Happy New Year to all of our loyal newsletter subscribers, supporters, partners and stakeholders! Like many of you, we here in UW Emergency Management (UWEM) are planning for yet another challenging and busy year. 2014 looks to be a demanding year, filled with disaster drills, exercises, planning activities and campus outreach events. While our unofficial department tagline is “Everything we do is a Disaster,” we know that expecting the unexpected may seem a bit peculiar to many of our peers. But, while we always hope for the best, it is always our collective job to plan for the worst. We never know what events, incidents or disasters can strike the UW system. Our goal is to ensure that the entire institution has the tools, resources and information needed so that when disaster strikes, we are ready to respond as efficiently and effectively as possible. Many visitors to our website and office often ask us how we can possibly meet these lofty goals with only three full-time staff. The answer is simple: we partner and utilize the resources, brainpower and expertise of our various UW and external partners. This collaborative effort is best mapped out in our five-year university-wide emergency management strategic plan. This multi-year plan, grounded in our Mission and Vision to be a disaster resilient university, provides us with a general game plan on how we hope to best accomplish various goals and objectives to meet our Vision. The old plan, which is currently under revision and public comment, can be found online (click here). Check it out and if you have any comments, suggestions or activities in mind for the next five years, please let us know by emailing us by January 10th to disaster@uw.edu. As part of our public comment period, we welcome any and all suggestions on how we can do better. It’s part of the fabric of emergency managers to both learn from past incidents but also look (forward) to the next one. Here is hoping for quiet and non-eventful 2014!
Partner of the Quarter: Bob Ennes

UWEM and the Emergency Management Planning Committee recently presented the Autumn 2013 Partner of the Quarter to Mr. Bob Ennes. Bob currently serves as the Director of Finance and Administration for the Health Sciences Administration. Bob has been not only a strong supporter of various emergency management and business continuity programs for many years, but he has also promoted and encouraged the various departments and units housed in the Health Sciences complex (the largest total square footage of instructional, research and staff support space in the entire UW system). Bob’s support for sound disaster management principles even dates back to the time prior to the 2003 establishment of UWEM. As one of the longest-standing members of the Emergency Management Planning Committee, and a permanent member of the EOC responder cadre, Bob brings with him a wealth of both practical and strategic insight to his peers. He is never afraid to voice his opinions and concerns as they relate to a more effective and efficient response to an emergency or disaster, no matter how big or small. Anything ranging from a broken water or sewer pipe in the T-wing to the response to the Nisqually Earthquake in 2001, Bob has responded to each event as the primary liaison between upper campus responders and the nearly 7,000 daily students, faculty and staff that call the massive Health Science complex, “home.”

Husky CERT

There is an exciting opportunity in the making for a collaborative effort and partnership between UWEM and a new student group called HuskyCERT. The first of its kind here at the University, HuskyCERT will partner with UWEM to recruit students who are interested in emergency planning, first aid and disaster response for training in the national standard Campus Community Emergency Response Team Program (C-CERT).

HuskyCERT will also help to support the return of a UW CERT program by providing vetted volunteers to assist during special events and disasters on campus when UWEM activates a UW CERT team. UWEM will be providing materials, support and guidance to HuskyCERT and will represent the University interests in this equal partnership with the students.

There are still details to finalize and policies to work out, but when fully implemented, this collaborative effort will represent the most significant improvement in campus resiliency and response capability since the opening of the new Emergency Operations Center in 2011.
Welcome to our New Strategic Partners, UWEM Staff and People on the Move!

