

EMERGENCY ACTION GUIDEBOOK

Introduction

This Emergency Action Guidebook is intended to provide helpful information to students, faculty, and staff at The University of Alabama in Huntsville in the event of an emergency. Members of the UAH campus community are encouraged to become familiar with its contents. As a quick reference guide, it may better prepare you to act in a way that will protect yourself and others in an emergency.

My Building Information

Each building on the UAH campus has a Building Coordinator and one or more Floor Captains. These individuals coordinate safety-related issues for the building. Consult your supervisor, the building coordinator, or the dean's office for the names of the responsible persons in the buildings where you regularly visit or work.

Building Coordinator:
Floor Captain(s):
Building Evacuation Assembly Area Location:
Tornado Protective Area:
Location of nearest First Aid Kit:
Location of nearest Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) – AEDs are located on odd-numbered floors in multi-story buildings:
Location of nearest Fire Extinguisher:
Location of nearest Fire Alarm Pull Station:

Emergency Contacts

The UAH Police Department is the primary contact for all campus emergencies. Calls will be routed to the appropriate campus and local first responders from UAH Police Communications.

UAH Police Department – Emergency	911 or (256) 824-6911
UAH Police Department – Non Emergency	(256) 824-6596
Off-Campus Emergencies	911
Huntsville Police Department	(256) 722-2100
Madison County Sheriff's Office	(256) 722-7181
Alabama State Troopers	(256) 533-4202
UAH Counseling Center	(256) 824-6203
UAH Student Health Center	(256) 824-6775
UAH Faculty and Staff Clinic	(256) 824-2100
UAH Facilities Work Order Desk	(256) 824-6490
UAH Facilities Work Order Desk (after hours/holidays)	(256) 824-6596
UAH Office of Environmental Health and Safety	(256) 824-6053
Crestwood Medical Center	(256) 429-4000
Huntsville Hospital (Main)	(256) 265-1000
Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children (East)	(256) 265-1000
Madison Hospital	(256) 265-2012
Crisis Hotline - Mental Health Center of Madison County	(256) 533-1970
Crisis Services of North Alabama	(256) 716-1000

Note: Calling 911 from a UAH campus phone will connect you with the UAH police department. Dialing 911 from a cellular phone or any other phone within Madison County will connect you with the Huntsville-Madison County 911 Center. The 911 center will route UAH campus-related calls to the UAH Police Communications Center.

Emergency Notification

Primary notification methods: The following methods will be used to notify the campus community of various emergency conditions that may impact students, faculty, staff, visitors, and campus operations:

- UAlert UAH's emergency notification system. Register for UAlert (ualert.uah.edu) to receive voice, text, and email notifications. Program (256) 824-7100 into your mobile device as "UAH UAlert" to recognize calls from UAlert.
- **UAH Home Page** (<u>www.uah.edu</u>) UAH's official website for weather closings and emergency event information updates.
- **Outdoor Warning Sirens** Two campus sirens activated by Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency during tornado warnings for Madison County.
- Outdoor "Giant Voice" Speakers Two campus high-power speaker arrays activated by UAH
 Police or emergency personnel to provide specific voice instructions during an emergency
 situation.
- Indoor Mass Notification Systems (Available only in some campus buildings consult with your supervisor, the building coordinator, or the dean's office to determine if your building has this type system) Provide building occupants with specific voice instructions or information during an emergency situation.

Secondary notification methods: These methods are utilized by UAH in some instances but should not be considered primary informational sources:

- **UAIert Notifications on Facebook** UAIert notifications may be posted to the UAH Admissions and UAH Police Department Facebook pages.
- **UAlert Notifications on Twitter** UAlert notifications may be posted to the UAlert Twitter account @UAH_UAlert and to the main UAH Twitter account @UAHuntsville.
- UAlert Notifications via RSS Feed UAlert notifications may be posted to the UAlert RSS feed: http://rss.blackboardconnect.com/182926/uahuntsville/feed.xml
- UAlert Notifications on the Web UAlert notifications may be posted to the UAlert (ualert.uah.edu), Emergency Information (emergency.uah.edu), and UAH Police (police.uah.edu) web sites.

