

Our VISION:
A Disaster
Resistant
University as a
global model for
other institutions
of higher learning.

Our MISSION:
To administer a
campus-based
comprehensive
emergency manage-
ment program in
partnership with
UW academic
departments,
operating units,
staff, administration
and neighboring
jurisdictions in
order to save lives,
protect property
and safeguard the
environment.

Disaster Digest

VOLUME V ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015



Director's Corner

Steve Charvat, UWEM Director

PRIDE: It's a word not often spoken loudly or publicly here at the UW or even in the Pacific Northwest. Perhaps it is due to the area's long-entrenched culture of being introverted, relaxed, laid-back, nature-loving or just being "polite". Having not been born here and living all over the country, it took me a few years to learn to fit into the unique culture of being a true northwesterner. However, recently I have seen a resurgence of pride... some may even call it swagger or bravado in two specific aspects of my personal and professional life that I would like to share with you this New Year. First off (and fully understanding that this may alienate *some* of our readers), I am proud to say that I have been a Seattle Seahawks fan for over 12 years and a season ticket holder for the past 7. Yes, even in the very dark days when they did not even qualify for the post-season playoffs. But this year's Super Bowl win and their encouraging season to-date, once again make me a PROUD member of the Seahawks nation. From wearing my Blue Pride colors each Friday (along with something purple for the UW, of course), to trudging to every home game come rain, snow, traffic or even a losing season, I have always been proud of our home team – no matter how challenging the environment may be.

This same sense of pride is also apparent when I talk about our staff here at UWEM. While we are indeed a small office with an often misunderstood mission, I walk around campus with my head held high when asked to describe my staff. From our outstanding student employees and interns, past employees who are now national experts in their respective fields, to our current UWEM staff, my pride is apparent. Just this past November, we learned that the entire UW Emergency Management Department became **the only emergency management agency in the State of Washington where 100% of its staff are Certified Emergency Managers (CEM®)**. Ms. Siri McLean, our

Plans and Training Manager recently received her national CEM certification at an awards banquet in San Antonio, TX, bringing us to that 100% level. What does that mean for the UW? That collectively, all of your UWEM department is now able to bring the most current, up-to-date and cutting edge knowledge, skills and abilities to bear when guiding our campus emergency management programs. 2015 will continue to bring us more challenges and opportunities. Our Pride in Accomplishment and continuous improvement will continue to guide us in meeting those challenges and welcoming each opportunity head on!



Partner of the Quarter: Clayton Brainerd



For over 6 years, UWEM and our affiliated U-wide Emergency Management Planning Committee has presented our “Partner of the Quarter” Award to qualified and worthy recipients from throughout the entire UW system -- from over 9 departments on the main Seattle campus, to the UW Medical Center and even the Bothell and Tacoma campuses. However often times, as the old saying goes, “*we may not see the forest through the trees.*” That is why, for the first time, our October – December 2014 “Partner of the Quarter” was quite easy to find – as he literally was right under our collective noses in our own backyard. By unanimous vote, the recipient of this quarter’s award is Mr. Clayton Brainerd, Human Resources Analyst in Facilities Services (FS). In a light-hearted ceremony on December 10, 2014, Mr. Brainerd was presented

with his certificate in front of over 100 of his FS peers. Clayton was recognized for providing an invaluable number of safety and emergency compliance services on behalf of the UW and UWEM. Specifically, Clayton has served the last 4 years as a constant proponent of safety training, emergency planning, building evaluation and earthquake drill compliance and scheduling and assisting the UWEM Department in a number of events and activities where outside assistance was needed or requested. Clayton’s “can-do” attitude and positive outlook on disaster and emergency planning represents a true partnership between the UWEM Department and the rest of the nearly 1,000-member Facilities Services organization. Congratulations Clayton. You are indeed a role model for others at the UW. Take a bow!

FEMA & Operation Hope Release Revised Emergency Financial First-Aid Kit



FEMA and Operation Hope released an updated tool to support emergency preparedness. The Emergency Financial First-Aid Kit (EFFAK) is a flexible tool to help individuals and families at all income levels collect and secure for themselves critical documents and information. With recommendations for household information, financial and legal documentation, medical information, and household contacts, the EFFAK provides a structured approach for safeguarding the documentation needed to start the recovery process. The EFFAK includes a fillable form for families to track their documentation on-line. The revised EFFAK is available on the [FEMA website](#). Support materials are also available for organizations to use in promoting financial preparedness with their constituents at [ready.gov/prepare](#).