The last three months have seen quite a lot of movement of people involved with and supporting the UW’s emergency management program. In September, the Emergency Management Planning Committee (EMPC) unanimously elected Mr. Andy MacKay as its new Chairperson. As the Members Services Coordinator at the IMA, Andy will steer the EMPC for the 2013-14 term and provide guidance to UWEM staff on an ongoing basis in this important leadership role. The UW’s Emergency Operations Center also welcomes two new members as department liaisons: Dr. William Neighbor and Ms. Tara Cannava both from Hall Health Center. Of course, like all dynamic organizations, the EOC also recently bid farewell to two gentlemen who retired from the UW after many years of dedicated service: Mr. Jack Klebeck from Health Sciences and Mr. Bob Roseth, former Director of UW News and Information. We wish them both a long and enjoyable retirement and thank them for their many years of service to the EOC. Finally, UWEM is happy to announce that we recently hired two new part-time student assistants in our office to provide leadership and research on a few additional high-priority projects. Joining us this past October are Mr. Michael Lunceford, a graduate student in Electrical Engineering. Michael will be spearheading a longstanding EOC radio communications project for the EOC, including the development of various standard operating procedures and the establishment of an amateur (HAM) radio base station in the EOC. Also joining us is Mr. Thomas Brady, a junior majoring in Chinese. Thomas is leading the staff work and research on the Provost-appointed UW Seismic Resilient University Work Group. This senior level project involves a comprehensive look at the UW Seattle’s current status and readiness posture. The outcome of Thomas’ project will be a report to the Board of Regents in 2014 that will outline our current capabilities to deal with a catastrophic earthquake and make recommendations for improvement. Please join us in welcoming our newest student employees!
Changes and Updates in the Emergency Management’s APS 13.1 for the University

UWM recently completed the complex process of evaluating, updating and codifying the existing Administrative Policy Statement (APS) on Emergency Management for the University, 13.1. The update process includes a lengthy review and comment period by key departments and stakeholders of the University with regards to emergency planning and response.

Some of the changes were simply grammatical in nature or were a refinement of existing text. However, other changes represented new additions to the APS, designed to improve support and coordination for emergency planning and response. Here are some of the new changes:

- Clarification of University Departments’ and outside partners’ roles in emergency and disaster planning, mitigation, response and recovery.
- Definition of a large-scale special event.
- Requirement for University units and Student Activity Groups to notify University Police and University emergency management of planned large-scale special events not less than seven business days prior to the event.
- Stronger tie-in language with the Business, Academic and Research Continuity APS (13.2) and program.
- Designation of which University Departments are part of the UW’s Core Crisis Communications Committee.
- Formal designation of a Safety Officer from EH&S to serve in the EOC during times of activation.
- Addition of the Office of the Vice President for Student Life to the APS.
- Addition of the Office of Global Affairs and the role of the Global Emergency Manager position within that office.
- Clarification of the role of Health Sciences Administration.
- Clarification of University Compliance Procedures with regards to emergency planning.
- Addition of reporting relationship between the UW Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the various UW departmental Unit Response Centers (URC’s).

Having an administrative policy statement such as this one helps to provide a common set of expectations regarding emergency planning and response for the University. Having executive and community support to ensure these policies are being followed helps to encourage active planning and improvement of safety and security for the whole of the UW Community.
UW, WSU and Port of Seattle Emergency Management Partner to Learn at Apple Cup 2013

There was another milestone in the on-going effort to build relationships and better serve the UW Community for emergency planning and coordination at the Apple Cup this year. UWEM was honored to host emergency management professionals from both Washington State University (WSU) and the Port of Seattle Office of Emergency Management.

Our duties at the Apple Cup included:

- Staffing the emergency operations center
- Providing timely weather reports and updates
- Monitoring social media for trends and situational awareness of possible concerns
- Supporting the UW Police Mobile Command Center in E-1
- Assisting police and fire by foot-patrolling the E-1 parking lot
- Reporting observations of conditions and emergencies to the stadium Command Post
- Responding to medical emergencies and lost persons in E-1 to assist our first responder professionals with the high-volume of emergency calls
- Partnering with EH&S Fire Safety in their duties in the Zone and the stadium
- Documenting emergency scenes when requested by law enforcement

Emergency management’s involvement in special events allows the University to offer the highest levels of service and safety to the UW Community by partnering with and supporting our professional first responders and other UW departments in their efforts to ensure a safe, pleasant environment for our guests and community members.

