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Featured Article

Recent UGA Hazard Analysis Completed

By Steve Harris
Emergency Operations Manager
UGA Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness

In emergency and disaster planning, one of the initial steps is to identify what hazards (man-made, technological, and weather related) might impact your area prior to developing response plans. Once these hazards are identified, detailed plans are developed based on the most likely hazards to impact the area in which you reside. The UGA Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) recently completed a hazard analysis of the University of Georgia’s main campus and determined the hazards and threats that are most likely to impact the campus. The following list reflects hazards and threats most likely to affect UGA. The hazards are not listed in order of probability or likely occurrence and some of the threats are based on current trends and similar occurrences at other institutions of equal size.

Severe Weather (Includes tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, and lightning)
Major Structure Fire
Hazardous Materials Release
Successful Cyber Attack (Viruses that might shut down the UGA computer system)
Infectious Disease
Domestic Terrorism
Civil Disturbance
Mass Casualties Incident
Major Utility Failure
Earthquake
International Terrorism

One of the best methods in determining the types of hazards in your area is to take a long look at past events relative to natural disasters, fires, criminal activity, and infectious disease activity that have occurred in a community or area. Initially, OSEP began this process by reviewing the Athens-Clarke County Emergency Management’s hazard analysis information prepared for the entire Athens-Clarke County. In addition, UGA specific documents, incident reports, and other written documentation were reviewed to gather facts about dates and other details regarding specific incidents and weather related activities occurring in the past. Additional data was generated from local, state, and regional information sources that track natural disasters and other hazardous incidents for statistical purposes.

When analyzing specific threats, like the threat of terrorism to our campus, numerous sources of information must be reviewed in order to accurately forecast the potential of this threat to become a reality. One of the first steps is to examine the campus, the community, and the immediate region for potential buildings and areas that terrorists might want to target.

Typically, potential targets include government buildings, military installations, public venues such as large stadiums, religious institutions, transportation systems, symbolic areas, and schools and universities according to the United States Department of Homeland Security. If you then examine the list of potential targets for terror and compare it to buildings and venues on campus, you will soon discover that the UGA campus possesses several of the venues, transportation systems, and symbolic areas that have often been targeted in past events of terrorism around the world.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that the University of Georgia has not been targeted by domestic or international terrorists in the past; however, administration, faculty, staff, and students should be aware that the general “openness” of our campus – where the freedom of movement, thought, and exchange of information and ideas is promoted without many

safeguards – could present a target of opportunity for those who might wish to do us harm.

Listed below are several “incidents” of suspected terrorist activity that have occurred on other college and university campuses within the United States. Many of these incidents may come as a surprise to those who frequently monitor a variety of news sources. Unfortunately, many incidents that occur in the higher education environment do not garner national media attention due to other events occurring that day that many media outlets may consider to be more “newsworthy.”

September 2005 - University of Memphis- A student was arrested for plotting and having possible links to an international terrorist group. When arrested he was in possession of a pilot’s uniform and a flight manual.

October 2005 - Oklahoma University- A student blew himself up outside the Oklahoma University football stadium just before halftime. The student had possible links to radical Islamic groups and thought.

March 2006 - University of North Carolina- A student drove through a crowded pedestrian avenue in an attempt to strike other students. Seven students were injured, and the suspect indicated that his actions were initiated to protest the poor treatment of Islamic prisoners in U.S. custody.

April 2006 - Georgia Tech- A student was arrested for training in a suspected terrorist training camp and being involved in a terror plot. A few months later the student was linked to a terror cell that was disrupted in Canada.

June 2006 - Yakima Valley Community College (Yakima, WA)- An improvised explosive device (IED) was discovered on campus by a campus security officer.

Although the incidents listed above may seem frightening, there is always a good chance that events like these can be deterred or the impacts lessened by having a campus community that is aware and mindful of suspicious activities and events. It is important to remember that all administrators, faculty, staff, and students play a vital role in securing and protecting our campus not only against terrorism, but crime and other safety issues too.

Know the possible signs of terrorism

- ▶ Tests of security (attempts to measure reaction times and strengths and weaknesses of security systems)
- ▶ Strange questions or inquiries (building features, plans, security, lab contents, personnel, or resources)

▶ Acquiring supplies (purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, uniforms, ID badges, lab samples, lab equipment, etc.)

▶ Suspicious persons out of place (individuals who just don’t fit the surroundings)

▶ Dry run/Trial run (putting people in position and moving them around)

▶ Observation of a person(s) dropping a suspicious item/device in an area or on a bus and then quickly leaving the area

▶ Deploying assets (people and supplies getting into position to commit the act)

Always remember to report any suspicious activity, suspicious events, or criminal activity on campus to the UGA Police Department by dialing (706) 542-2200 or “911”.

Sign up now!

The next “Basic Emergency Preparedness” course to be conducted by OSEP will be held at the UGA Training and Development Center on August 3, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. This program will help you prepare for and respond to man-made and natural disasters as well as instruct on how you can help others before and after a disaster strikes.

(For more information and registration instructions, go to the OSEP Web site www.osep.uga.edu.)

Need Departmental Training?

The following training classes can be coordinated through OSEP to be delivered at your facility: Basic Emergency Preparedness, Terrorism Overview, Departmental Emergency Procedures, Travel Safety, and Customized Classes (***Access the Training Request Form on the OSEP Web site www.osep.uga.edu by clicking on “Forms available from this site.”***)

Bulletins are available bimonthly. The issues include current security and emergency preparedness information from this office, other University units, and community resources. Sign up to receive issues of *Readiness Rules* by e-mail. Select the “bulletin by e-mail” tab located on the home / contact us bar on the OSEP Web site.



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