

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety
UAB Emergency Preparedness and Security Program

School of Health Professions Building Emergency Plan

June 2019

Introduction

An emergency or "disaster" is any event which seriously disrupts the normal functions of the UAB Campus, regardless of the cause. Special detailed plans are included, which address such scenarios as fire, bomb threat, loss of electrical power, and severe weather. For more information on this plan or explanation of duties, contact the Building Administrator.

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Administrative Notification

In the event of a disaster such as fire or bomb threat, UAB Police should be contacted by dialing "911" from any UAB phone or by dialing **934-3535** from a cell phone or public phone.

Bomb Threat

It is the responsibility of the local police department to investigate all suspected bombs and reports of bombs being placed on Campus property and coordinate evacuation, searches, and removal of suspected explosive devices. This shall be accomplished in cooperation with Staff, fire department, and other agencies which may be called to assist.

1. If you receive a bomb threat, use the bomb threat check list to gather all pertinent information. (See Appendix A).
2. Report the bomb threat and all available information to the UAB Police and your supervisor.
3. Notify the Building Administrator or designee who will communicate with the police department, obtain instructions, and make an evacuation determination based on the credibility of the threat.
4. Do not advise the general public. **Allow business as usual until directed otherwise.**
5. If evacuation is necessary, UAB Police, the Campus Safety Officer, the Building Administrator or designee, will notify each floor of the need to evacuate. The fire alarm may also be used to speed evacuation. Do not make a general announcement that the reason for evacuation is a bomb. Only state there is an "emergency situation" and that everyone must evacuate and go to the designated corral point for their department.

Loss of Electrical Power

1. Upon loss of power, remain calm and notify Campus maintenance dispatch immediately at extension “934-5353”. Plan and train all staff, in advance, on how your department will call out if loss of power disables your telephones.
2. Where available, the emergency generator will transfer power upon loss of electricity. It is important that all staff are trained that the switch to emergency power is not instant. There will be a brief delay. Also, not all areas have emergency power. Lights and switches on emergency generators are red and easily identified. Critical equipment should be plugged into these red outlets.
 - a. **Egress lighting** - All areas have egress lighting at a minimum in order to maintain just enough light to navigate corridors and stairs. However, this lighting is very dim compared to what you are used to. It is important to keep evacuation routes and corridors clear of all clutter that could pose a hazard in dim light and slow or obstruct evacuation.
3. All non-essential equipment should be turned off until power has been restored.
4. Some areas and buildings (i.e. animal areas) may require special measures in the event the loss of power interrupts air circulation, cooling and heating.

Loss of Communications

1. If the telephone system is lost, avoid attempting to use the phone.
2. Designate one individual to periodically check the phone.
3. Use cellular phones to maintain essential communications.

Severe Weather

Departments should purchase an emergency weather radio to be kept in a prominent place and monitored during inclement weather (**SHPB 685**). The Building Administrator or designee will be responsible for monitoring the weather for changes that may require an upgrade in readiness. The Building Administrator is also responsible, in consultation with the Campus Safety Officer, for helping departments determine specific actions that should be taken to protect UAB employees, students, visitors and property.

Severe Weather Gathering Points

1st Floor: **Hallways, 124, and 125**

2nd Floor: **Hallways, 224, and 226**



Heavy Rain and Flooding

Maintenance will be prepared to handle sewer back-up and other problems associated with flooding in areas known to have problems. Environmental or Building Services is responsible for making sure door mats and wet floor signs are deployed and to assist with any needed cleanup.

Severe Lightning/Electrical Storms

While it is unlikely that such storms will result in serious damage to the University as a result of electrical activity, it is advisable to curtail certain activities that may present risks, such as outdoor or rooftop activities, or the use of any equipment that could cause injury or be damaged by sudden surges or interruptions in the power supply.

People who have been struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely. If they have stopped breathing, perform CPR.

Watches and Warnings

Watch

A tornado, severe thunderstorm, flash flood, etc. watch means conditions are favorable for the development of that particular weather event that is capable of causing severe damage. The watch will be issued by the National Weather Service for a specified period of time. Specific information will be broadcast on the weather radio as well as commercial radio and television. Each department should develop a call tree or other method of notifying every one of the potential for severe weather. Since this is not an immediate threat and no specific action is required, e-mail notification or a group page works well for this. Make sure to include when the watch will end.

Again, no specific action should be taken by staff during a watch except to stay alert to weather conditions and updates.

Warning

A tornado, severe thunderstorm, flash flood, etc. **warning** means a weather event has been positively identified in or near Jefferson County. **Emergency sirens will sound.** There are 8 emergency sirens located strategically around campus to help alert the community in the event of a tornado warning or sighting. These are activated by the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the National Weather Service. Everyone must stay alert for any sudden changes in weather conditions or weather announcements and should seek shelter immediately along the interior walls and enclosed windowless staircases, or in a basement area. With Doppler radar and other sophisticated electronic tracking systems we can more accurately track weather threats, so it is extremely important to monitor radio or TV for the latest information on the exact location of the problem.