You are encouraged to regularly review and update your UAlert emergency notification preferences by visiting ualert.uah.edu and following the instructions posted there for accessing your UAlert account.

Preparing for Emergencies

In larger emergencies that may impact the entire campus and/or surrounding community, first responders may not be able to reach you immediately. As a result, there are several simple steps you can take to be prepared to handle emergencies on your own. In order to be prepared, you should:

- Know what emergencies can impact you and have a plan for each.
- Remain weather aware during periods of potentially severe weather.
- Always locate two exits in any building that you visit frequently.
- Keep an emergency supplies kit in your car, office, and/or residence with (at a minimum)
 a flashlight, extra batteries, whistle, small first aid kit, extra eyeglasses, bottled water,
 and other items to sustain you for three days.
- Develop a communications plan for staying in touch with family and friends. Remember that cellular phone systems may be overwhelmed during an emergency. Try texting and/or establishing an out-of-town emergency phone contact person that family and friends can call to check in and relay messages.
- Keep a printed list of important phone numbers, including family and friends, supervisors, and other contacts in case your cellular phone is inoperable, the battery is dead, or you lose your phone.
- Consider taking a CPR/First Aid Class (Available through the UAH OEHS).
- Be familiar with the guidelines in this document and know how to respond to specific emergency situations.

Active Shooter

You should quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Remember that students and visitors are likely to follow the lead of faculty and staff during an active shooter situation. How to best respond:

- **EVACUATE** (Run) If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:
 - Have an escape route and plan in mind;
 - Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow;
 - Leave your belongings behind;
 - Help others escape, if possible;
 - o Prevent others from entering an area where the shooter may be located;
 - o Follow the instructions of any police officers and keep your hands visible;
 - Do not attempt to move wounded people;
 - o Call 911 when you are safe.
- HIDE If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should:
 - Be out of the active shooter's view;
 - Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (e.g., an office with a closed and locked and/or barricaded door);
 - o Not trap you or restrict your options for movement.

If the shooter is nearby, you should:

- Silence your cell phone;
- Turn off any source of noise (e.g., radio, television);
- Hide behind large items (e.g., cabinets, desks);
- o Remain quiet.

If possible and without jeopardizing your safety:

- Dial 911 to alert police to the active shooter's location;
- Leave the line open and allow the 911 dispatcher to listen if you cannot safely speak.
- **TAKE ACTION** (Fight) As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:
 - Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her;
 - Throwing items and improvising weapons;
 - o Yelling.

Bomb Threat

Bomb threats are usually received by telephone. If you receive a bomb threat call, remain calm and obtain as much information as possible from the caller:

- When will the bomb explode?
- Where is the bomb located?
- What does the device look like?
- What kind of bomb is it?
- What will cause the bomb to explode?
- Did the caller place the bomb? If not, who?
- Why did the caller place the bomb?
- What is the caller's name?
- What is the caller's address?

Notify the UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or 911 immediately and give the information you have obtained. Describe the caller's voice, any background noises you heard, and the exact wording of the message.

After notifying the police, notify your supervisor, a building representative, and the dean's office at the building in which you are located.

Do not touch suspicious packages. Be sure to notify UAH Police of any suspicious packages, items, or people in the area.

Follow instructions from police and emergency responders in regard to evacuation and assembly areas.

When evacuating during a bomb threat, take your personal belongings including purses, backpacks, briefcases, etc., with you.

Building Evacuation

Certain situations may require the evacuation of a University building. These include: fire alarm, fire, hazardous material spill, gas leak, order of University Police or other public safety official, building evacuation drills, etc.

If evacuation is required, follow these procedures:

- Stay calm, do not rush.
- Safely stop your work shut off gas and/or hazardous laboratory processes and equipment.
- Gather your personal belongings if it is safe to do so.
- If safe, close your office door and window, but do not lock them.
- Do not use elevators.
- Use the nearest safe stairs and proceed to the nearest exit.
- Proceed to the designated Evacuation Assembly Area for your building.
- Mobility-impaired persons not on ground-level floors should proceed to the nearest enclosed stairwell or area of safe refuge and remain there.
- Report to the building coordinator and emergency responders the location of any persons unable or unwilling to leave the building.
- Wait for instructions from UAH Police and emergency responders.
- Do not reenter the building until you have been instructed it is safe to do so by UAH Police.

