

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK
FEBRUARY 4-8, 2013

UGA Severe Weather Preparedness

The recent storms that hit the northeast including Hurricane Sandy reinforced the need for individual and family emergency preparedness. After reading several reviews, personal accounts, and reports of the events here are a few of the lessons learned.

- Stay informed – pay attention to information about upcoming storms. While the media may over hype the event, listen to meteorologists and government warnings.
- Basic supplies are important – food, water, batteries, light source, flashlights. The rule of thumb from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency is to have a three-day supply for each person in the household. Each person will need at least a gallon of water per day.
- How will you get information when there is no power? Many residents relied on smart phones and social media to learn about local conditions. Radios were helpful but often concentrated on the impact of the storm rather than provide information on local resources. Keep critical electric devices charged and consider re-charging from a car if necessary.
- The first business that opened only took cash because electricity was out. Consider an emergency supply of cash as credit cards may not be available.
- Voice phone call systems failed quickly. Text messaging worked in some cases where voice phone calls failed, but were less reliable than prior to the storm.
- Plan for alternative transportation. Fuel shortages meant driving habits changed. Bicycles were a common form of alternative transportation.
- Know your neighbors. Many people were able to work together to survive. Knowing your neighbors and what resources they may be able to provide prior to the disaster proved crucial. Existing relationships makes it easier to work together during a crisis.
- Don’t drive through water. The depth of the water and the ability of water to wipe out a road can be deceptive.
- Consider what important papers might be needed if you evacuate such as insurance information, financial documents, identity documents, and medical records.
- Plan ahead – your situation is different from your co-workers and neighbors. Consider what you and your family will need, what resources you have, and what it will take to be on your own without power for at least three days.

Georgia is vulnerable to a range of severe and potentially life-threatening weather, including tornadoes. Over the past 50 years, over 1,300 tornadoes were reported in Georgia. While tornadoes have occurred in every month of the year in Georgia, the months of March through May are the most active period of tornadic activity in the state.

The upcoming Statewide Severe Weather Drill, scheduled for February 6, 2013, is conducted on an annual basis by the National Weather Service and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security Office. Participation in the drill is encouraged by the Governor and other emergency management officials. In the event or threat of actual severe weather on the day of the drill, the NWS will reschedule the drill date.
The University of Georgia (UGA) community is encouraged to either physically shelter in their pre-designated sheltering areas or to reflect upon what actions they would take should a real severe weather event occur on campus. UGA’s Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) encourages the University community to become familiar with the following tips as part of their individual preparedness:

A **tornado watch** is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in the area.

A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar in the area.

### Sheltering during a storm if inside a building
- Go to the basement or to an inside hallway at the lowest level of the building.
- Take or secure your personal belongings if time permits (laptops, purses, book bags, etc.).
- Secure your work computer if time permits (logoff and shut down to minimize damage and potential loss of data).
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, theater style rooms, cafeterias, large hallways, or gymnasiums.
- Stay away from exterior windows and doors as well as display cases, shelving, or wall mounted audio visual equipment that could collapse on top of you.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture (if available) such as a workbench, heavy table, or desk, and hold on to it.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

### Sheltering during a storm if outdoors, in a vehicle, or on a campus bus
- Get inside a building if possible.
- Follow the instructions of your bus driver if you are riding Campus Transit or a city bus.
- Lie in a ditch, low-lying area, or crouch near a strong building if shelter is not available or if there is no time to get indoors.
- Be aware for the potential of flash flooding.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Please contact OSEP should you need additional instructions or locations of safe areas within your building. Additional severe weather tips are posted on OSEP’s Website [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu).

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**Test of the UGA ALERT System during the Statewide Severe Weather Drill**

[http://www.ugaalert.uga.edu](http://www.ugaalert.uga.edu)

A **TEST** of UGA’s emergency mass notification system, UGA ALERT, is planned for February 6, 2013 in conjunction with the Statewide Severe Weather Drill. **After the TEST**, a short survey will be posted on OSEP’s Website at [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu). UGA ALERT users are encouraged to participate in this short survey. Feedback from this survey will provide valuable information to help improve future drills and emergency alerts.

UGA ALERT is used to send emergency messages to the UGA campus community when immediate action is needed due to life threatening campus-wide emergencies.

**Prior to the TEST**, users are encouraged to update their contact information at [www.ugaalert.uga.edu](http://www.ugaalert.uga.edu).

Contact John Newton, Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness, at jmnewton@uga.edu for any questions about the UGA ALERT system.

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**Special Lecture**

**Severe Weather Safety**

February 6, 2013 - Noon - 1:00 PM

UGA Tate Room 481

The Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness is hosting a lecture in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week. Keith Stellman, Meteorologist-in-Charge from the National Weather Service in Peachtree City will be the guest speaker. Mr. Stellman will speak on services provided by the National Weather Service, severe weather safety, and patterns of severe weather.

The lecture is open to the public and no reservation is required.
UGA CERT

Registration is now open for the Spring 2013 UGA CERT class. UGA CERT is open to UGA faculty, staff, and students. The classes will be held each Wednesday from 2:30-5:00 PM starting on February 20 through April 17, 2013. Contact Pete Golden, Emergency Operations Coordinator, at pgolden@uga.edu if you have questions about the UGA CERT program. Registration link for the 2013 class is available from OSEP’s homepage: www.osep.uga.edu

Business Continuity Planning (BCP)

Business continuity planning (BCP) is the practice of how your department will provide services or conduct departmental business during or after an emergency. A new online plan generator has been developed to assist departments with planning for recovery and continuity issues relative to extended power outages, pandemic scenarios, fires or other disasters that could damage buildings. The tool, which is similar to the MyBEAP system, will also assist with business, operational, academic and research continuity across the University community. OSEP needs volunteer departments to test and provide feedback on the system prior to offering this system campus-wide. It takes about 30 minutes to complete a BCP. If you are interested, please contact Noelle Broadnax, broadnax@uga.edu or 706-542-1289, to request access to the system.

Emergency Preparedness Kits

Starter Emergency Preparedness kits are now available to purchase at the UGA Bookstore for $17.99. The kit includes a few basic items and is easily stored in your home, office, or car. Stop by the UGA Bookstore to purchase a kit today.

Flu Season is here

UGA has been involved with the UGA Health Center in a proactive campus-wide flu awareness campaign for several years. The campaign is an effort to make sure the entire campus is doing their part to promote a healthy environment.

The best way to prevent the flu is to be immune to the virus by getting vaccinated against the flu. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated against the flu each year.

To help prevent getting the flu, remember to wash your hands frequently and cover your cough and sneezes with your sleeve. If you are sick, stay home. No one wants to disrupt their routine with illness.

Take some preventative measures to keep yourself healthy.
- Get vaccinated against the flu
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve
- Stay home if you are sick.

JOIN OSEP ON FACEBOOK!

If you have a Facebook account, consider becoming a fan of the “Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness” Facebook page located at https://www.facebook.com/osepuga.