Stay away from the windows as much as possible. Do not attempt to monitor conditions by standing at a large window.

If a tornado has been spotted in close proximity during normal operations all building occupants should move away from all windows and take shelter immediately in a severe weather gathering point (listed above).

Fire Safety Program

General Procedures for all Areas

If you detect FIRE or SMOKE, no matter how minor it may appear to be, do this at once:

1. **STAY CALM** and use common sense. Visitors will depend on your actions. Use the **CARE** response system:
2. Close the door to **CONFINE THE FIRE** and smoke. As you leave the room where the fire is located, close the room door and fire doors located in the corridors.
3. **ACTIVATE THE FIRE ALARM**. Fire alarm pull stations are located near the exits on every floor.
4. **REPORT THE FIRE**. **DIAL 911** (Local police/fire department). Identify yourself and provide the exact location of fire or smoke and what is burning, if known.
4. **EVACUATE** staff and visitors immediately. Do not return to the building unless told to do so by the fire department, police, or the Safety Officer.

Evacuation

Evacuation of staff and visitors, will be carried out in a timely and orderly manner:

- whenever the fire alarm is sounded,
- if fire is detected,
- if ordered to do so by management or emergency personnel.

The fire alarm in SHPB is both audible and visual. The audible alarm is a loud klaxon and the visual alarm is a flashing strobe light. Alarms are located in corridors, high on the wall.

Evacuation will occur as follows:

1. All building occupants should proceed to the nearest exit and move immediately away from the building entrances to provide unobstructed access for emergency personnel and equipment. All occupants should then assemble in the designated corral point, between Denman Hall and the New Freshman Residence Hall. (See Appendix B) or proceed to the nearest crosswalk and cross to the opposite sidewalk of the closest street.
2. Do not return to the building unless told to do so by the fire department, police, or the Safety Officer. Emergency personnel, maintenance and/or building administration will be monitoring exits and will verbally notify groups in the designated corral point that it is safe to return to the building.

Provisions for Individuals with Disabilities

The landings inside of each stairwell and protected elevator lobbies are considered safe areas for individuals with disabilities. It is routine procedure for emergency personnel to check these areas for individuals with disabilities and/or injured persons. In the event that the building must be evacuated, individuals with disabilities located above or below the ground floor should proceed to the closest stairwell and remain there until emergency personnel arrive.

Fighting Small Fires

If you are *certain* that a small or contained fire does not pose an immediate threat to you, your co-workers, visitors, or the surrounding area, you may be able to put it out with the appropriate fire extinguisher. The fire extinguishers located throughout the building are ABC type dry chemical.

Fire Drills

In an actual fire, there will be a great deal of excitement and confusion. The confusion may be compounded by thick smoke and toxic gases. A normally well marked exit route may appear unfamiliar and disorienting. For this reason, it is essential that fire response procedures be practiced.

The training of personnel to respond effectively to a fire emergency is the heart of any fire safety program. Each person must know exactly what to do and must have enough practice to be able to perform quickly and efficiently. Fire drills should be conducted as follows:

1. Drills should be conducted in such a way as to ensure that all personnel participate.
2. Drills are to be conducted by the Safety Officer, Building Administrator or designee.
3. Drills are to be initiated through verbal notification of an employee or by activating a fire alarm pull station. If a pull station is used, maintenance should be on hand to reset the alarm and Birmingham Fire and Rescue must be notified of the exact time of the drill and when the system is back in service.
4. The Safety Officer, Building Administrator or designee will monitor and evaluate the fire drill response. Training will be held at that time if an employee is found to be unfamiliar with procedures.
5. All clear to be called by the Safety Officer, Building Administrator or designee.

Homeland Security

Purpose

The Nation requires a Homeland Security Advisory System to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. Such a system provides warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies implement a corresponding set of

"Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert.

This system is intended to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion about the nature of the threats that confront the homeland and the appropriate measures that should be taken in response. It seeks to inform and facilitate decisions appropriate to different levels of government and to private citizens at home and at work.

Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System shall be binding on the executive branch and suggested, although voluntary, to other levels of government and the private sector. There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

Low = **Green**;
Guarded = **Blue**;
Elevated = **Yellow**;
High = **Orange**;
Severe = **Red**.



B-ALERT: Emergency Notification at UAB

UAB's primary concern during any emergency or severe weather situation is the safety of its students, faculty, staff and visitors.

UAB's diverse community requires multiple, overlapping means of communicating with the campus, including direct, live communication from UAB Police officers at the scene of an emergency. Communications plans are reviewed frequently to consider alternatives and enhancements in technology.