Building Evacuation: Individuals with Disabilities

People with disabilities may need assistance to evacuate. Always ASK someone with a disability how you can help BEFORE attempting to give assistance. General guidelines:

- Visually impaired persons Announce the type emergency, offer your arm for guidance, tell the person where you are going, and ask if further assistance is needed once you reach safety.
- Persons with hearing limitations If necessary, turn lights on/off to gain the person's attention. Indicate directions with gestures, or write a note with evacuation directions, and assist to safety as needed.
- Persons using crutches, canes, or walkers Assist and accompany to the evacuation site if possible. If you are unable to assist persons down stairs, recommend that they remain in a safe, enclosed stairwell or other protected area, and notify emergency responders of their location when you have reached safety.
- Wheelchair Users If on a ground floor with handicapped-accessible entrances, check
 with the individual to determine if he/she needs or desires assistance exiting the
 building. If you are not on a ground-level floor, recommend that the individual remain in
 a safe, enclosed stairwell or other protected area and notify emergency responders of
 his/her location when you have reached safety.

Building Lockdown

If preceding an order to lockdown you hear gunshots in or around your building or once the notice to lockdown has been issued by the UAH Police, take the following action:

- Follow instructions of building officials and law enforcement;
- Remain calm:
- Remain indoors, (e.g., your office or classroom).
 - In a soft (partial) lockdown there is a possible threat near campus but not yet affecting campus – you would be allowed to move about to facilitate certain needs, (e.g., bathroom, water), but you are not allowed to leave the building unless an all-clear has been issued:
 - In a full lockdown you should immediately secure yourself in the room you are in or in the area indicated by the building-specific emergency action plan and remain there until you receive an all-clear notification
- If not in your typical surroundings proceed to a room that can be locked;
- Close and lock all doors;
- Turn off all lights;
- Occupants should be seated below window level, toward the middle of a room away from windows and doors;
- Remain silent:
- Turn off all radios or other devices that emit sound;
- Silence cell phones. Use phones only for emergency notification to UAH Police;
- If gunshots are heard lay on the floor and use heavy objects, (e.g., desks, tables, filing cabinets) for shelter;
- Do not seek shelter in open areas such as hallways or corridors. Go to the nearest classroom, office, or auditorium that can be locked.
- If outdoors, seek nearby shelter, (e.g., large trees, walls, mail boxes) and wait for additional instructions from the UAH Police. A message may be broadcast giving specific locations and directions for entering certain shelter sites if circumstances warrant; and
- Do not unlock doors or attempt to leave until instructed to do so by UAH Police. The allclear will be announced via UAlert or other appropriate means when it is considered safe.

Chemical Spill

For chemical spills that may pose a threat to you or other building occupants:

- Activate the building fire alarm to initiate a building evacuation.
- If you have bodily contact with the spilled material, remove any contaminated clothing immediately and, if the chemical is not reactive with water, flush all affected areas with copious amounts of water.
- Call UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 and provide the following information:
 - o Chemical substance involved;
 - o Building;
 - o Floor and room number;
 - o Type of incident (e.g., liquid spill, radiological spill, biological release);
 - Name and location of persons who may have been injured or exposed.
- Evacuate the building in accordance with established evacuation protocols.
- Do not return to the building or affected area until you are notified by UAH Police that it is safe to do so.
- Notify emergency responders of others who may have been injured or exposed.

For spills that do not pose an immediate threat to you or building occupants:

- Attempt to confine the spill as much as possible if you have been trained in spill
 confinement and are thoroughly familiar with the hazards of the substance(s) involved.
- Notify UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 and provide the information listed above.
- If you have contact with the spilled material, remove any contaminated clothing immediately. If the chemical is not reactive with water, flush all areas of bodily contact with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes.