Preparedness Songs Help the Message Stick

Do you ever get a song stuck in your head that just won’t go away? What if that song was a fun jingle about personal preparedness? Now that would be cool, right!? With social media and technology on the rise so is the use of song and videos to help spread the personal preparedness message. Tanya Ferraro, co-writer and co-singer of the Loyal – A Royal Preparedness Duet song states, “I think it’s really important to make emergency management fun and engaging and interactive and human. That’s one thing about our field: People don’t look for the information, but if you can make it exciting and humanize it, then they want to be a part of it because it adds something to their day.”

Check out a few of our favorites

- Loyal – A Royal Preparedness Duet
- Ways to Survive
- Let’s Get Ready
- We Ready! Earthquake Jingle
Where Were You on April 16, 2007?

The date may not ring a bell, but when we say the term “Virginia Tech,” what instantly comes to mind? Like most people across the nation, the name brings up painful memories of one of the worst mass school shootings in US history. While a number of other tragic school shootings have occurred since then, including the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, the Virginia Tech University shootings of April 16, 2007 represented a seismic shift in how colleges and universities plan for and respond to threats of an active shooter. On December 2, 2013, the UW was proud to host Ms. Kristina Anderson, a survivor of the VT shooting massacre. For over an hour, Ms. Anderson shared her experiences with members of the UW community on what happened that terrible morning and how the university responded and slowly recovered. Ms. Anderson was in Norris Hall attending a French class, when the shooter entered her classroom and shot and killed many of her friends and fellow students. Despite having been shot three times, Ms. Anderson survived. Not only did she survive from this horrific incident, but she now speaks nationally and globally about her experiences. Over 40 UW and regional emergency planners and responders heard her story of survival and hope and empowerment. After her riveting speech, we collectively agreed that we will be asking Ms. Anderson to return to the UW to speak again to a much larger audience– hopefully sometime in April 2014. Keep an eye on your email for invitation for her return presentation. We guarantee that you will walk away from her presentation with an entirely different perspective on your life and what it means to treasure each day you get to go to work and school and come home safely.

UWEM Radio Coming Soon

UWEM has many modes of communication already in place, but currently lacks HAM radio communication capability. This mode of communication would allow us to talk directly with anyone in the area that has a HAM radio, greatly increasing our ability to talk to volunteers on the ground. We do not know what frequency we will be able to use yet, but we will let the UW emergency response community know what channel we will be on as soon as the frequency is established. If you are interested in being a part of this, you may contact us at our office directly (phone number can be found at the end of the issue). HAM radio would also enable us to talk to other agencies directly, where we could exchange valuable information in circumstances when other modes of communication are down. This is a real possibility in the case of a major power grid outage. Developing HAM radio capability is a cheap and efficient way of backing up our normal lines of communication.
On December 17th, in conjunction with the Provost, UWEM hosted the third of four work group meetings to examine how to make a seismically resilient University of Washington (UW). The work group emanated from a mandate by the University President and the Board of Regents to look at how UW would plan for, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an earthquake. UW’s main campus in Seattle sits atop and is surrounded by significantly active geological features. Notably UW’s Seattle campus is just north of the Seattle fault, and the Cascadia Subduction Zone which could produce a mega-thrust earthquake.

The ad-hoc work group is made up of representatives from university, city and county organizations with relevant expertise from building managers to emergency services to information technology. The work group not only seeks to minimize damage and loss of life in the aftermath of an earthquake, but to preserve the university’s ability to continue instruction and research. In order to accomplish this daunting task, the work group is looking to identify best practices to make UW truly resilient.

