



READINESS RULES

“Knowledge Saves Lives”

<http://www.uosp.uga.edu>

University Office of Security Preparedness Bulletin

September 2005

Featured Article

Take Action During National Preparedness Month



By Mike Sherberger, Director
Office of Homeland Security –
Georgia Emergency Management Agency

The threat level is raised. “What can *I* do?” A terrorist bomb explodes in the London subway. “What can *I* do?” A powerful hurricane is approaching the Georgia coast. “What can *I* do?” That one question – “What can *I* do?” – is asked by Georgians every time we are reminded that our lives can instantly be changed either by a natural or man-made disaster.

By nature, Georgians are doers. We instinctively take action. Now is the time for us to take action again and prepare ourselves and our communities for emergencies. There is so much each of us *can* do to be prepared for whatever might come our way, be it a natural or man-made disaster. That’s what September, “National Preparedness Month,” is all about: Action! It’s about figuring out what we will do if an emergency impacts our campus or community. How will our families contact us? How will we know where to go? What supplies will we need and where should we keep them? What are state and local governments doing to prepare for emergency events?

The Office of Homeland Security-Georgia Emergency Management Agency (OHS-GEMA) has continued to develop and implement plans and coordinate funding to keep residents safe statewide. For example, in Georgia we now have the following resources:

- Statewide HazMat Response Teams. – Comprised of 38 regional HazMat teams made up of local responders with the goal of having Type II Team response capability statewide.
- Bomb Response Units – Through federal funding opportunities, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has a total of 6 state-of-the-art Bomb Response Vehicles that carry a full load of conventional bomb disposal equipment, including robots, bomb suits, and x-ray equipment, as well as hazardous materials response gear. In addition, the University of Georgia Police Department also has a fully-outfitted unit that serves the UGA campus and Northeast Georgia.
- Georgia Search & Rescue (GSAR) -- Three regional heavy GSAR teams have been established in the coastal, metro, and central areas of Georgia that will respond under mutual aid to Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents involving collapsed structures within four hours anywhere in the state. The teams have heavy and specialized equipment along with the training necessary to respond to such incidents.
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) – This grassroots initiative brings together leaders from the public and private sectors to harness the volunteer spirit of Georgians who want to help prepare for and respond to threats of terrorism, crime and other disasters. There are now CERT teams

teams located throughout the state, including Athens-Clarke County.

While state and local governments are spearheading preparation and response efforts, we're asking Georgians to also do their part by taking the following steps:

- **Get a Kit** - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens. The kit should include basic items like water, food, battery powered radio, flashlight, and a first aid kit.
- **Make a Plan** - Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation.
- **Be Informed** - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them.
- **Get Involved** - After preparing yourself for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. Citizen Corps provides residents with opportunities to prepare, train, and support local emergency responders. Or volunteer through your local American Red Cross chapter.
- **Learn More** - Go to www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org/preparedness for a complete list of recommended supplies for your disaster kit and for templates to help get you started on a communications plan. You will also find information about natural disasters and potential terrorist threats including biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological emergencies.

Although Georgia has been most fortunate to have been spared a major natural disaster or terrorist incident in recent years, we cannot afford to become complacent. We encourage you to take action during "National Preparedness Month." It is up to each and every one of us – both government and citizens alike to be prepared.

 **Upcoming Issue: CERT in Action :
UGA's involvement with CERT**

National Preparedness Month

A nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools. In keeping with this effort, the University Office of Security Preparedness (UOSP) is hosting:

- ▶ An **Emergency Preparedness Showcase** on September 22, 2005 (displays & demonstrations)
- ▶ A **Lecture Series** held throughout September

Check the UOSP website www.uosp.uga.edu often for updates on this event and additional preparedness information.



Can I survive...
A natural disaster?
A man-made disaster?

Get FREE information!
Students • Faculty • Staff

Emergency Preparedness Showcase
...
September 22, 2005
10:00am - 2:00pm
Tate Center Plaza
Demos • Displays


September is National Preparedness Month

Lecture Series
Tate Center Reception Hall

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Campus Fire Safety | Sept. 7, 10:10-11:10 am |
| ID Theft and ID Fraud: Protecting Your Good Name | Sept. 8, 9:30-10:30 am |
| UGA Police Dept. Services and Special Teams | Sept. 13, 2:00-3:00 pm |
| UGA's Role in Agrosecurity | Sept. 15, 2:00-3:00 pm |
| The Medical Consequences of Nuclear and Radiological Events | Sept. 20, 9:30-10:30 am |
| Ready, Set, Roll: Preparing for the Unexpected | Sept. 27, 2:00-3:00 pm |
| Suicide Terrorism: Prevention and Response | Sept. 28, 10:10-11:10 am |
| Public Health's Role in Emergency Response | Sept. 29, 9:30-10:30 am |

No registration is necessary. Attend as many sessions as you wish.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES
Knowledge saves lives

UGA Office of Security Preparedness
<http://www.uosp.uga.edu>
706-542-5845 

Bulletins are available bimonthly. The issues assist in disseminating current security preparedness information from this office and other University units. Sign up to receive issues of *Readiness Rules* by e-mail. Click on "bulletin by e-mail" located on the [home / contact us](#) bar on the UOSP website.