Civil Disturbance

Do not attempt to approach persons involved in civil disturbances or non-peaceful demonstrations. Notify the UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911 immediately.

- Notify the UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911 to reach emergency dispatchers.
- Notify your supervisor, professor, building representative, or dean, as appropriate.
- Remain calm and wait for instructions from the UAH Police.
- If possible and safe to do so, evacuate the building or area.
- Do not attempt to negotiate with the crowd unless directed to do so by UAH Police.
- Do not attempt to conduct crowd control measures or to intervene unless instructed to do so by UAH Police.

Criminal Activity

Do not approach or attempt to apprehend persons involved in criminal activity. If you observe a crime in progress, or behavior you suspect is criminal, immediately notify UAH Police at (256) 824-6911. Report the following information:

- What the person(s) is/are doing.
- · Where it is happening.
- Physical and clothing description of those involved.
- Type of weapons involved, if any.
- Vehicle description and license plate number.
- Direction of travel of the person(s) when last seen.
- Whether the person(s) was on foot or in a vehicle.

If your situation requires an immediate police response, call UAH Police or dial 911 immediately!

SILENT WITNESS

UAH offers the *Silent Witness Form* that allows persons to report information regarding criminal activity while remaining anonymous. You may find the form online at: http://www.uah.edu/police/silent-witness-form.

If your situation requires an immediate response, DO NOT submit this form – call UAH Police or dial 911 immediately.

Earthquake

If you are indoors when shaking starts:

- **DROP/COVER and HOLD ON** If you are not near a strong table or desk, drop to the floor against an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances, and cabinets filled with heavy objects.
- Seek shelter between seating rows in a classroom or against a corridor wall if in a hallway.
- Do not attempt to run out of the structure during strong shaking glass, bricks, and other falling objects pose a high risk near the exterior of buildings during an earthquake.
- Do not use elevators or stairways.
- If you use a wheelchair, lock the wheels and cover your head.
- If you are in bed, stay there and cover your head with a pillow.

If you are outdoors when shaking starts:

- Move to a clear area away from buildings, trees, and power lines.
- If you are driving, pull to the side of the road and stop avoid stopping under overhead hazards such as overpasses, trees, buildings, and power lines.

After the earthquake shaking stops:

- Check persons around you for injuries. Provide first aid but do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Check for dangerous conditions such as fire, gas leaks, downed power lines, and structural damage.
- Turn off gas supplies ONLY if you smell gas.
- Report injuries and/or building damage to the UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911.
- Evacuate unsafe areas or buildings.
- Follow instructions from emergency responders and UAH Police.

Explosion

In the event of an explosion:

- Evacuate the building immediately. DO NOT stop to retrieve personal possessions or make phone calls.
- If objects are falling around you, get under a sturdy table or desk until objects have stopped falling and then leave quickly.
- Once you are safely outside, notify UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911 and provide the following:
 - o Building name;
 - o Floor and room number;
 - Type of incident (e.g., explosion).
- Do not use elevators.
- If smoke is present, stay low. Watch for sharp debris which could cause injuries.
- Follow instructions given by your building coordinator, floor captain, fire department, or the police.
- Assist individuals who may need assistance to move to a safe area.
- Notify emergency responders on the scene if you know or suspect someone may be trapped inside the building or if mobility impaired persons are waiting for assistance in stairwells or protected areas.
- Move at least 500 feet from the building once you are safely outside.
- Do not re-enter the building until authorized to do so by UAH Police.

If you are trapped in debris remember the following:

- Do not light a match or any other type of flame.
- Do not move or kick up dust.
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Rhythmically tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are.
- Shout only as a last resort when you hear rescuers close by (shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust or debris).