Welcome our New UWEM Student Employees



Stacie Smith is a graduate student at the University of Washington studying for her Masters in Infrastructure Planning and Management (MIPM). The MIPM program provides candidates with a deeper understanding of infrastructure systems, including how to increase resiliency and sustain-

ability within each system to counter terrorist acts, extreme natural events, climate change, or other more common accidents. Stacie's interest in Infrastructure Planning and Emergency Management stems from a passion for public health, community, and the environment. She is highly organized, personally motivated, and eager for the constant professional development opportunities presented by the UW Emergency Management Department.

Besides the typical UWEM staff duties, Stacie's focus as a student employee will be assisting the department in the initial development of a series of critical disaster response and recovery plans with an emphasis on the following operational areas: Donations and Volunteer Management, Resource Management, Recovery Planning, and Debris Management.

Prior to her endeavors at the University of Washington, Stacie received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Western Washington University, with a minor in Philosophy. Her work history includes a variety of responsibilities in private residences as well as a Personal Account Representative at a local community bank, meanwhile spending many volunteer hours at the Whatcom Humane Society in Bellingham, WA and Farms for Life here in Seattle, WA.

As a Pacific Northwest native, Stacie enjoys spending time outside as often as possible. Typical adventures include her boyfriend and their two dogs. While her list of destinations traveled to is already relatively impressive, she looks forward to seeing and experiencing more of the world in the future.



Jennifer (Jenn) Knick is an undergraduate student at the University of Washington. She anticipates graduating with a degree in Law, Society, and Justice in the spring of 2015. When asking Jenn what she wanted to be when she grows up she smiled and confidently said, "I want to be the Chief of Police".

Her confident presence and natural ability to lead by example all while staying calm, cool, and collected in any situation is something she takes pride in.

While going to school Jennifer also works full-time for the Seattle Police Department as a 911 Dispatcher, she has been with SPD since the fall of 2012. Jennifer is excited to integrate her acquired knowledge and training from SPD and step into the realm of emergency management. Her primary project will be to develop Social Media Policies and Procedures for UWEM based on current national Best Practices from other colleges and universities around the country. She will be researching how the UW can effectively and efficiently monitor and filter social media during an evolving emergency or disaster to track the ever-changing dynamics of the situation. The information collected from social media will be valuable, and provide instantaneous updates of the ever-changing circumstances on the ground, while provide intelligence to coordinate people and resources for the citizens and students affected.

Jennifer was born and raised in West Seattle, graduating from Seattle Lutheran High School in 2004. She played an integral part in founding the schools softball program and went on to lead the team to the State Tournament in her junior year. Jennifer has five older brothers and a younger sister which leads us to believe she is probably a ninja. If Jennifer did have any free time for hobbies you might find her SCUBA diving, hunting, fishing, or out hiking with her little pug named Lola.

When a Storm Isn't All that it was Cracked Up to Be

The Seattle Weather Service had been warning us for 3 days to get ready for a potential series of storms of historic proportion. The local TV and radio news outlets sent out their yellow jacket-wearing newscasters to all 4-corners of



the state in anticipation of some Emmy Award winning coverage... only to be disappointed in the end. In this era of 24/7 “BREAKING NEWS” coverage – now via all forms of social media – we often are inundated with information overload of pending disaster, doom and/or gloom. But what happens when the media’s predicted end-of-the-world scenarios don’t really pan out? Well, like most people, we emergency managers and disaster gurus go back to our normal business of preparedness, planning and training. We also take these events as learning opportunities and timely excuses to beef up our plans, policies and procedures. During the week of December 8-12, Western Washington (as well as most of the West Coast) experienced a series of warm, wet and drenching rainstorms courtesy of what we now call the “[Pineapple Express](#)”. While the rain was heavy and the winds were pretty fierce, the expected media Armageddon did not materialize. But during that time UWEM staff (as well as their friends and family), did an inventory on their disaster kits, updated their checklists and ensured that they are ready for the next time disaster strikes. It also gave many of us a chance to think of new holiday gift ideas. If you or your department would like a 2015 tune-up for your staff on how best to be prepared, please contact us for a variety of resources – FREE workshops, classes, our fun public outreach activities – that can help you get ready for your next “BIG ONE”. Contact us at 206-897-8000 or via email at disaster@uw.edu for how we can help you!

Could there Really be a “Volcano Season”?



