

Emergency Management 2021 Year in Review



Washington University in St. Louis

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**PREPARE
YOURSELF
BE READY**
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 drive 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, Layla Lee Choi joined WashU EM as the new Marketing & Communications student worker. In October, Trish Crites was promoted to Operations & Support Program Manager and the team welcomed Corey Steinhoff as the new Administrative Coordinator.

WashU EM took advantage of multiple professional development opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge. Sara Ender, Ky Kee and Trish Crites completed the EM Basic Academy. Planning Program Manager Anna Taylor received a Certification in Adaptive Business Continuity Foundations.

Additionally, the staff held numerous leadership positions in community and regional organizations. Anna served on the Missouri Emergency Management Agency board. Assistant Director Ryan Nicholls served as Chair of the AmeriCorps Board, Chair of the St. Louis Regional Healthcare Coalition and Treasurer/Secretary of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Region 7. Assistant Director Chet Hunter was elected President of IAEM Region 7 in the fall.

Program Updates

WashU EM leads a variety of efforts to fulfill the mission of facilitating a prepared and resilient university. The team redeveloped the Life Safety program into two distinguishable tracks, Disaster Education and Campus Safety, to reflect specific focuses on prevention and preparedness. After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the biannual Ready Week initiative returned with giveaways, a virtual escape room and a guest speaker event featuring author Sheri Fink. EM held numerous in-person trainings on topics such as bleeding control and BSL-3 lab evacuations.

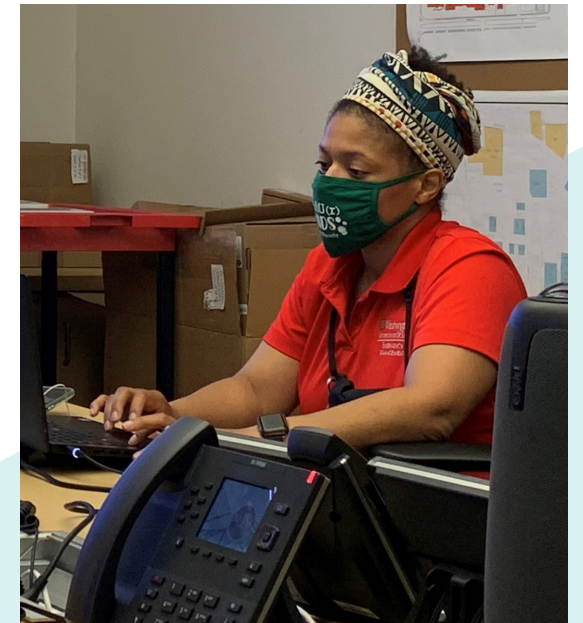
Below are a few more of WashU EM's accomplishments from 2021:

- ▶ Developed **20** new Office Emergency Plans
- ▶ Completed **131** fire drills across the university
- ▶ Created **4** new continuity templates for those in research, clinical operations, academic operations and general services
- ▶ Produced **3** informational videos about business continuity and creating continuity plans
- ▶ Held **5** exercises including tabletop exercises, a drill and a game
- ▶ Presented **2** trainings on Veoci response software
- ▶ Held **10** emergency preparedness coordinator trainings for **183** participants
- ▶ Offered **10** life safety trainings reaching **138** participants
- ▶ Coordinated procedural updates for **6** emergency support functions
- ▶ Gained **478** new followers on EM social media accounts
- ▶ Installed **150** remote cameras to track AED inventory
- ▶ Completed Phase I of the AED program through the placement of **420** AEDs

Emergency Response

As the COVID-19 pandemic entered its second year, WashU EM played an integral role in response and recovery through continuous administrative and operational support. In the beginning of the year, the staff promoted immunization planning and implementation and helped over 50,000 WashU and Barnes-Jewish Hospital employees and students receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Following summer break, team members set up a new testing and vaccination site for students returning to campus (bottom left). Staff attended important planning and policy meetings to give EM insight into changing conditions and updated state and federal guidelines.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for the 2020/2021 Commencement ceremonies in May. Staff worked diligently before and after to ensure attendee safety and well-being (bottom right). In June, the EOC was activated during a potential person with a weapon event. In December, when severe weather hit the St. Louis region, the staff monitored storms and ensured proper usage of campus-wide notification systems during a tornado warning.





2022-2024 Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Cutting-edge emergency management necessitates frequent review and policy updates. As part of the mission to continuously improve campus safety, WashU EM used national best practices, institutional priorities and staff and stakeholder input to develop the 2022-2024 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). The plan highlights eight strategic goals that encourage flexibility, creativity and innovation within the EM program areas. To support these goals, the staff developed sixty-eight detailed strategies for new initiatives and improvements. These short and long-term goals and objectives highlight the expansion of EM services to fit the academic, patient care and research needs of the university. The MYSP was approved in December 2021 and begin implementation in January 2022.



Goals for the 2022-2024 MYSP

- ▶ Maintain and enhance operational capabilities (Emergency Operations Centers, Veoci, software, communications, etc.)
- ▶ Maintain compliance to national standards and accreditation
- ▶ Improve WashU Emergency Management frameworks (pre and post-disaster)
- ▶ Expand professional development of Emergency Management staff
- ▶ Assess all Emergency Management program areas, identify opportunities for enhancement and apply programmatic changes
- ▶ Evaluate and enhance emergency notification and warning capabilities
- ▶ Improve overall level of campus preparedness
- ▶ Enhance collaboration and partnerships with campus stakeholders