Fire

- Activate the fire alarm system upon discovering a fire or smoke in a building.
- Evacuate the building immediately.
- Notify others as you leave.
- Notify UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911 and provide the following:
 - Building name;
 - Floor and room number;
 - o Type of incident (e.g., fire, explosion, smoke).
- Do not use elevators.
- If smoke is present, stay low.
- Take personal belongings (purse, wallet, keys, etc.) only if doing so will not hinder your ability to exit the building quickly.
- Follow instructions given by your building coordinator, floor captain, fire department, or the police.
- Assist individuals who may need assistance to move to a safe area.
- Proceed to the designated Evacuation Assembly Area for your building.
- Notify emergency responders on the scene if you know or suspect someone may be trapped inside the building or if mobility impaired persons are waiting for assistance in stairwells or protected areas.
- Do not re-enter the building until authorized to do so by UAH Police.

Flood

For localized interior flooding (broken plumbing, sprinkler activation, etc.):

- Do not enter flooded areas such as basements, first floors, vaulted areas, or confined spaces. There is danger of drowning or electrical shock.
- Notify UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911 and provide the following:
 - o Building name;
 - Floor and room number;
 - o Type of incident (e.g., flood, plumbing leak, broken sprinkler head).
- Notify Facilities maintenance at (256) 824-6490 if flooding is minor and contained to a small area.
- Do not re-enter the building or work area until authorized to do so by UAH Police.

For naturally-occurring floods:

- If you are indoors and the lower floor is flooded, move to the highest floor possible.
- Do not enter flooded areas such as basements, first floors, vaulted areas, or confined spaces. There is danger of drowning or electrical shock.
- Remain in a protected location until an all-clear message is issued by UAH through the UAlert system or you are advised by emergency response officials that it is safe to exit your shelter.
- If you are outdoors and near a flooded creek or stream or a flash flood warning is issued for your location, climb to higher ground on foot immediately. Avoid drains, ditches, ravines, and culverts.
- Do not attempt to drive on water-covered roadways or parking areas. Water may be deeper or flowing more swiftly than it appears. Cars will float in as little as one foot of water
- If your vehicle stalls or is surrounded by water, abandon it and move to higher ground on foot
- If you are unable to move to higher ground, seek shelter on the upper floors of a nearby sturdy building.

Gas Leaks

If a natural gas line or a toxic, flammable, or corrosive gas cylinder or piping should begin leaking and presents any danger to you or others:

- If possible and safe to do so, close the gas valve.
- If possible and safe to do so, confine the fumes as much as possible to limit impact to the leak area.
- Do not switch on lights or any other electrical equipment.
- Do not smoke in the area.
- Sound the building fire alarm to begin building evacuation.
- Notify UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 and provide the following information, if known:
 - Chemical substance involved;
 - o Building;
 - o Floor and room number;
 - o Type of incident (e.g., natural gas leak, broken piping, damaged cylinder, etc.);
 - o Type of hazard (e.g., explosion, fire, respiratory, corrosive, etc.).
- Evacuate in accordance with building evacuation protocols and report to the Evacuation Assembly Area.
- Do not re-enter the building until authorized to do so by UAH Police.

Suspicious odors which may indicate a gas leak should be reported to UAH Police immediately.

Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency:

- Notify the UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911.
- Provide the emergency dispatcher with your name, location, number of persons injured, and a description of the medical emergency.
- Stay on the phone for instructions as to how you can assist.
- Send a responsible person to meet first responders outside of the building near the street or entrance to lead the emergency responders to the injured person(s).
- Do not move the person unless there is an immediate threat to the injured person if he/she remains in that location.
- Be sure to wear personal protective equipment and avoid bodily fluids if attempting to assist or move a victim.
- Report the medical injury to your supervisor or dean's office as appropriate. Housing residents should notify their Resident Assistant and/or Resident Director.
- Many campus buildings are equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).
 CPR must be used in conjunction with AEDs. AEDs contain operation instructions that must be carefully followed.

UAH recommends taking courses in CPR/AED/First Aid. These may be scheduled through the UAH Office of Environmental Health and Safety or through the local Red Cross office.

Suspicious Package

Features common to many suspicious packages include: no return address, handwritten or poorly typed address, misspelling of common words, restrictive markings such as "confidential" or "personal," excessive weight, substance (powder, liquid, etc..) leaking from package.