The Earth seems to be smoking a lot recently. Volcanoes are currently erupting in Iceland, Hawaii, Indonesia and Mexico. Others, in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, erupted recently but seem to have calmed down. And then there was the fatal eruption in Japan. Many of these have threatened homes and forced evacuations. But among their less-endangered spectators, these eruptions may have raised a question: Is there such a thing as a season for volcanic eruptions? Read more at: <http://arstechnica.com/science/2014/10/could-there-really-be-a-volcano-season/>

UWEM Assists with Recovery at Marysville-Pilchuck High School



On October 24, 2014 a distraught young student at Marysville-Pilchuck High School shot several classmates and then turned the gun on himself in the school cafeteria during lunch. At the time of the incident the Marysville-Pilchuck School District did not have an emergency manager and the City of Marysville's newly hired emergency manager had not yet began her position with the City.

City of Everett emergency management staff member Mary Schoenfeldt, PhD had been asked to provide aid and assistance. Dr. Schoenfeldt is a nationally recognized expert in emergency management and the recovery activities following school-related shootings. She was one of the experts assisting the local officials following the December 14, 2012 shooting incidents at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newton, Connecticut.

When Dr. Schoenfeldt arrived at the Marysville School District administrative offices and met with the Superintendent, she recognized that she needed more qualified emergency management professionals to assist the School District in managing the multitude of challenges in the aftermath of the incident. This outreach went to a handful of professional colleagues who Mary knew, including UW Emergency Management (UWEM).

Scott Preston from UWEM spent a total of 5 days assisting, much of it during off-hours, as needed by the School District. Scott had initially been brought in to help coordinate volunteers and donations management, but upon meeting the Marysville-Pilchuck High School administration and security staff, was tasked to fulfill a more direct role of augmenting campus security and advising on various recovery issues.

Wearing his official UWEM jacket and driving the marked UWEM vehicle, Scott was easily identifiable and was approached by members of the Community who expressed appreciation for the UW's support during that difficult time. The UW was recognized as being a compassionate regional partner for a community in need.

One interesting lesson that Scott, who is a 10-year emergency management career professional and veteran emergency responder, identified was to balance the needs of the individual (i.e. what the specific staff, faculty and community members needed) against the best emergency management practices and needs of the incident (i.e. what is commonly done to restore order in a methodical fashion using the Incident Command System). It was in the recognition of that need for balance that he worked with the other emergency managers to identify how best to assist the individuals of the community and school district so as to empower them to best manage the overall needs of the incident.

AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!™

Be Smart. Take Part. Prepare.

Join the 2015 Campaign today!

Resolve to be ready!

The goal of this campaign is to increase the number of individuals who:

- Understand which disasters could happen in their community
- Know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage
- Take action to increase their preparedness
- Participate in community resilience planning

What You Can DO:

- Register to participate in [America's PrepareAthon!](#) and provide details about the activities you're planning
- Plan your own local community or organizational preparedness event
- Participate in discussion forums online with like-minded community members
- Learn the actions to take for disaster preparedness and practice them!

Prep Your Vehicle

Winter is in full swing here in the Pacific Northwest. Weather is unpredictable as are emergencies. Make sure you and your loved ones have the necessary items to survive. Take the time to make sure your kit is prepared, available and accessible. Best strategy is to plan ahead and be prepared. Having emergency supplies stocked and accessible at home is a great idea, but having a [kit in your vehicle](#) is imperative in case you are far from home and unable to return. We have compiled a list of need to/should have items in case you get stuck out in the elements this winter.

How to build your kit: [Video](#) and [FEMA's Emergency Supply Checklist](#)

- Bottled water and [Non-perishable high energy foods](#)
- Granola bars, [MRE's](#), Peanut butter, Canned food
- [Rechargeable Flashlight](#)
- NOAA Weather Radio
- [Sleeping bag](#) / Blankets / Hand warmers
- Extra set of warm clothes and shoes
- [First aid kit](#)
- Whistle
- Booster Cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Maps
- [Shovel](#)
- Flares



