The UMD Emergency Management (EM) Program, led by the Emergency Management Coordinator in the Fire Marshal’s Office, continues to grow. During 2014, the program diversified the types of exercises and trainings offered, developed new preparedness materials, enhanced relationships, and increased its community outreach.

Plan Development

As emergency management awareness grows across campus and needs arise, the UMD EM program assists departments in developing emergency plans. Key efforts by the Emergency Management Coordinator this year included helping develop the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) Departmental Emergency Operations Plan (DEOP), Facilities Management (FM) Emergency Operations Plan, and the new Campus Infectious Disease Management Plan (CIDMP).

To respond to the global threat of the Ebola virus, it was necessary to develop the new CIDMP in real time. The Emergency Management Coordinator facilitated an aggressive timeline set by the Director of the University Health Center.

Training and Exercises

The emergency management team has facilitated and evaluated exercises to help UMD departments and offices, as well as external partners, identify strengths and areas for improvement when planning and responding to emergencies. The exercises have focused on providing participants the opportunity to review and discuss emergency response plans, policies, and procedures; review and discuss the decision-making process; identify resource and facility access limitations; increase the understanding of the interrelatedness and dependencies between university departments and external partners; and to identify and make suggestions to improve the perceived shortfalls during the exercises. To build on the December 2013 Eppley Recreation Center (ERC) Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise (TTX), UMD and local first responders participated in the ERC Indoor Active Shooter Drill. Other exercises and trainings in 2014 included: Planning and Construction Earthquake TTX, Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX), Stadium/Arena Focus Structural Collapse, Great Shakeout earthquake drill, Resident Assistant Training, and the University Communicator’s Reputation Management exercise (sexual assault scenario).
Community Outreach and Education

It is important for our community to be able to access and share preparedness tips and best practices. The UMD EM Team participates in several events throughout the year in effort to reach a broad representation of the campus community. This year the UMD EM Program participated in the following events: Maryland Day, Good Neighbor Day, The Protect Your Shell Fair, First Look Fair, Hispanic Festival, Benefits Fair, and Good Morning Commuters.

Internships

The EM Intern Program continues. Internships are not only a benefit for the program, they also provide an opportunity for the students to gain real world experience in the growing field of emergency management. This year’s intern projects included Content Management Language (developing consistent language for UMD SOS app and Emergency Preparedness website), drafting the Emergency Operations Center manual, and developing the Emergency Preparedness Pocket Guide.

First Aid/CPR/AED

The demand for First Aid/CPR/AED instruction continues to grow. Training was provided to 44 people in the Division of Administration and Finance, as well as other members of the community. DES provides campus-wide consultation on the State’s public access AED program and associated regulations, as well the purchasing and maintenance of AEDs.

Game Day Operations Center

This was the inaugural year for the Big Ten conference, as well as the inaugural year for the Game Day Operations Center (GDOC). On home football game days, UMD departments such as FM, Athletics, University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD), DES, Transportation Services and local agencies such as Prince George’s County Police Department and Fire Department, Prince George’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the City of College Park meet in the GDOC to communicate and coordinate quick and timely responses to incidents.

Meet Emergency Management Coordinator Alisha Childress

In 2013, Alisha Childress became the university’s first full-time Emergency Management Coordinator. She brought her experience as an emergency management consultant for universities and government and hit the ground running. She immediately began evaluating preparedness at UMD and establishing goals for the emergency management program. Alisha utilizes detailed and energetic approaches to facilitating complex emergency exercises and promotes creative ways to provide preparedness education to the community. One of her favorite things about working at the university is the relationships that she has built with colleagues and students. In addition to her job responsibilities, Alisha teaches emergency management courses at University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and is completing a Master’s Degree in Management. She also serves as a Staff Advisor for the Alternative Breaks Program.

Social Media

UMD EM Program continues to share preparedness tips and network with the community.

Facebook: UMDemergencypreparedness
Twitter: @PreparednessUMD