The first two work group meetings sought to define the problem of earthquake resiliency, and identify shortcomings at the university. To ensure UW can continue with normal business operations, the work group looks at a variety of projects, investments and policies that would meet that goal. In the third work group meeting, the participants brought to the table a wish list of items that would make the university as near perfect to seismic resilient as possible. Proposals include long range plans to refurbish older buildings to make them not only withstand an earthquake, but allow them to continue to operate as normally as possible. In addition, some solutions are as simple as securing book cases and anchoring computers so that essential resources are saved in order that students can study and business functions can continue.

A fourth and final meeting will be held in mid-March 2014 to take the proposals from the third meeting and prioritize them based on time, funding and ease of implementation. After the conclusion of the final meeting, the work group will produce a report that will be presented to UW President Michael K. Young and the Board of Regents.
Book Review: One Second After

Did you ever pick up a book to casually read, only to realize it’s the middle of the night and you still don’t want to put it down because the story line is so riveting and compelling? That recently happened to me when I read the fictional book entitled “One Second After” by author William R. Forstchen. The novel deals with an unexpected electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on the United States as it affects the people living in and around the small American town of Black Mountain, North Carolina. According to Wikipedia, the book was first released in March 2009, and was ranked as number 11 on the New York Times Best Seller list in fiction, in May 2009. A trade paperback edition was released in November 2009. The story follows the life and experiences of John Matterson, a professor of history at a small local college. He is also a retired Army Colonel who moves to a pastoral (think Mayberry) town to live out his semi-retirement. Well, his entire life, and those of his family, his town and the world are instantly turned upside down. Based on the actual science of EMP and the threat of just two high-energy nuclear bombs detonated in the upper atmosphere over the US, the story explains how quickly the very fabric of American Society can crumble when an EMP pulse is detonated. Imagine today that everything that runs on electricity, including transistors and computer circuits, are immediately fried. The entire country is thrown back into the 1700s, as the rule of law and society quickly crumbles. With no help from the military or the government, we follow along as the US quickly reverts back to a feudal society with the collapse of social order. The closest media version of this book is NBC’s current TV series, Revolution. But unlike the TV show, the threat from an EMP burst is real and based on solid fact. Scientists and military specialists have been warning Congress and government officials of this real threat since the 1950s. “One Second After” makes one think about how we would survive in a world without common creature comforts such as 24/7 grocery stores, availability of common medications, refrigeration, cars, telephones, electricity and even the internet. Even those of us in the field of emergency management have a lot to learn on how to prepare for what truly could be the worst global disaster in human history. Rumor has it that the book may be turned into a movie soon. If so, you can expect me to be first in line to see what likely will be the next disaster genre blockbuster.

(Reviewed by: Steve Charvat)
Disaster Movie Review: World War Z, the UN is Here to Save Us?

*World War Z*
Directed by Marc Foster
Starring Brad Pitt, Mireille Enos and Matthew Fox
Based on the novel *World War Z* by Max Brooks

*World War Z* begins as any other disaster movie in a mundane setting of a Philadelphia traffic jam. Gerry Lane, played by Brad Pitt, his wife and two daughters are caught in a typical urban gridlock as small indicators of the rapidly unsettling scenario unfold around them. Quick thinking Gerry moves to get his family out of the situation as it becomes clear that rampaging zombies are attacking people and that the government is attempting to stall the spread of the zombie causing virus. Retreating to an apartment in New Jersey, Gerry calls his old pal/employer at the United Nations (UN) to find out what in the wide world is happening. His UN friends confirm that, in fact, the Zombie apocalypse is upon them. After the UN sends an extraction team to rescue the Lanes, they are brought to a naval armada where world leaders are trying to find a way to stop the global pandemic. Gerry is blackmailed into helping solve the medical mystery. If he refuses to help, his family will be removed from the ship. Reluctantly agreeing, Gerry finds himself in South Korea searching for the origins of the virus. After getting clues from a former CIA operative, Lane tracks the virus to a citadel in Israel where the Israelis had early warning of the ensuing pandemic. No spoiler alert here. I will leave it open as to if whether Gerry finds the source of the virus, and a way to defeat it.

