Returning the community's systems and activities to normal.



## Departmental Updates

In September, Becky Brosch joined the team as the new Communications & Community Preparedness Engagement Program Manager. Anna Taylor, Planning Program Manager, and Eric Wilkinson, Life Safety Program Manager, celebrated their five year anniversaries with the department in May and September, respectively.

The team took advantage of multiple professional development opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge. Sara Ender, Training & Exercise Program Manager, earned a Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins University. Anna and Eric attended the 2020 Earthquake Summit. Brandon Robbins, Business Continuity Program Manager, completed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Crisis Management & Business Continuity course.

# Program Updates

The EM department leads a variety of efforts to fulfill the mission of creating a prepared and resilient university. The team proved adaptable to restraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to provide trainings and services to the campus community.

Some of the department's work, such as presentations and exercises, shifted to a virtual environment. Other programing updates, like POD planning, COVID-19 testing and AED maintenance, required an on-campus presence and cooperation with other WashU departments. Below are a few of WashU EM's accomplishments from 2020.

- ▶ Presented **15** WashU Continuity workshops reaching nearly **100** people across WashU's campuses
- ▶ Published **6** new continuity plans to include the Office of the Provosts for Admissions and Financial Services and the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration
- ▶ Participated in **3** exercises with community and governmental partners
- ▶ Held **2** virtual tabletop exercises to assess campus preparedness
- ▶ Installed more than **90** new AEDs across the university
- ▶ Held **5** emergency preparedness coordinator trainings for **126** participants
- ▶ Offered **4** general preparedness trainings reaching **60** participants
- ▶ Installed **6** new Alertus text-to-speech modules in university buildings
- ▶ Gained **246** new followers on EM social media accounts
- ▶ Installed **226** AED Placards across the Medical Campus
- ▶ Installed more than **100** bleeding control kits as part of the new WashU Bleeding Control Program

# COVID-19 and Influenza Response

WashU EM played an integral role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for cooperation between the EM team and other key stakeholders from Washington University and BJC HealthCare. EM staff worked in-person and virtually to coordinate health and safety resources, set up screening and testing facilities, and plan for immunizations. The department presented about continuity planning at 8 Research Town Hall meetings, reaching a total of over 4,000 participants.

When faculty and staff returned to the Danforth campus for the fall semester, the team distributed 'Return to Work' kits with masks and hand sanitizer. EM staff also worked tirelessly to set up a testing tent on Mudd Field (bottom right) for students to receive bi-weekly COVID-19 tests.

As influenza season arrived, the team coordinated employee immunization efforts through a point-of-dispensing model that was later adapted for COVID-19 vaccines. By the end of 2020, over 10,000 WashU/BJC employees had received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.





## EMAP Accreditation

In June, the WashU EM department was awarded full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The EMAP standards serve as clearly defined benchmarks for enhancing the management and coordination of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. Following a self-assessment and a week-long site visit in January (above), WashU was found to be 100% compliant with each of EMAP's 64 certified standards and eligible for accreditation.



WashU is one of just eight universities in the United States to achieve this accomplishment. "This accreditation confirms what we have known for a few years now — we are very fortunate to have a top-notch emergency management program at Washington University," said Henry S. Webber, executive vice chancellor for civic affairs and strategic planning. The accreditation is valid for five years.

## Goals for 2021

- ▶ Continue the response to the COVID-19 pandemic through infection prevention, testing and vaccination assistance
- ▶ Conduct a comprehensive program assessment and develop a 2022-2025 multi-year strategic plan
- ▶ Implement remote surveillance systems in AED cabinets to better monitor usage and need for replacement
- ▶ Continue professional development for EM staff, including the Certified Emergency Manager program, Advanced Public Information Officer certification and FEMA academy completions
- ▶ Advance continuity capabilities for the university through strategic planning, policy development and increased engagement

