



# Emergency Management 2018 Year in Review



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## Departmental Updates

- In 2018, the Washington University in St. Louis All-Hazards Mitigation Plan was completed.
- Staff member, Sarah Rennie was promoted to Communications and Community Preparedness Engagement Program Manager. She previously served as the department's Administrative Coordinator.
- In the Fall of 2018, Sara Levine was added to the EM staff as the new Administrative Coordinator.



## Community Involvement

Emergency management is a community effort. In order to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters, organizations must work together and build on each other's strengths. To cultivate relationships within the community, WashU EM staff members have taken on leadership roles with local, state and national organizations.

**Missouri Emergency Management Association:** Chet Hunter, assistant director, served as the president.

**Local Emergency Preparedness Commission (LEPC):** Anna Taylor, planning specialist, served on the Board of Directors.

**International Association of Emergency Managers:** Ty Davisson, director, served as a representative for region VII of the University Colleges Caucus. Ryan Nicholls, served as region VII Secretary/Treasurer.

**St. Louis Area Regional Response System:** Ryan Nicholls, assistant director, served as a board member and the member at large officer for the Coalition of Organizations Active in Disaster.

**Mid-America Contingency Planning Forum:** Brandon Robbins, business continuity manager, served as the vice president.

**Public Relations Society of America St. Louis Chapter:** Sarah Rennie, communications program manager, served on the Board of Directors as Technology Chair.



## Professional Development

Professional development continues to be a strategic focus and core value for the EM Department. Each member of the team sought opportunities to acquire new skills and grow within the EM profession.

### Certification:

- Life Safety Program Manager Eric Wilkinson completed the process to become Associated Emergency Manager.

### Training:

- Director Ty Davisson completed FEMA's Executive Emergency Management Academy.
- Assistant Director Chet Hunter completed the Type III All-Hazards Section Chief training hosted by the Missouri Incident Management System

## 2019 Goals

- Complete the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.
- Establish and train on the virtual incident management platform, Veoci.
- Continue professional development for EM staff, including the Certified Emergency Manager program, Advanced Public Information Officer certification and FEMA academy completions



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

**Mission Statement:** 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.

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## WashU Continuity

- Developed first Continuity of Operations Framework for the university.
- Completed 50% of Critical Departments continuity of operations plans.
- Continued work with Department of Medicine in developing continuity plans for clinics, business operations, and labs.
- Completed WashU Continuity of Operations Framework
- Completed WashU Continuity of Governance plan
- In total, 34 Departments / Divisions / Schools have started or completed the Continuity Planning Process



## Planning

**Recovery Plan:** A planning group was formed to develop the WashU All-Hazards Recovery Plan. The recovery plan establishes framework for effective coordination to accomplish recovery tasks resulting from a natural or human-caused disaster that must take place to enable WashU to return to, at a minimum, a semblance of normalcy following a disaster. It is the phase of emergency management that follows the initial crisis response and continuity of operations (COOP) activities.

**Mitigation Plan:** The Washington University in St. Louis All-Hazards Mitigation Plan was completed in 2018. The Hazard Mitigation Advisory group continues to meet semi-annually to evaluate the overall progress of the WashU Mitigation Program.

**Veoci:** A virtual incident management tool, Veoci, was implemented in all facets of the Emergency Management planning program to support incident action planning, information sharing for daily emergency management on-call operations and development of outdoor event emergency plans for special events.

## Life Safety

- One hundred seventy-one fire drills were conducted (Med school – 44; Danforth 127).
- Twenty-two presentations for a total of 763 participants (Active Shooter – 6 sessions, General Preparedness – 16 sessions)
- Created an Office Emergency Plan in Veoci for EPCs as well as faculty and staff to use.
- Assisted in coordinating the Best Available Refuge Area (BARA) project and facilitated the creation and placement of new campus emergency maps on the Danforth, North, and West campuses.
- Coordinated reorganization of an EPC toolkit on the EM website for a one-stop place for EPCs to visit for available resources.
- Developed new life safety standards to be incorporated into the project manager manuals on Danforth and Med School campuses while building new construction and renovating



## Response Operations

- In January, EM staff worked closely with Barnes-Jewish Hospital for during an officer involved shooting event. A Joint Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated.
- The Danforth EOC activated for the Fraternity Weapon on Campus incident
- EM staff worked the Spring and Fall WILD student event.
- The EOC was activated for the Commencement ceremony and activities.
- In November, a winter storm hit the St. Louis area and EM worked closely with partners to keep the campus community safe.



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## Community Engagement

### Social Media Growth

393+ NEW FOLLOWERS

### Ready Week Success

657 newsletter subscribers  
GROWTH OF 456 SUBSCRIBERS

77 complete emergency preparedness kits given out to students

176 views on our first EMERGING STORIES series

Brand Consistency over all internal and external department documents

The Training and Exercise Planning Workshop was expanded to increase departmental participation and doubled attendance using an individual assessment format. These assessments identified departmental training and exercise needs for 2019-2021.

## Training

- Facilities Emergency Response Group (FERG) training was re-vamped and the WUSM Facilities Department had 39 participants participate in trainings.
- Plan Orientations were launched with 5 departments completing at least a plan orientation.
- A new training was developed for ESF Liaisons introducing the basics of Veoci, the university's new incident management software.
- EM offered 7 ICS training courses in 2018 with 97 completions. This was the first year an ICS 300 class was offered on the Danforth campus and had 10 WashU participants.
- Through collaboration with WUPD and Protective Services, ICS records for personnel were updated, leading to a recorded 250+ online ICS completions this year.



## Exercises

- The Medical Public Affairs Crisis Communications Team participated in their first tabletop exercise demonstrating their understanding of Emergency Support Function 15 and their team's role in an EOC activation.
- WUPD Command Staff participated in a tabletop

- exercise to evaluate coordination and response procedures in the case of a residential evacuation due to severe winter weather and utility outages.
- Emergency Management conducted an EOC Activation exercise in the WUSM Alternate EOC to test procedures and familiarize EM staff with Veoci's use during an activation.
- The Training & Exercise Program continued to provide support to agency-specific exercises, such as the Kidney Centers, Emergency Support Team, and St. Louis County Department of Public Health.
- The Crisis Management Team participated in their first tabletop exercise as a cohesive group. This exercise provided participants to familiarize themselves with their roles within the EOC and the roles of other liaisons.



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