As a disaster movie, *World War Z* is rather instructive about the role of governments in a rapidly evolving emergency. First, the governments portrayed in the film are not prepared for, in spite of the zombies, what is a very likely health emergency involving a swiftly infectious disease. Emergency services, first responders and other resources are quickly stretched beyond their skills and operational scope. The general population panics as they lose faith in their officials and social order breaks down. Despite being unrealistic, Gerry’s forced enlistment in the search for a way to stop the virus reveals another more serious aspect about the role of governments: moral authority. The government must be dispassionate, but hold the moral high ground during emergencies or else the public will not trust officials to look after their welfare. In a real emergency, your municipal, county or state emergency manager would take the lead in planning and responding to a disaster in your area. On the national level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would take the lead in supporting a complex disaster such as a zombie apocalypse or just a generic disease outbreak (pandemic flu for example) in the U.S. The UN or other international agencies do not have legal authorities to manage international emergencies, but would certainly play a role in helping nations cooperate across borders.

To sum it all up, competent and morally grounded emergency managers and civilian leadership are essential to maintain the public’s confidence during a disaster. Absent the common man’s faith, society could come unhinged fairly quickly. I won’t squash anyone’s fantasy that a dashing Brad Pitt would come in to save the day, but I wouldn’t count on it!

(Reviewed by Thomas Brady)
UWEM Helps Local FIRST Lego League Team Win Local Competition

UWEM was contacted several months ago by the Astroboats, a local middle-school team participating in a robotics competition for the FIRST Lego League (FLL). FLL is a robotic competition developed for middle-school aged students. The teams are asked to build and program a small robot, using LEGOS, to accomplish tasks that are in-line with an annual theme. This year’s theme was earthquakes.

The Astroboats contacted UWEM to ask for advice and expertise on earthquakes. UWEM staff consulted with the team on several occasions by phone and even conducted an in-person tour of the UW EOC for the team. Through-out the design and build phase, UWEM staff answered questions about earthquake potential in Washington State, priorities for response and recovery following an earthquake and the potential role of robotics in earthquake response and recovery.

UWEM staff found the team’s questions to be very well researched and introspective with regards to the theme and project. The Astroboats student developed a conceptual model robot, built from LEGOS, that would assist search and rescue personnel with identifying the status of survivors trapped in and under rubble, following a catastrophic earthquake.

The team placed #1 from among 43 regional teams and the judges of the local competition were impressed with the team’s research, understanding of the problem scenario and practical viability of the proposed solution becoming a real solution in the future.

UWEM is proud to have been able to support these students in their effort to better understand the reality of the earthquake potential in Washington State and the complexities of response and recovery to such an event.
Take Winter by Storm

The Wheedle, a fictional resident of Seattle made famous in the children’s book “The Wheedle on the Needle,” is being seen more and more these days as a “SpokesWheedle” for winter safety. The “Take Winter by Storm” campaign aims to educate and motivate communities across western Washington to check their supplies, know what to do and who to call when emergencies happen. You can find a variety of resources to help your family, friends and coworkers get prepared at (http://takewinterbystorm.org/); the Wheedle is also sharing tips and videos on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube! Checklists for emergency kits, as well as items to inspect for maintenance problems are available online, as well as resources from local weather and transportation services. The Wheedle can be found in communities throughout Puget Sound, and as a result, the webpage is also available in Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Russian, Somali, Korean and Tagalog. Whether its winds, heavy rain & flooding, icy roads or snowy conditions, the “Take Winter by Storm” campaign is an approachable guide for everyday use that mirrors the “All-Hazards” Emergency Management Plan used by professionals here at the University of Washington to keep our campus “StormReady.” This program is sponsored directly by Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, The Seattle Times and Snohomish County Public Utility District. Information about potential school closures due to inclement weather is also available on the main webpage. Puget Sound residents are known for wearing rain gear and bravely going out & about no matter what Mother Nature sends our way; these resources (and the other free ones provided by UWEM at www.huskyem.org) will help Huskies everywhere “Take Winter by Storm!”