Don't Forget Your Pet When Disaster Strikes

Many of us forget about our beloved pets when disaster *planning*. For example, most households have a compilation of first-aid components (Band-Aids, Neosporin, alcohol wipes, etc.) in a designated closet, shelf, or drawer at home. But do you have a similar kit ready for your furry companion as well? While pet emergency medical needs will vary, most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape, and scissors. Some veterinarians will suggest a child's dosing of aspirin to relieve a pet's pain, or make them drowsy/calm in stressful situations. FEMA suggests creating two kits: one with everything you and your pets will need to **stay where you are**, and one that is both smaller and lighter for when you **need to get away**. Emergency-ready kits for pets should contain enough food and water for at least three days. Store your pet's food in a locked, air-tight container—ensuring your pet gets proper nutrition during an emergency will keep both your pet and your community safe. Your pet-protection kit should also include an extra collar, ID tag, and leash *per* animal, medical and adoption records, a picture of you and the animal(s) and sanitation resources. Cleaning up after your pet is just another safety concern during an emergency; include plastic bags, litter, newspapers or paper towels and household chlorine bleach. A picture will come in handy if your pet becomes lost. Lastly, adding some familiar toys, treats, and/or bedding into the kit will likely reduce stress levels in your pet in the event of emergency.

To get started today, take this pet preparedness quiz and see how you do!

[Quiz: How prepared are you in an Emergency?](#)

[Protect Your Pets During Emergencies](#)



**Learn
CPR
Save Lives**



UWEM Trained 151 FS Employees in First Aid & CPR in 2014

UW Emergency Management has been training Facilities Services employees in the 8-hour American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid and CPR/AED class for a while now. Certified staff from UWEM frequently works with the FS Training Center to provide 2 four-hour class sessions per month to train FS employees on how to properly perform CPR, use of an AED and provide basic first aid for medical situations that range from choking to a heart attack. UWEM's approach to training is very hands-on (which appeals to our FS employees as skilled trade professionals who are very hands-on folks themselves). The class has become well-known for being a demanding, but effective way to confidently learn and retain first aid and CPR skills.

In 2014, UWEM staff trained 151 employees of Facilities Services, saving an estimated \$6,040 in external training costs for Facilities Services.

Earthquake Early Warning System

Article courtesy of Bill Steele, PNSN Director of Information Services

The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (PNSN) will start sending Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Alert messages from the UW to a dozen or so regional beta testers via the Java application UserDisplay. This is a training exercise both for the PNSN and the beta testers. The EEW PNSN research and development project is part of the USGS-coordinated West Coast EEW System (WCEEW) under development. This is a brief overview on how EEW works now in Washington and Oregon.

How does EEW work? (See also [EEW Fact Sheet 2014-3083](#))

EEW is made possible by three main contributing factors:

- 1) Less destructive P waves travel faster than the more destructive S waves, and so will arrive first at any given location.
- 2) A dense seismic station network near the earthquake source can quickly detect seismic waves well before the more significant shaking will arrive at more distant population centers.
- 3) Data transmission to PNSN, processing at PNSN, and distribution to the end user is very fast relative to seismic travel times.

The amount of warning time increases rapidly with one's distance from the epicenter, and there will be a minimum distance from the hypocenter of the earthquake within which early warning is not possible. For a more detailed picture of the system, please read the [USGS implementation plan for WCEEW](#).

What elements of EEW will the PNSN implement at this stage?

This is the first implementation of an EEW system in Washington and Oregon. We will provide alerts using the ElarmS algorithm of the [CISN ShakeAlert suite](#). This algorithm uses data from the PNSN's regional seismometers to rapidly detect an earthquake and estimate its location and magnitude. The ElarmS program sends XML-formatted "Alerts" to a Decision Module that determines whether the alerts are "reliable" and, if so, passes them to the end-user via the UserDisplay client app. The UserDisplay is configurable by the end-user to provide an estimate of time and level of shaking intensity at a specified locale.

ElarmS will only provide accurate alerts for earthquakes up to about magnitude 7. Future refinements of the system will allow alerts to be updated in the case that earthquakes grow to magnitude 9 and beyond.

We expect to send alerts for all earthquakes larger than M3 in the states of Oregon and Washing-

ton west of 121° W (approximately the Cascade range). This is the area where station density is sufficient to develop and transmit warnings before strong shaking arrives and where the most people live and work. Warnings for Vancouver Island and coastal northernmost California are also possible. Warnings for California are already available in prototype stage.

What are the goals of this release?

