



Research Report: *Disaster Resilient Universities Part I*

December 2009

Emergency Management for Higher Education

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OBJECTIVES

- To highlight key elements that are integral to create a Disaster Resilient University(DRU)
- To study government documents and publications of universities those have created comprehensive emergency management plans and have moved or are moving towards resiliency.
- To compile a literature review draft for a paper delineating the key elements required to create a DRU

RESULTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- Creating a culture of preparedness is a key element to create a DRU. It is an overarching theme that ties in with other key elements.
- Creating comprehensive emergency management plans with an All-hazards approach and outlining detailed activities in each emergency management phase is another key factor.
- Leadership support and endorsement and involvement by key community players create opportunities for collaboration and networking that help to create stronger disaster resilient systems on campus.
- Creating proper emergency information plans and effective communication systems ensures that information and communications are managed effectively before, during and after an emergency.
- A Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) helps to recover and restore functional operations on campus and exhibit strong resiliency in a university.
- Ample training opportunities on campus ranging from tabletop exercises, drills, real world simulations, etc should be incorporated by a university.

WEBLINKS & REFERENCES

Colleges of Fenway Multi-Institutional, Multi-Hazard, and Mitigation Plan

<http://www.colleges-fenway.org/execsummaryCOFMitPlan.pdf>

Continuity of operations planning handbook:

http://www.csmd.edu/preparednessplans/COOP_Workbook.pdf