Gameday Survival Guide

Plan ahead and be prepared for the winter weather conditions when attending a game in an outside stadium.

Stay Warm

- Dress in warm layered clothing so you can adjust your body temperature. For example, wear a moisture-wicking thermal base under pants and a sweater or fleece with a warm winter hooded jacket as an outer layers. More layers are recommended for colder games.
- Carry a waterproof poncho in your pocket to protect your layers from getting wet. Umbrellas are not allowed in many stadiums.
- Wear warm, waterproof shoes or boots with warm and/or layered wool socks.
- Toss a blanket over your shoulder and carry in separately from the items packed in your approved plastic bag on cold days for additional warmth.

Prepare Yourself

- Give yourself extra time to travel by vehicle, bus, train or ferry. Winter weather can disrupt roads, routes and schedules. Also, increased ridership during bad weather can result in crowded rides. Expect delays and long waits.
- Keep contact devices (cell phones, smart phones, tablets) fully charged prior to heading out in the elements for an extended length of time. To ensure backup, bring chargers for contact devices with you.
It’s winter—cold, wet, and unpredictable. If you live close enough to where you work/go to school, it’s not really that much of an issue, but if you aren’t within walking distance, it’s a good idea to be prepared for the worst. You never know when a storm could hit or ice could form on roads, making transportation extremely dangerous, especially in an area as hilly as Seattle. If you drive, you could simply have your car supplied, but if you bus or bike, you’ll want to have your supplies with you. Some important items to keep in your car would be: food, water, a blanket, extra layers of clothing, hat, gloves, socks, a good pair of boots, matches/lighter, tire chains, first aid kit, a knife, and a battery or hand crank powered radio. Having these supplies doesn’t always guarantee your safety, however. Other precautions must also be taken to avoid a dangerous situation. Keep your phone charged. Don’t make a bad situation worse by taking a risk you don’t have to (i.e. driving on a hill in the snow). If you don’t usually travel by car, you’ll want to have some supplies in your backpack: an extra layer of clothing (if there is room), a space blanket, food, water, matches/lighter, first aid kit, pocket knife. Certainly, if you are without a car, having reliable footwear and clothing with you is more critical than if you have a place to store a variety of supplies. The most important thing in these situations is to keep calm, don’t overreact, and simply wait it out in a safe nearby place if need be. Usually, major roads will be cleared relatively quickly, and you’ll have a much easier way home.
Winter Sports Safety: Avalanches & Blizzards

For those new to winter sports, as well as Huskies who have spent many a winter in the Cascades, few things can capture attention like hearing about an avalanche. Caused when existing snowpack is loosened and suddenly gives way, an avalanche can be caused by temperatures warming temporarily or by liquid rainfall melting the snow. In order to avoid this hazard, know the current conditions on the slopes and if there are expected changes for the period you’ll be outdoors. KOMO 4, KING 5 and KIRO 7 TV stations all broadcast a weather report several times a day, and they make special note of conditions in the mountains & passes during the winter months. Additionally, the Northwest Weather & Avalanche Center provides environmental information 24/7 and can give you specific conditions for the area(s) you want to know about. Make sure to let someone know you’re planning to go ski, snowboard, tube or sled; this is especially important if you aren’t going with a group of friends or family. Once on the slopes, stay on marked trails and avoid heading into the backcountry in search of less-used snow. Dress in layers, bring a small snack & bottle of water with you in case time flies by and check in on conditions periodically. The weather can rapidly change during late winter. Dry, powdery snow can easily be blown by the winds and obscure vision, even on an otherwise clear & sunny day. When you have winds 35mph or greater, visibility less than ¼ mile and these conditions persist for three hours or more, you’ve got a blizzard on your hands. Gain and maintain your awareness of the outdoors to keep your ski trip from turning into a camping trip!

