



Office of
Emergency Management

Division of Administration
& Finance



2024
Annual Report

Introduction

Mission

To support our campus community staff, faculty, and students to ensure that as a University we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Year Highlights

OEM has accomplished many goals over the past year, but here are a few highlights:

- UH Emergency Management Safety and Security Audit
- Incident Management Protocol for the Office of Emergency Management and the Emergency Operations Center
- Implementation of Academic Continuity into the Continuity of Operations Planning Program
- Emergency Plan Improvements
- Hosted an Incident Command System Courses 300 and 400
- Conducted and Completed the After Action Reporting process to improve emergency efforts on campus
- Successfully completed 8 Emergency Operation Center Activations
- Held Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training course and full-scale exercise
- Conducted a tabletop exercise for the Division of Athletics
- Inaugural Hurricane Preparedness Event for the entire Campus
- Hurricane Beryl Activation for the University of Houston

Staff Accomplishments:

- State Office of Risk Management Continuity Preparedness Award – UH OEM
- Presentations at SORM Symposium – Ginger Walker
- Recipient of the Human Resources Staff Scholarship – Maia Solomon
- Secretary of the Continuity Council for the State Office of Risk Management – Ginger Walker
- IAEM CEM Mentorship Program – Ginger Walker
- Winner of the Staff Council Innovation Awards – Evan Broadbent



Preparedness Activities

A major component of our office is developing and reviewing plans. OEM maintains the Emergency Management Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Mass Evacuation Plan, and Mass Notification Plan.

- Campus-wide implementation of Continuity of Operations Planning Program of Veoci
 - 255 COOPs were created from 28 different colleges/divisions
- Student Housing & Residential Life Training
 - 300+ RA's trained on emergency preparedness
- Preparedness Training
 - OEM trained 888 participants in 2024
- Building Emergency Response Plans
 - 9 plans being reviewed and completed
- Special Event Planning Program
 - Shared, presented, and promoted Venue Emergency Plan and Outdoor Event Emergency Response templates, and Special Event Safety Checklist
 - 11 plans reviewed and completed
- Emergency Plan Improvements
 - Special Event Plans implemented
 - Building Emergency Response Plan rotation schedule



Big 12 Conference

The first year of UH athletics as a part of the Big 12 Conference has brought its own set of new experiences to UH OEM. OEM did the following to prepare for the shift:

- Tabletop Exercise in Preparation for the Big 12 Football Season 2024
- TDECU Emergency Action Plan
- Football Command Post Enhancements
- EOC Command Post Orientation
- TDECU Observation Post Enhancements
- Big 12 Basketball Season Planning
- Fertitta Center Emergency Action Plan Improvement



Training and Exercises

This year OEM facilitated or conducted 59 trainings, exercises, or drills.

Trainings		
Type/Name	Number of Participants	Capability Exercised
EOC Liaison Training	31	Preparedness
Command Post Training	10	Preparedness
COOP Liaison Veoci Training	61	Response/Recovery
UHPD Everbridge Training	13	Preparedness
Ride Out Training	25	All
SHRL RA Training	200	Preparedness
SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training	18	Preparedness/Response/Communication
Football Incident Communications Meeting	30	Preparedness
CERT	24	Preparedness/Response/Communication
Special Event Policy Update Trainings	18	Preparedness

Exercises		
Type/Name	Number of Participants	Capability Exercised
Workshop with HPD	6	Communication
Football Game Tabletop Exercise	31	Preparedness/Response/Communication

Drills		
Type/Name	Number of Participants	Capability Exercised
Monthly Audible Siren Test	Campus-Wide	Public Information/Warning
WebEOC Drills	1	Preparedness/Response/Communication



UH Alert Emergency Notification System Test	Campus-Wide	Public Information/Warning
SHRL Shelter-in-Place Drills	Campus-Wide	Preparedness/Response

EOC Utilization



- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated 8 times in 2024 for various special events and occasions.
- The EOC provides a central intelligence space for decision makers and response team personnel to gather critical information, coordinate response activities and manage personnel as the situation dictates.
- Various situations on campus will trigger the EOC's opening, including lengthy crisis situations like hurricanes or large recreational events like football games.



Special Events Supported

Football

6 Home Football Games with individual IAPs created and OEM support in EOC

Commencement

IAPs for Spring 2024 & Fall 2023 Commencements with OEM support in EOC

Basketball

Season Long IAP with OEM support in Observation Post as requested

Other Events

IAP creation with OEM support in EOC or Command Post as needed for large campus wide events



Future of OEM

A message from the Director

Another year has flown by and our small but mighty team has once again successfully completed so many accomplishments for the University of Houston and the Office of Emergency Management.

Once again, received numerous awards, accomplished difficult tasks, overcame challenges, and all the while exceeding beyond my expectations.

Whether it be through our enhanced preparedness activities, various mitigation strategies, prevention tools, response capabilities or the quick and concise recovery coordination, OEM was ready.

UH OEM is ready for any challenge we are presented with including 2025 challenges.

- Ginger Walker, Director, Office of Emergency Management



→ OEM presenting at SORM Symposium



→ OEM hosted FEMA 300/400 Training

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