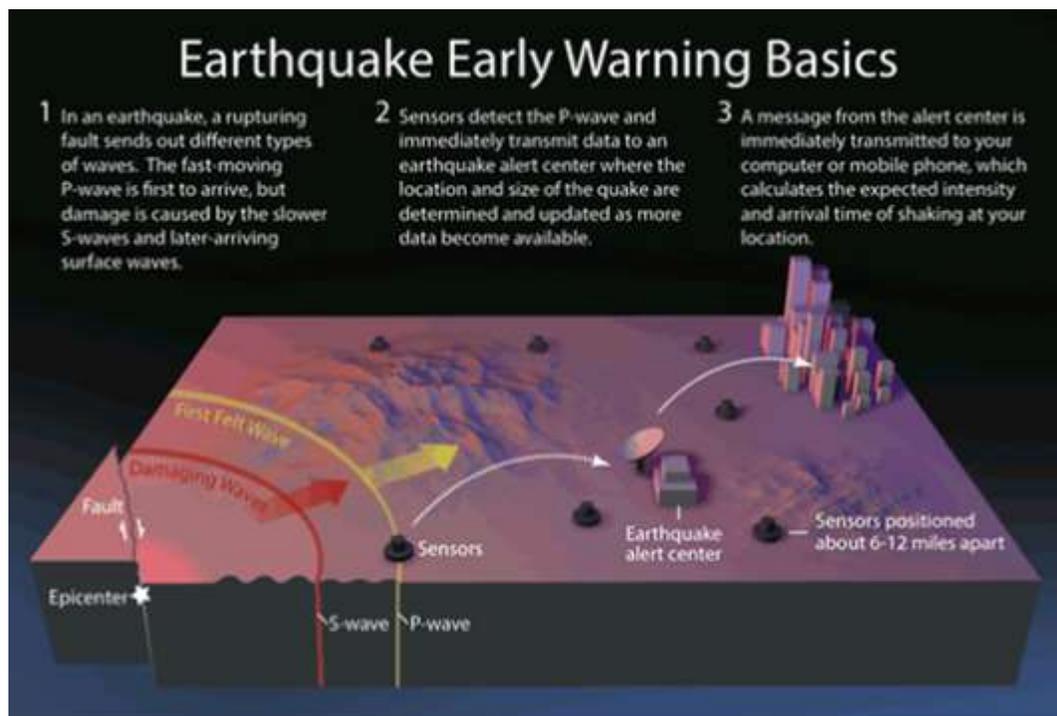
We are providing Earthquake Early Warnings to a restricted group of beta-users to obtain input from stakeholders to improve messaging, work out possible kinks in the delivery mechanism, demonstrate the reliability of the system, and to learn how organizations might reduce losses utilizing alerts from the future “operational” WCEEW system we are working to develop.

What is the track record of ElarmS alerts to date (in PNSN)?

Real-time and playback tests of ElarmS with Pacific Northwest earthquakes have shown our system to be fairly accurate and reliable, however, false alerts and missed events are possible. Details will be presented at the Feb 17th workshop. Seismic network and telemetry improvements, continued software development, and stable operational funding will be required for the system to become robust enough to take actions based on the alerts it generates.

Who can participate in this project?

The PNSN has invited about 15 diverse organizations that have attended briefings and have agreed to assist the PNSN in the development of the WCEEW system. These partners understand that false alerts are probable in this development period and will not allow the experimental alerts to escape the test group. The size of the test group will be very limited for at least a year. However, we will be making a list of interested organizations that may be asked to join the development group once we are ready to expand it. Ultimately, the USGS and Canadian partners will need to be funded to run the WCEEW system in an operational manner for the warnings to be robust and available to all.



Modern World, Modern Preparation



Is there an app for that? In this day and age, just about every person past elementary school has a smart phone. Those between the ages of 16-65 are increasingly tied to these mini-computers for administrative purposes—keeping a detailed calendar of events for both work and home, sending and receiving email, reading the news, communicating with friends, family, and strangers alike, and for strictly entertainment purposes, Candy Crush anyone?

In an effort to link this modern world with a practical one, we have been researching apps for smartphones related to preparedness. While some are simply entertaining, some are very practical indeed. Check out:

Preppers: This *game* is a spoof on the television show *Doomsday Preppers* on the National Geographic Channel. It is similar to a game (*Tiny Tower*) that was popular a few years ago. Essentially, the player will build floors for purposes of shelter, food, security, medical needs, sanitation, and entertainment. While this is just for fun, the underlying notion of what is needed in the event of emergency is present.

72 Hours App: This app is a tool for keeping a 72 Hour Emergency Kit updated. It will help you create and manage multiple kits, remind you when items expire and should be replaced, and is able to be personalized for you and your family's needs.

