

## **Supporting University Emergency Planning through the Utilization of an Aligned and Integrated Physical Response Model**

The University of Houston follows the Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This system provides a consistent nationwide template to enable Federal, State, local and tribal governments and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations to work together effectively and efficiently in an effort to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. At the University of Houston, emergency response is led by the Department of Public Safety and supported by other university centers and departments.

1. The incident management organization has five major functions, which are command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance and administration.
  - a. The Command Center comprises of the Incident Commander and Command Staff. Command center staff positions are established to assign responsibility for key activities not specifically identified in the general staff functional elements. These positions may include the Public Information Officer (PIO), Safety officer (SO) and the Liaison Officers (LNO), in addition to others, as required and assigned by the Incident Commander.
  - b. **General Staff (Operational Level Response):** The General staff comprises of incident management personnel that represent major functional elements of the incident command system led by an Operations Team Facilitator. The Operations Lead will provide a support structure that aligns all physical plant resources and support services that will roll up and report to the Incident Commander at the time of an emergency. For the University of Houston, the representation includes:
    - **Facilities Services**
    - **Facilities Planning and Construction**
    - **Information Technology**
    - **Academic Affairs**
    - **Research**

- **Student Affairs and Student Housing and Residential Life**
- **Environmental Health and Safety**
- **Public Safety**
- **Transportation and Parking**
- **Administration and Finance**
- **Research**
- **Communications and Human Resources**

**Physical Recovery Notation:** When an incident occurs within a single area and there is little or no functional overlap, the Operational Level Response will be led by the unit where the Disruption or Damage has occurred or has majority responsibility for the applicable operational area.

**Cross Unit Responses** will be facilitated by the Operations Lead and will work to accomplish the following:

<b>Physical Recovery Team Goals:</b>
A single set of objectives will be developed which will include a response plan that will ensure full recovery and safe occupancy for major incidents under the direction of the UH Incident Commander.
A collective approach will be used to develop strategies to achieve incident objectives.
Information flow and coordination of all communications will flow from one area, supported by a documented communication plan.
Response priorities will be aligned and a unified response will occur using a team-based approach and a geography-based zoned model.
No area will be neglected or compromised.