During any actual emergency or severe weather situation, this site -- uab.edu/emergency -- will be the official source of UAB information. In addition, the UAB Emergency Management Team will use B-ALERT, the university's emergency notification system, to communicate through voice calls, SMS text messages and e-mails to the entire campus all at the same time. B-ALERT also integrates with Facebook and Twitter.

The UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline at 205-934-2165 also will be updated as appropriate to provide official updates on the university's and UAB Hospital's opening and closing status

To register for B-ALERT or update your existing information in the system, go to uab.edu/balert. All registration is connected to your BlazerID.

More Information on B-ALERT

E-MAIL

B-ALERT e-mails will come from the UAB Emergency Management Team address: UABAlert@uab.edu

All BlazerID-connected UAB e-mail addresses are automatically included in the system; you will not be able to opt out of receiving these e-mails. If there are other e-mail accounts where you would like to receive notifications, register those separately in the system.

TEXT

Register at least one SMS-capable mobile device with the B-ALERT system. Why? Because message delivery in an emergency is usually quicker via this kind of messaging. Any time you register a new SMS text device, you will receive a message allowing you to opt out of the service. Should you choose to opt out, which is not recommended, update your preferences through the registration form at uab.edu/balert. Responding to the message will not complete the opting out process.

TELEPHONE

Register your cell, office and home phone numbers in order to receive voice messages at all numbers during a crisis situation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow emergency notifications on Facebook at facebook.com/uabalert and on Twitter under the handle @UABAlert: twitter.com/uabalert.

Active Shooter

1. If you hear gunshots or are faced with a person that has a gun and is intent on hurting you, take immediate steps to protect yourself.
 2. If you are near an exterior exit, try to escape the building
 3. If you are in a room with a door, immediately close the door, lock it or use heavy furniture to block the door.
 4. Stay out of view. Turn off the lights. Get behind heavy furniture. Silence your cell phone.
 5. Call 911 from a UAB landline or 205-934-3535 from your cell phone.
 6. If in an open area, find a room to hide in or try to exit the area.
 7. When the police arrive make sure your hands are visible and you are NOT holding anything.
 8. UAB B-Alert and www.uab.edu/emergency will provide information during emergencies.
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IDENTIFYING CODES AND NUMBERS

Text messages from the system will come to your cell phone or other handheld device from something called a short code; it will be either 23177 or 63079. Voice calls will originate from B-ALERT at 205-975-8000. Store these numbers/codes and program them all as B-ALERT so you will recognize them as the official source of UAB emergency and/or severe weather information.

Appendix A

BOMB THREAT CHECKLIST

Telephone Procedures

INSTRUCTIONS: Be calm, be courteous, listen. Do not interrupt the initial message of the caller. If possible, notify your supervisor immediately by a pre-arranged signal while the caller is on the line.

Name of Operator _____ Time _____ Date _____

Caller's Identity:

Sex: Male _____ Female _____ Adult _____ Juvenile _____ Approximate age _____ in years

Origin of Call: (Check Caller ID)

Local _____ Long Distance _____ Booth _____ Internal _____ Write the number here _____

<u>Voice Characteristics</u>	<u>Speech</u>	<u>Language</u>
____ Loud _____ Soft	____ Fast _____ Slow	____ Excellent _____ Good
____ High Pitch _____ Deep	____ Distinct _____ Distorted	____ Fair _____ Poor
____ Raspy _____ Pleasant	____ Stutter _____ Nasal	____ Foul _____
____ Intoxicated _____	____ Slurred _____ Lisp	____ Other
____ Other	____ Other	

<u>Accent</u>	<u>Manner</u>	<u>Background Noises</u>
____ Local _____ Not Local	____ Calm _____ Angry	____ Mixed _____ Airplanes
____ Foreign _____ Region	____ Rational _____ Irrational	____ Bedlam _____ Animals
____ Race _____ Other	____ Coherent _____ Incoherent	____ Trains _____ Voices
	____ Deliberate _____ Emotional	____ Music _____ Quiet
	____ Righteous _____ Laughing	____ Factory Machines
		____ Street Traffic
		____ Party Atmosphere
		____ Office Machines

BOMB FACTS

Pretend difficulty with hearing. Keep the caller talking. If the caller seems agreeable to further conversation, ask questions like:

When will it go off? Certain hour _____ Time remaining _____

Where is it located? Building _____ Floor/Office/Area _____

What kind of bomb? _____

How do you know so much about the bomb? _____

Where are you now? _____

What is your name and address? _____

If the building is occupied, inform the caller that detonation could cause injury or death.

Write out the message in its entirety and any other comments on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this checklist.

Did the caller appear familiar with the building by his description of the bomb location? _____

ACTIONS TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CALL

- NOTIFY THE UNIVERSITY POLICE, EXT 911 or 934-3535
- NOTIFY YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR.

Talk to no one -- other than instructed by your supervisor or the Police.

Appendix B