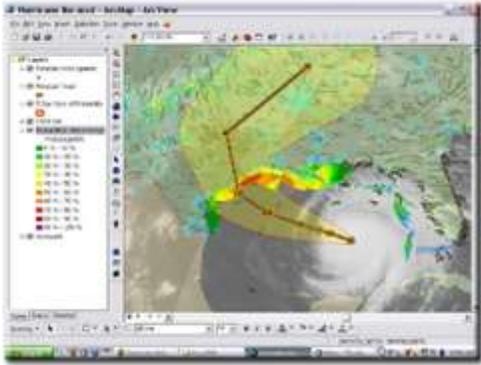
Know Your Plan: This app features property protection guidance from the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety. Know Your Plan contains disaster preparedness checklists for hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, severe winter weather and evacuations. It also gives you the option of setting up reminders to complete a task, tracking your progress and customizing and sharing checklists with your social network.

But, preparedness is only half the battle. Here are the top apps to consider for when disaster becomes reality:

FEMA: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) app contains preparedness information for different types of disasters, an interactive checklist for emergency kits, a section to plan emergency meeting locations, information on how to stay safe and recover after a disaster and a map with FEMA Disaster Recovery Center locations and shelters.

Shelter Finder: This app from the American Red Cross displays current shelter information from the National Shelter System, which is updated every 30 minutes. The app maps locations across the U.S., and includes details such as the agency managing the shelter, capacity of the shelter and current population, the associated disaster event and the specific shelter address and location.

Pocket First Aid & CPR: This app from the American Heart Association provides quick, concise and clear first aid and CPR instructions from a user's smartphone. The most recent update features 34 videos and 46 high-resolution illustrations, reorganized content to make it easier to find help in an emergency, an improved user experience and new search functionality.



GIS in Emergency Management

Geographic information systems (GIS) are a way to visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends. GIS-based maps and visualizations greatly assist in understanding situations and in storytelling. They are a type of language that improves communication between different teams, departments, disciplines, professional fields, organizations, and the public. GIS is a growing field with numerous applications across multiple industries including Emergency management.

GIS is an effective technology for all phases of emergency management. To prepare for and mitigate emergencies, GIS can map and model potential disasters to help visualize critical vulnerabilities and damage consequences. As rebuilding begins, GIS aids local, state, and federal agencies with technology that supports collaboration between multiple agencies. Field data captured with mobile GIS provides the ability to add updates from remote locations for more efficient incident management. It also supplies rapid damage assessment and more accurate recovery operations.

The following core capabilities can be enhanced using GIS technology enabling staff to more effectively carry out all types of tasks for supporting every kind of public safety emergency.

Planning and Analysis

GIS is the most complete information system for analyzing, modeling, and displaying community vulnerability. When hazard locations can be viewed along with critical infrastructure, risk exposure becomes apparent. This information can be used to determine potential impacts and appropriate mitigation requirements.

Data Management

To achieve comprehensive preparedness, a great deal of information must be gathered and maintained in advance of an event. ArcGIS, a component of GIS, is a flexible information platform that enables full integration with other information systems. Accurate cataloging of GIS data and services, combined with an organization's existing investments, gives an edge for turning raw data into useful information.

Field Operations

Getting accurate information from field operations back to the command center can be a difficult challenge. With mobile GIS, field crews can easily capture data and have it sent back for incorporation in the common operating picture. Commanders get a more accurate and dynamic understanding of conditions on the ground. New data can be sent to field teams so they have the best information possible for staying safe and protecting lives.

For more information visit www.esri.com.



Ham Radio, Still an Essential Tool?

Amateur Radio or Ham Radio is a popular hobby and service in which licensed Amateur Radio operators also known as hams operate a specific type of communications equipment. Ham radio has been around for over 100 years, but in our ever-advancing interconnected world is Ham Radio still an essential Emergency Management tool? The answer is a resounding, "Yes!" Ham radio has consistently been the most reliable means of communication in emergencies when other systems failed or were overloaded. When cell phones, landlines, the Internet, and other forms of radio fail, Ham can still function as it always has. Following Hurricane Katrina existing communications systems were completely incapacitated. Ham radio was the primary way response and relief was coordinated until primary systems could be brought back online. Many of the responding ham radio operators were volunteers. There are about 630,000 hams in the USA, with ham radio clubs and gatherings all over the country. Although Amateur Radio operators get involved for many reasons, they all have in common a basic knowledge of radio technology and operating principles, and have to pass an FCC licensing examination to be able to operate on radio frequencies known as the "Amateur Bands." These bands are radio frequencies reserved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use by ham radio operators. The word "HAM" comes from the station call of the first amateur wireless station operated by Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Pogie Murray. They established their station in 1908 and at first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY," but later this was shortened to HAM. For more information visit <http://www.arrl.org/emergency-radio-org>.



