

Section 13.00
EMERGENCY RESPONSE & EVACUATION PROCEDURES

As a basic principle of emergency response on campus, all calls for ambulance, fire and other emergency response shall be made to the UMBC Police Department at 410-455-5555 (5-5555).

[UMBC's Emergency Response Plan](#)
[Synopsis of Emergency and Weather Warning System](#)
[Emergency Operations Plan Training Program for the Campus Community](#)

13.01 Emergency Response Plan

UMBC's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is designed to mitigate the impact of critical events on campus. **Note: There is a 2018 Emergency Response plan under review.**

13.02 Evacuation Procedures

Evacuation emergencies include severe weather, hazardous material accidents, fires, floods, utility emergencies, hostage situations, active shooter situations, cyber-attacks; chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) incidents, tornadoes, hurricanes, snow emergencies and aircraft accidents and other situations in which emergency personnel direct evacuation of a building. Evacuations can range from a single building to a portion of campus or the entire campus. In the event of an area-wide or campus-wide evacuation, the university police department will coordinate with local government authorities to ensure that evacuation directions do not conflict with those of the surrounding jurisdiction. In the event of a fire and other emergencies on campus, all persons in affected areas must evacuate immediately.

13.03 Emergency Notification Methods

Unless issuing a notification would put the community at greater risk or compromise efforts to contain the emergency, the Chief of the UMBC Police Department, or their designee, will notify, without delay, the campus community upon confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff on campus.

What follows is a description of various emergency notification system and processes that are in place.

- **OMNILERT text notification Alert System:**
This emergency text alert system allows quick and easy dissemination of information to the campus community in the event of an emergency through cell phones and email.
- **Alertus Desktop platform** – signals users on UMBC Wi-Fi system of an emergency. This includes a RSS feed to the MyUMBC portal.

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- **Emergency Communications System:**
Emergency sirens placed throughout the campus will be activated in the event of an emergency. When the siren sounds on campus, seek shelter in the nearest building

- **All-Campus E-Mail Message:**
E-mail alerts informs the campus community of present or imminent threats and directs the campus of appropriate steps to take to maintain safety.

- **Weather Data Service:**
UMBC receives real time warnings from the SkyGuard Weather service; which details critical weather events that may impact the UMBC community. SkyGuard Weather service technicians have the ability to remotely activate the UMBC Emergency Communications System when they detect that life threatening weather will imminently impact the UMBC community. The SkyGuard Weather service is used in conjunction with the campus' Emergency Warning System siren and the E2Campus Emergency Text Alert System to provide a comprehensive weather emergency warning system that alerts the campus community of critical weather emergencies.

- **Other Communication Methods:** If necessary, police announcements could be made via:
 1. University Telephone
 2. Two Way Radios
 3. Cellular Telephones
 4. Voice Mail
 5. Web Messages
 6. Signage

13.04 Training and Testing:

UMBC conducts emergency policy and procedure training and testing through, fire drills, testing of the communication systems and tabletop/emergency exercises. Various sections of UMBC conduct annual training (Police, ESH and Facilities Management), tests of emergency equipment (ESH) and fire drills (ORL, ESH and FM).

These procedures are announced through OMNILERT text notification Alert System and email alerts (Alertus Desktop notification).

13.05 Emergency Planning Committee

(New) In 2018, UMBC established an Emergency Planning Committee (EPC); whose duties include: training and drills, establishing policy and procedures, documenting the tests (date/ time/ who attended) and evaluating the University's ability to respond to various campus emergencies.

To this end, UMBC trains and cooperates with the Baltimore County Fire Department (and the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department), the Baltimore County Police Department, the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).