Emergency Management 2022 Year in Review

Washington University in St. Louis Emergency Management



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.



WashU EM was honored as the National Weather Service St. Louis's Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador of the Year



Department Updates

In December, Eric Wilkinson took over the Training & Exercise Program, changing roles from Life Safety Program Manager. Gabriela Pedreros joined WashU EM as the new Marketing & Communications student worker.

Professional Development

WashU EM personnel took advantage of multiple training and educational opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge as part of the department's focus on professional development. Brandon Robbins and Anna Taylor attended the Continuity Insights Management Conference in April. Chet Hunter received his Masters degree in Public Service and Safety Leadership in May. Becky Brosch, Eric Wilkinson, Chet Hunter, Ryan Nicholls and Ty Davission attended the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in November.

Community Involvement

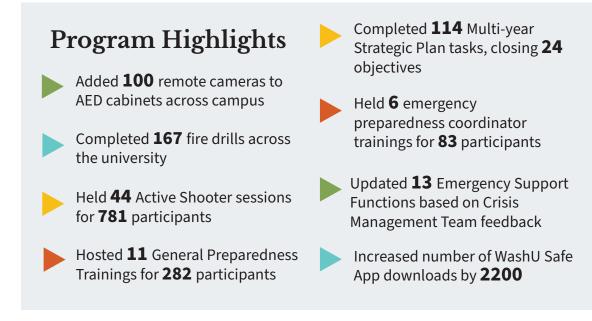
Additionally, the staff held numerous leadership positions in community and regional organizations. Brandon served on the AmeriCorps Board. Ryan served as Chair of the AmeriCorps Board, Chair of the St. Louis Regional Healthcare Coalition and Treasurer/Secretary of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Region 7. Chet served as President of IAEM Region 7.

Program Updates

In March and September, the department hosted Ready Week, a campuswide initiative that engages the WashU community and promotes emergency preparedness. This year's events featured a Storm Spotter class, a virtual escape room and bleeding control trainings. Over 500 staff, faculty and students were reached through giveaways and events.

WashU EM also participated in the Missouri Statewide Tornado Drill in March and the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill in October. Over 100 members of the WashU community joined in on the drills.

The EM team promoted campus readiness through completion of the COVID-19 After Action Report, highlighting lessons learned during the pandemic. The department also revised and updated continuity and recovery plans, and developed an Executive Policy Group handbook. EM worked diligently in the virtual response software, Veoci, to enhance project management and incident response capabilities among EM staff and the Crisis Management Team.





Emergency Training & Response

Refreshing knowledge and skills through training and exercises is vital to maintaining a prepared university. In November, EM held a tabletop exercise for the Crisis Management Team that simulated a campus-wide power outage. The department also hosted a tabletop exercise for information security resilience in December. Multiple life safety trainings and fire drills were held throughout the year for students and employees.

EOC Activations

Emergency Operations Center activations bring together EM staff and campus partners to respond to major university events and unexpected crises. The EOC was activated for the 2021/2022 Commencement ceremonies in May. Staff worked before and after to ensure attendee safety and well-being, especially during a tornado warning and severe weather that disrupted celebrations.

In July, the EOC was activated during a power outage that affected a large portion of the Danforth Campus. In August, the EOC was activated following historic floods that hit the St. Louis region.