- Do not open a suspicious item. If you have opened it, remain calm.
- Notify the UAH Police at (256) 824-6911 or dial 911 immediately.
- Do not move the letter or package or attempt to examine it further.
- Keep others out of the area. Close off the area if possible.
- If possible, limit the use of two-way radios and cell phones near the suspicious item.
- If the package is leaking a substance or power and you came into contact with the substance:
 - o Remain calm.
 - Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, mouth, or any part of your face.
 - Notify emergency responders that you have come into contact with the substance.
 - o Do not touch others or let others touch you.
 - Wash your hands and arms from the elbow down with soap and water.
 - Do not attempt to clean or cover anything that might have spilled from the package.
- Follow all instructions given by UAH Police and emergency responders.

Threatening Behavior

If you are in contact with a student, faculty or staff member, or a campus visitor who appears to be an immediate threat to his/her own safety or that of others, please immediately call University Police at (256) 824-6911 or 911.

Immediate threat behavior includes:

- Stated intention to commit suicide or inflict serious harm to self.
- Stated intention or obvious behavior indicating an imminent threat to harm others.

Non-emergency situations in which the individual does not appear to pose an immediate threat to self or others, but exhibits behavior revealing a potential for harm, may be referred to the Behavioral Evaluation and Threat Assessment (BETA) Team. The BETA Team may be notified by contacting any of the following offices:

- Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies at (256) 824-6338
- Counseling Center at (256) 824-6203
- Office of the Dean of Students at (256) 824-6700
- University Police at (256) 824-6911

The BETA Team is a group of key administrators who assess and recommend the appropriate response to individuals on campus who exhibit threatening behavior to self and/or others.

Tornado / Severe Weather

During periods of severe weather you should regularly monitor local TV, radio, weather radio, weather-related web sites, etc., for severe weather updates.

- A tornado watch means that severe thunderstorms capable of producing tornados are
 possible. Continue normal activities but monitor weather conditions and be prepared to
 seek shelter. Know in advance the location of protective areas in your building.
- A *tornado warning* indicates a tornado has been spotted or radar indicates there is a likely tornado. Seek shelter indoors immediately.

If you are indoors when a tornado warning is issued, you should:

- Take shelter on the lowest level of your building or residence hall. Knowing in advance the location of protective areas in your building can help you to quickly reach them.
- Stay away from windows, exterior walls, and exterior doors.
- Move to an interior hallway or room if you do not know where the protective areas are.
- Wait for an all-clear notification from UAH prior to exiting the protective area.

If you are outdoors when a tornado warning is issued:

- If possible, quickly seek shelter within a building.
- If you cannot safely reach a building, take shelter in a ditch or ravine.
- Be alert for rising waters and flying debris.

You will be notified of a tornado warning by one or more of the following methods:

- Warning sirens located on campus. If you hear a continuous, steady tone from the
 warning sirens, seek shelter immediately. Stay in shelter until UAH issues an all clear.
 A tornado warning may still be in effect even though the sirens have stopped sounding.
- UAH will issue a tornado warning emergency alert through UAlert. Remain in protective areas until you receive an all-clear message from UAH.
- UAH will issue an all-clear message through UAlert when it is safe to exit protective areas on campus.

How much advance notice will a tornado warning give me?

- Tornados can strike without warning.
- It is important to remain weather aware during severe weather and be prepared to seek immediate shelter.

Utility Failure

- Immediately report utility failures to Facilities Maintenance during normal business hours by calling the Work Order Desk at 256-824-6490.
- Immediately report utility failures to UAH Police after business hours, on weekends, and on holidays by calling 256-824-6596.
- If working in a laboratory environment, safely turn off all gasses and turn off power switches to laboratory equipment. Leave the laboratory as soon as equipment, chemicals, and gasses are safely secured.

Please provide the following information:

- · Building name;
- Nature of problem;
- Your name and location;
- Information about persons stuck in elevators, if known.

During power failures, areas that do not have sufficient natural light to see exit stairs or doors should be evacuated while emergency lights are on. Emergency lighting is temporary and is not intended to allow normal building operations to resume or continue.

Do not reenter the building until power is restored.