If you have a HAM radio license and are interested in being part of an emergency response team at the UW please contact disaster@uw.edu

Social Media & Emergency Management

Social media is and will continue to become an integral part of disaster response. It has been proven to fill the communication void in areas where cell phone service is lost, and millions of Americans look to Twitter and Facebook to keep informed, locate loved ones, notify authorities, and express support during disaster events. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) wrote in its 2013 National Preparedness report that during and immediately following Hurricane Sandy, “users sent more than 20 million Sandy-related Twitter posts, or “tweets,” despite the loss of cell phone service during the peak of the storm.”

In response to this phenomenon and recent catastrophic disasters like the Japanese earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear event in 2011, Facebook and Twitter have both developed tools specifically designed to supplement Emergency Management and Response. The Facebook tool known as Safety Check helps people connect and communicate with friends and family in the event of a natural or man made disaster. When a disaster hits it lets Facebook users quickly alert family and friends that they are safe by designating a particular geographical area as a crisis zone and letting users, it believes are in the area, access the interface. The service attempts to detect your location via Facebook’s “Nearby Friends” tool, the city listed in your profile, or where you’ve recently logged in. It then sends a push notification asking if you are safe, and if you respond “yes,” friends and family will be notified via their Facebook News Feeds.

Twitter has its own system called Twitter Alerts that lets user or users push critical alerts to their subscribers. Using a specialized Tweet composer, the user can craft a Tweet and tag it as critical. This critical Tweet will be instantly delivered to the user’s subscribers as a push notification or text message. In addition to getting distributed directly to subscribers’ phones, Twitter Alerts are designed to draw attention, standing out from other Tweets on followers’ Timelines, across twitter.com, and the Twitter mobile apps. Just like other Tweets, Twitter Alerts can be retweeted, favorite, and replied to, expanding their reach beyond your direct followers.

Both these tools are helpful but not perfect. They cannot be used as official reporting devices and are susceptible to misuse including unintentional and intentional user error. Nevertheless they provide unofficial but critical situational awareness to emergency professionals and important information to friends and family. For more information visit <https://about.twitter.com/products/alerts/how-it-works> and <https://www.facebook.com/about/safetycheck/>.



UW Medical Center Teams Up with UWEM in Active Shooter Drill

By Jenn Knick

The UW Medical Center along with preparation assistance from UW Emergency Management was involved in an Active Shooter Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training drill on December 3, 2014. Danica Little, Emergency Preparedness Manager at UWMC, strategically led the planning of the drill to assess the hospital staffs' response to an overwhelming and complex scenario that entailed an active shooter coming inside the hospital while several other injured victims walked in through the Emergency room entrance. The exercise was very successful and succeeded in testing the response procedures and communications between several agencies during a potential active shooter incident on campus. Several agencies participated including: UW Emergency Management, UW Police Department, Seattle Police Department, and Northwest Healthcare Response Network. Throughout the drill it was incredible to see the incident commanders', officers', and hospital staff professional and rapid response and reaction to the scenario. All responders and staff appeared professional, calm, and confident in their training. As a student employee here at UW it was comforting to know that these drills are taking place. It was made clear to me that our University takes pride in making sure that students and staff feel protected and safeguarded by knowing our responders continue training and preparedness for the unexpected.

Here at the Office of Emergency Management we really want to encourage any office on campus to inquire how our free training can get all staff prepared for any unforeseen occurrence. Call the Office of Emergency Management at 206-897-8000 to inquire about how our Certified Emergency Managers can get your workplace the free training it needs to be prepared for the unexpected.



Upcoming training opportunity for you!

What: Earthquake Awareness & Personal Preparedness

When: Friday January 30th 12:00-1:00pm

Where: UW Tower, C140-E

Contact sirim@uw.edu to sign up for this training.

Value in Volunteers

By Stacie Smith

Disaster can strike in an instant. Whether it is weather-related, manmade or due to some other cause, disasters often occur with little or no warning, which is why creating and *implementing* an emergency preparedness plan is of utmost importance. On Wednesday, December 3rd, UWEM assisted the UW Medical Center (UWMC) in a full-scale, house-wide exercise, testing response to an active shooter during a Saturday night UW Husky Football game. This is an example of emergency preparedness planning *and* implementing. The UWMC Emergency Manager, Danica Little, was testing the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) already in place to learn what improvements could be made.



