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**RISKAlert**

September 2017

## Emergency Management Planning



**ARE YOU  
PREPARED?**

As a result of the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, the existing emergency service structure in Houston was overwhelmed. Houston city officials indicated that their 911 service received 56,000 calls in a single 15 hour period. The flooding, continuous rain and impassible roads hampered assistance from outside of the affected area. Not surprisingly, whether for a day or days, communities, hospitals, nursing homes and colleges were isolated and left to fend for themselves for a period of time. Now we are facing Irma and there are still almost 3 months until the hurricane season is over not to mention other potential disasters such as the wildfires in the west.

Educational institutions have emergency management plans in place. In many jurisdictions, emergency plans and related staff and student training is required and not an option.

In a disaster, emergency responders categorize their response, given the needs of the people and the circumstances at hand. Schools, particularly pre-K and elementary schools, typically receive priority if evacuation or assistance is required. However, response time and the degree of assistance provided vary and cannot be predicted.

When reviewing your plans this year, evaluate your ability to protect students and staff with limited outside assistance. Items to check include:

- Generators and fuel supplies
- Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food per person
- Water - one gallon per person per day
- How to account for students and staff

- First aid supplies
- Staffing - adequate staff with the ability to cook or feed students and staff, manage building utilities, provide student supervision and security
- Blankets and cots
- Activities for students
- Ability to communicate internally and externally
- Emergency contact information, both for staff and parents, as well as local emergency responders, hospitals and other agencies
- Student medication
- Ability to move to an offsite location if circumstances change

For colleges and universities or schools that have student housing:

- Determine if the infirmary can continue to operate, and if not, if there is an alternative location where people can go to for emergency treatment.
- Check on students with disabilities or those who have limited mobility.

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management. <https://www.fema.gov/> FEMA has extensive emergency management planning information for both K-12 and higher education.



September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month (NCSAM). Passed by Congress in 2008, NCSAM was created to increase the public's awareness of campus violence and to develop violence prevention methods.

According to data published by the Office for Victims of Crime, January 2017, reports of violent and personal crime (on college campuses) as reported by the Clery Act and through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) have been stable, with the exception of forcible sexual offenses and rape. The Federal Bureau of Investigation separately collects reports from campus police as well as local and state law enforcement agencies through the UCR. Personal crimes reported under the Clery Act show a significant increase of forcible sexual offenses, increasing from 5,685 incidents in 2005 to 17,441 in 2014. Rape, reported as a violent crime to law enforcement through UCR more than doubled, from 501 reported incidents in to 1,169 for the same period. While improved incident reporting, changes in reporting and other factors should be considered when analyzing this trend, sexual assault remains a major concern on college campuses.

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) reports in *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2016* that overall, property crimes (e.g., burglary and motor vehicle theft) are the most prevalent types of on-campus crimes. On-campus arrests are mostly a result of a liquor or drug law violation.

College and university administrators, through risk identification, legal compliance, awareness efforts and training are well engaged to make their campuses safe and welcoming for students, staff and others. Fortunately, there is a plethora of information available through different organizations and government agencies to help with this endeavor. For example:

- **Clery Center** (<https://clerycenter.org/>)
- **National Center for Educational Statistics - U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs** (<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs16.pdf>)
- **The National Criminal Justice Reference Service** (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/campussafetyawareness/crimeandsafety.html>)
- **U.S. Department of Justice - Overview of Title IX** (<https://www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments-1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq>)
- **U.S. Secret Service** (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus-attacks.pdf>)

Wright Specialty Insurance has resources for educational institutions on its website, including the Title IX Resource Center located within our Risk Management Resource Center: <http://www.wrightspecialty.com/brokers-and-agents.html>

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Wright Specialty Insurance, 333 Earle Ovington Blvd., Suite 505, Uniondale, NY 11553

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