



CRISIS PLANNING OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

In crisis situations the Crisis Plan will better enable the University to protect and support students, faculty, staff and visitors; enhance the University's ability to communicate with internal and external constituents; enhance the ability of the University to quickly recover from loss or damage to facilities, equipment or grounds; facilitate the continuation of University business operations and/or University business recovery procedures; assure compliance with regulatory requirements of Federal, State and local agencies; and enable the University to utilize multi-perspective approaches in an organized manner to generate creative problem-solving solutions in a crisis.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. It is the responsibility of the University to provide for a comprehensive crisis response plan that meets the emergency needs of those who either have been or might be affected by an emergency or major disaster. When the emergency exceeds the University's capability to respond, assistance will be requested from the City of Omaha and/or Douglas County. If additional assistance is needed beyond local capabilities, the local agencies will coordinate requests to the proper state agencies.
2. The President is ultimately responsible for crisis response activities within the boundaries of the university. The Vice President for Student Services is responsible for implementing this plan. These officials can delegate their authority, but never their responsibility.
3. This plan is based on the concept that the crisis response functions assigned to the various groups, organizations, and individuals involved in this plan will parallel their normal day-to-day functions as closely as possible. The same personnel and material resources will be employed as much as possible in both normal and crisis response functions.
4. Those day-to-day functions that do not contribute directly to the crisis response operations may be suspended for the duration of the crisis. The efforts that would normally be required for those functions will be redirected to the accomplishment of crisis response tasks by the department concerned.

5. This plan or portions thereof will be implemented according to the crisis response classification and control procedures.

B. Operational Time Frames

This plan is concerned with hazards that may develop that affect Creighton and must account for activities before, during, and after an occurrence. The following operational time frames are established for the various actions to be performed within the scope of this plan:

1. Mitigation -- A period of time during which activities are undertaken by individuals/departments to improve their capabilities to respond to a potential emergency and fulfill assigned responsibilities. The purpose of mitigation is to identify potential hazards and engineer structures to minimize the potential for damage.
2. Preparedness -- A period of time during which activities are undertaken by individuals/departments to increase their readiness posture during periods of heightened risk.
3. Response -- A period of time during which activities are undertaken by individuals/departments to respond to an occurrence that threatens or harms faculty, staff, students and/or property.
4. Recovery -- A period of time during which activities are undertaken by individuals/departments to provide for the welfare of the faculty, staff and students following a disaster and/or emergency.

CRISIS RESPONSE CLASSIFICATION & CONTROL PROCEDURES

I. PURPOSE

Establish emergency/disaster classification and control procedures for Creighton officials and crisis response personnel during periods of emergency/crisis.

II. EMERGENCY CLASSIFICATION

- A. Level I: Low-level Incident or Emergency: A minor departmental, building or individual/personal incident that can be resolved by a responding service unit designated to handle emergency situations (e.g. Facilities staff called to respond to a broken water pipe; Residence Life staff responding to a student issue).
- B. Level II: Mid-level Incident or Emergency: A department, building or personal incident that can be resolved with existing University resources and/or limited additional support. A level two incident is usually a one-dimensional event of limited duration and which has limited impact on the Creighton community beyond the space/building in which it occurred, or the persons involved (e.g. small scale chemical spill in a laboratory; a fire contained in a residence hall room; student services staff and medical personnel handling a student suicide attempt).

- C. Level III: High-level Incident or Emergency: Emergencies that have an impact on people on a larger scale and/or that become complex by their nature (e.g. civil disobedience, hate crimes, bomb threats, sexual or physical assaults).
- D. Level IV: Crisis Incident: Major emergencies that impact a sizeable portion of the physical or human resources of campus and/or the external community, that call for response from multiple or all campus units. Level IV Crises may be a single or multi-hazard situations, real or imminent, natural or man-made, and often require considerable coordination both within and outside Creighton (e.g. black-out, tornado, flood, contagious disease outbreak, water contamination).
- E. Level V: Catastrophic Incident: Catastrophic emergencies that involve the entire campus and surrounding community, that are usually multi-hazard and beyond the crisis response capabilities of the campus and local resources (e.g. bioterrorism, plane crash on campus).