Volunteers were crucial for the success of the event and began arriving at the Medical Center at 5:00 am. (Yes, that's AM and not PM!) Mostly, volunteers played the role of victims of the active shooter event, meaning they acted as direct victims of the shooter or victims injured as a result of the pure mayhem at Husky Stadium. The addition of live-action role players helps to ensure realistic patient interaction and responses with first responders and emergency department staff. Obviously, the number one goal of the UWMC is to provide quality service to patients.

Volunteers were asked to wear clothing they didn't mind ripping, tearing, or getting dirty. They were given triage cards to explain their injury from the active shooter event, and also received moulage to replicate their specific wound(s). The information provided from the volunteers after the exercise is valuable for the Emergency Department lead and the UWMC Emergency Manager. They really are the "front line" to assess the job done by the first responders in an incident such as this.

Moulage is the art of applying mock injuries, and may be as simple as applying pre-made rubber or latex "wounds" or as complex as using makeup and theatre techniques such as blood, open fractures, etc. to provide elements of realism.

Due to the importance of volunteers in any and all live-action emergency exercises, the UWEM team is always looking for more qualified volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in a future Emergency Management exercise, please email us at disaster@uw.edu.





Tuition Reimbursement After a Disaster

As universities become more reliant on tuition over State-allocated funds following a disaster, the issue of tuition and financial recovery following a large disaster for the University becomes a little more complex.

Let's assume that a significant regional event has left the University on suspended operations for 4 weeks - something that has never happened, but has the potential to occur. Think of something truly catastrophic, such as the Cascadia Subduction Fault zone rupturing, for example. Those 4 weeks of suspended operations will have cascading impacts on research, academic continuity and ultimately, graduation.

In that scenario, our institution would be faced with a very basic question that has very complex repercussions, whichever way the decision goes: Do we reimburse the students' tuition or not?

Reimbursement — Perhaps the President and Board of Regents decides to reimburse. This could represent a significant chunk of change. 2013's revenue from tuition represented about 15% of the overall revenue for the University or about \$815 million. If the University is in the middle of a major recovery effort from a disaster, it will likely be struggling under a resource (cash) shortage. Losing \$815 million could cause significant delays in returning to an acceptable level of operations. Keep in mind that loss of money or too much suspension of operations during recovery will likely mean loss of programs, services and jobs. It is good for the students, but could be a devastating cut for the University. Even tenured faculty are not safe. If you have tenure, but your program is no longer around, you may not have a job any more.

No Reimbursement - Perhaps the President and Board of Regents decide to not reimburse tuition to the students. The social and practical impacts for this decision could be enormous, to say nothing of the reputation of the University. Protests and possibly even riots could take place on campus if the students feel that they have been mistreated or feel that the University is not being fair in its decision. Some faculty and staff may even agree with the students and decide to take their work, their research or their studies elsewhere. This could have a negative impact on market share, since the UW competes for the best students, staff and faculty with other similar institutions of higher education.

The University does not have a strong plan for that scenario. Not many across the country do. Those universities that have faced that situation have dealt with every one of the impacts mentioned in this article plus others involving research, intercollegiate athletics and the arts.

The potential situation is absolutely plausible, viable and complex enough to warrant dedicated deliberation and consideration from all levels of the University *before* such an event takes place.





January: Action Plans

An earthquake is a sudden release of pent-up energy along a fault line in the earth’s crust. Without warning, the ground under your feet will begin to shake and roll. A timely response is critical. Gas leaks may have occurred, which could lead to fire and explosion. People may be injured. What you do in the *first hour* following an earthquake can save lives, reduce the severity of injuries, and save property.

February: Out of Area Contact

If you are separated from your loved ones when disasters strike, you immediately will wonder how and where they are. The stress of the event may make it difficult to remember even routine information, like phone numbers. Consequently, we recommend that every household member have an out-of-area contact card in a wallet, purse, or backpack at all times.

March: Storing Water

Water is essential for survival. The ground trembling and shaking caused by earthquakes can crack or break the lines that bring fresh water to your house. You may have to rely, for three days or more, on the water you have stored.

For more preparedness information please download your own copy of Washington State Emergency Management’s [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#).

HELP WANTED! UW Emergency Management is always looking for volunteers to be trained and ready to work in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) upon activation. If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful opportunity please email:

disaster@uw.edu

Follow us on Facebook