Freezing Temps and Frozen Pipes

Freezing weather not only can wreak havoc on the streets, but it can put your house in jeopardy as well. When water freezes and expands in household pipes, the increased and repeated pressure can cause them to burst. Wrapping exposed pipes in lagging, a foam material for insulation available at hardware or home improvement stores, can prevent this costly damage. Using towels would be better than nothing. Also, turning a faucet on at a low trickle can deter the freezing process. If you are planning to be away from your home for a few days or more, have a friend or neighbor check on your home. There are numerous ways to determine if a leak is present; most obviously, there would be the sound of water or signs of dampness. The meter could also be checked if possible. Although many people don’t like the idea of leaving the thermostat set at a relatively low level, rather than off, due to conservation concerns and cost, keeping your home from reaching freezing outdoor temperatures is recommended for safety.

Despite the potential hazards of winter weather, if you are prepared, the cold, ice and snow bring with them an entire culture. From enjoying egg nog around the hearth to the excitement of alpine adventures, winter can provide unique and satisfying experiences, if safety principles and recommendations are observed.
Central Philippines & Super Typhoon Haiyan

It has been one month since the most powerful tropical weather system ever recorded made landfall near Leyte Gulf, in the archipelagic nation of the Philippines. In total, 6 islands were impacted directly by storm damage, the death toll is approaching 6,000 human lives and nearly 1,800 Filipino citizens are still missing. The storm made landfall on the morning of November 8th, and has affected some 12 million people in varying degrees; many communities still lack immediate access to food and basic medical care. The U.S. Navy deployed ships, sailors and supplies from nearby Japan within 48 hours of the disaster. The capacity of the U.S. Navy to support Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief operations has become a focal point in the western Pacific, where memories of the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and resulting Fukushima nuclear incident are still fresh in the minds of the Japanese people. The United States government’s agreement with the government of the Philippines, known as a Status of Forces Agreement or SOFA, outlines the terms which permit U.S. military personnel to enter the country. As with most other partner and allied nations, rendering assistance after a significant natural disaster is one of the situations in which countries often enact “Good Samaritan” principles to help one another out in times of need. U.S. Navy Sailors & Marines were able to help the government of the Philippines reestablish order and civil government in the affected areas, provide a safe means for relief aid to be delivered and distributed to communities, and evacuate injured survivors to areas where advanced medical treatment is available. Indeed, though most Navy resources have stepped back as the international community and volunteer organizations active in disasters (VOAD’s) have arrived, the USNS Mercy hospital ship will remain activated in San Diego in case the Philippines’ medical support systems become overloaded and they request additional assistance from the United States. Response operations are giving way to recovery operations, and the American people are prepared to continue lending a hand to our friends across the Pacific Ocean.
One of the most important aspects of Business, Academic and Research Continuity (BARC) is communicating with the students, staff and faculty you work with. This can be difficult at the best of times, when technology is working fine and life is basically normal.

What about when things aren’t so normal? Inclement weather, power outages and other events can disrupt normal operations in our departments and make it difficult to communicate with each other, especially if the campus goes into suspended operations. Another challenge can be if regular lines of communication such as e-mail and phones are not available, then communication is all the more difficult.

Flexibility and redundancy are the keys to effective communications during these times:

- Use “old” techniques such as calling trees, if needed, to keep your employees in the know.

- Make use of alternative technologies such as Google Hangout, Twitter, Facebook and the like to manage expectations regarding when to report to work or where to go during suspended operations.

- Do you have a physical message board: a sheet of plywood or some other similar surface that can be established as a location on campus for posting official information.

- Many of our departments use digital phone lines and Voice Over IP (VOIP) technology, but what happens when the power is out? Do you have an analog phone as well?

There are many, many options available for alternate ways to communicate. If your office is interested in exploring more ways to become more resilient through BARC planning, feel free to contact us at disaster@uw.edu.
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.

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