



## A Nation Prepared

### OHSU PREPARED

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 brought the concept of “Emergency Preparedness” to the forefront of Americans’ minds as they coped with the tragedy and considered how to prepare for others that might occur. In response to this attack, the federal government created The Department of Homeland Security, or DHS. The DHS joined 22 federal agencies, programs and offices to coordinate the approach to national security for emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-made.



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a department within DHS that coordinates emergency preparedness and response activities. Their mission is to lead America to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from events with a vision of “A Nation Prepared.” The FEMA is currently coordinating the emergency response activities for Hurricane Katrina.

FEMA provides money, train-

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### Shared Successes

The following are interesting progress notes from SafetyTeam members’ activities:

- The carpet was cleaned in the PBS building. Staff were notified ahead of time to be aware of any smells that might be generated during the cleaning process.
- Facilities Management and Construction has been involved in tying in new sources of electricity to provide power to the new buildings. These connections have resulted in power outages that affect operations all over campus. Departments have asked FMC to notify them prior to scheduled power outages so that they can be better prepared!
- The mats on the 3rd floor entrances of the BICC were reported to be in disrepair. This concern was brought to the attention of Facilities Management and Construction, and budget was approved for replacements!

*Thanks members... be safe!*



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## Topic of the Month

This month's safety focus topic is a discussion of:

# The Incident Command System.

The OHSU Incident Command System includes a group of people who take a leadership role in case of an emergency that affects OHSU. The System manages the emergency so that it has minimal effect on OHSU operations.

The Incident Command Center, or ICC, is formed in response to an emergency that is big enough in scale as to require input from various groups at OHSU. OHSU's Incident Command Center follows the guidelines that FEMA has set for an ICC.

The people in the ICC are each assigned a role, and are identified while in the ICC room by wearing a vest with their title on it. The following is a list of typical responders to an event:



The Incident Commander is the person assigned to organize and direct the ICC.



The Security Officer heads up all activities related to the safety of visitors, patients and employees at OHSU.



The Safety Officer coordinates and identifies the hazards and risks associated with incident response.



The Public Information Officer coordinates with OHSU employees and the news media.



The Logistics Chief coordinates the flow of materials, supplies and transportation.



The Telecomm leader is in charge of making sure that computer and communication systems are up and running.



The Liaison Officer is the contact person for representatives from other agencies.



The Facilities Leader is assigned to make sure that all essential utilities are provided, including steam, water, heat, and electricity and to maintain the facility to the best possible level.

All leaders report directly to the Incident Commander, who coordinates all the activities of the ICC. The leaders of each area are not chosen ahead of time, and these leadership positions are often assigned to whoever shows up first at the ICC. As an employee of OHSU, you may be called at some point to be a leader in an incident command situation. Don't worry though, more experienced individuals may take over for you once they arrive on scene.

The ICC was recently activated for the power outage in the OPC. The ICC not only coordinated managing the developing situation, but it also coordinated the evacuation of the OPC, the response by the fire department and various staffing needs. The ICC was crucial in not only handling the incident but in ensuring a speedy recovery.

**Questions?**

**Call EHRS**

**503-494-7795**

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ing, support and coordination so that agencies all over the USA can create their own Emergency Management Plans. States, counties, cities and employers should all have a plan in place to manage emergencies. OHSU is currently working on an emergency management plan to be prepared in case of emergency. OHSU is following the guidelines agreed upon by FEMA and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to make sure that we are consistent with other agencies.

OHSU has two main groups that are in charge of Emergency Management. The first group is the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee for the Hospitals and Clinics. This group organizes the emergency management activities of the hospitals and clinics.

The second group is called the OHSU Emergency Preparedness Advisory Group (EPAG), which serves all of OHSU. This group is comprised of members from all the key critical areas of the OHSU community including: ITG, EHRS, Hospitals & Clinics, Public Safety, Facilities Management, News and Publications, Logistics, West Campus, Risk Management and Human Resources. Each of the critical entities is currently working on their department-specific Emergency Management Plans so that OHSU can further develop the OHSU-wide plan.

OHSU Hospitals and Clinics also just received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to be used to better prepare for emergencies.



Take a moment this week and consider your own state of preparedness and what you can do in your home or your workplace!

Information on Emergency Preparedness at OHSU can be found on the ozone at: <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/emergency/>

## Q of M Answer!

Last month's Question of the Month was from the Focus Topic, "Driving OHSU Vehicles."

The question was,

**"List 3 characteristics of someone who is driving in a safe manner."**

There were more than 3 right answers to this question, so I listed 5 below:

1. Maintains a current Oregon Driver's License.
2. Always wears his seatbelt.
3. Always adheres to speed limits and traffic rules.
4. Yields to pedestrians
5. Yields right-of-way to avoid accidents.

Thank you to everyone who participated! If you answered correctly, you earned 1 SafetyPoint! Contact Kristine Abrahamson at 503 494-0215 for answers to your questions.

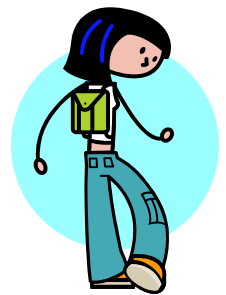


## Welcome Back to School Students!

Note to students from the Editor:

Please take a moment to consider the following safety tips:

1. Watch your back! Be careful when hauling around those textbooks. Get yourself a good bag and follow proper lifting technique.
2. Wear your ID badge at all times while on campus. It's OHSU policy.
3. Wear good shoes! You'll be walking a lot on hilly, wet surfaces.
4. Scared to walk around campus at night? Call Public Safety for an escort.





## Slow down in Construction Work Zones!

SAFETYNEWS

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### Question of the Month

The question of the Month is designed to challenge your safety knowledge and give you a chance to earn some cool, free stuff!

#### QUESTION OF THE MONTH



**What is the role of the Incident Commander?**

Write your answer to the question in the appropriate box on your SafetyTeam Member Update form. Correct answers to this month's Question will earn 1 SafetyPoint.

If you are not currently a SafetyTeam member and would like to participate, contact Kristine Abrahamson, SafetyTeam Coordinator, at 503 494-7795.

# OHSU

OHSU includes four schools; two hospitals; numerous primary care and specialty clinics; multiple research institutes; and several public service and outreach units. OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

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