

Numbers to Know!

EMERGENCIES 215-573-3333 GENERAL INFORMATION 215-898-7297 ESCORT SERVICES 215-898-RIDE
511 (FROM ANY CAMPUS PHONE) SPECIAL SERVICES 215-898-6600 215-898-WALK

All crises and emergencies at Penn are managed under the administrative framework prescribed in the University of Pennsylvania Crisis Management Plan (CMP). The Division of Public Safety (DPS) is the lead agency for maintaining the plan, recommending revisions to the plan and exercising the plan with all schools, centers and divisions.

The CMP establishes a two-tiered structure for managing emergency situations. At the highest level, the Crisis Management Team (CMT) is the policy group. The CMT makes policy decisions and holds ultimate responsibility for decisions involving communications, evacuation, University closings and business logistics and normalization. The CMT, comprising members of Penn's senior administration, is directed by the President, and chaired by the Provost and Executive Vice President.

The second-tier includes the Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT is the operations group and coordinates all operational responses to the emergency. The IMT establishes an Emergency Operations Center, comprising representatives of all relevant emergency response entities, such as DPS, Facilities and Environmental Health and Radiation Safety. The IMT operates under an incident command system composed of emergency personnel as needed.

The CMP establishes three levels of campus emergencies. Level I can be handled in the context of normal University operations and resources. Level II, the next level, requires the IMT to convene to ensure a coordinated operational response; no major policy or communications issues are implicated at this level. Level III, the highest level of emergency, impacts the entire University or a significant portion of the University community, requiring coordinated operational and policy responses. Additionally, the plan defines a "Watch" for normal operations when all agencies and organizations are functioning normally and a "Warning" when there is a pending or potential critical incident or event that may impact the University within twenty-four hours.

The CMP outlines responsibilities of the CMT members and of the organizations comprising the IMT, and sets forth communications chains to be employed as necessary. Under the CMP, the Division of Public Safety and other agencies at Penn employ a functional system of command, control, communications and coordination that allow all schools and centers to operate in unison to prepare for, respond to and recover from any crisis incident that impacts the Penn community. This functional system operates by allowing the Incident Commander, as the leader of the IMT, to develop strategies to manage a crisis incident by using an 'all-hazards' approach that standardizes the operational response of the University across any type of crisis incident that could evolve.

In an attempt to progressively enhance the implementation of the CMP, as well as realizing that other organizations in the University City District have similar needs with respect to emergency preparedness, Vice President for Public Safety, Maureen Rush established the University City Emergency Preparedness Steering Team (UCEPST) in November of 2003. UCEPST comprises representatives from the major universities, hospitals and various other organizations located in University City. UCEPST general membership meetings are conducted bi-monthly. There are four (4) subgroups that make up the general membership. Those groups are the Drill Group, the Process Implementation Team (PIT), the Five-Year Plan Group and the University City Group, comprising representatives from all of the organizations outside of Penn. Each group meets separately to accomplish objectives generated in the general membership meetings.

The Division of Public Safety also works collaboratively with the five-county (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia) Pennsylvania Southeastern Regional Counterterrorism Task Force (PA-SERCTTF), formed in 1998 to create a comprehensive regional response program to prepare citizens in this region for times of crisis. The PA-SERCTTF is responsible for homeland security and emergency management initiatives to protect the 3.9 million residents of the five-county region.