



PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND UNIVERSITY POLICE
Office of Emergency Management

Essential
Employees

Another Year
of Free CPR!

Georgia
Severe Weather
Awareness
Week

KSU is
StormReady

Preparing the Parliament is a monthly production of the KSU Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. This publication is provided to prepare students, faculty, and staff to be ready for and respond to potential emergencies and disasters which may occur on our campuses.

The Director's Desk

James Westbrook
Director of Emergency Management

Welcome back Owls! We started 2025 off strong . . . with snow! Winter weather is always particularly difficult for us. One or two degrees in a 5,000 foot column of air can make all the difference as to whether we get snow, sleet, freezing rain, or just a cold rainy day. As we saw during this most recent event, the forecast shifted wildly over a 5-day period. We went from expecting 3-4 inches of snow to looking at maybe an inch of snow and a lot of ice to ending up somewhere in the middle of the two.

So why is winter weather so hard to predict? Well, part of it is a matter of precipitation differences. Rain and freezing rain are pretty straightforward – 0.5 inch of rain is nearly the same as 0.5 inch of ice. There are small differences there – ice takes up a little more space than rain – but they are pretty close. Snow is completely different. 0.1 inch of rain, which is something we see often, is equivalent to between $\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 inch of snow. So, if they are expecting 0.5 inch of precipitation, that could be equal to 4-5 inches of snow. Or 0.5 inch of ice. Or 3 inches of snow and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of ice.

This is where temperature comes back in to play. To fall as snow, the precipitation needs to be below freezing throughout the column. It starts as snow and ends as snow. With sleet, it may start as snow before falling into a warmer layer of air where it starts to melt. It then falls back into below freezing air and refreezes in a “pellet” form as sleet. For freezing rain, the same thing happens as with sleet except the freezing temperatures are very close to the ground. As a result, the rain “freezes” as it hits the ground, forming a layer of ice on everything.

All of that to say . . . weather is hard. Especially winter weather. Generally, when we have really cold temperatures where predicting snow would be easy (25 degrees, for example), we don't have the moisture because we usually only get temperatures like that from arctic high pressure systems that zap all of the moisture out of the air. It is those times where we are in that 30-34 degree range where we could have winter weather.

A MOMENT WITH...

Paul Floeckher

Media Relations Specialist
Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing



HOW DOES YOUR ROLE INTERACT WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

I assist in writing and distributing campus updates such as a threat of severe weather, and sharing that information with local media. I also serve as an on-site public information officer for events such as Commencement and football games as well as for any type of crisis situation.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN KSU?

I enjoyed working in higher education at a previous job and wanted to get back into it, and I'd always had my eye on the Atlanta area. It all came together with the opportunity at KSU.

WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR JOB THAT CONTINUES TO SURPRISE YOU (IN A GOOD WAY!)?

I continue to be wowed by the quality of KSU's students. Whether it's the work they're doing in the classroom, a research lab or the larger community, I'm blown away by what our students are learning and accomplishing in college.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT KENNESAW STATE AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE UNIVERSITY?

I am a media relations specialist in KSU Strategic Communications. I interact with news outlets to tell stories that promote Kennesaw State's people and programs and enhance the university's reputation. I will celebrate my nine-year anniversary at KSU in November.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE KSU TRADITION OR LOCATION ON CAMPUS?

I have a hard time picking one favorite, but I'll say First-Year Convocation. College was four of the best years of my life, and I wish for our Owls to have a similarly wonderful experience. I enjoy seeing new KSU students at Convocation, as they begin their college journey and see all the opportunities and possibilities ahead of them.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO AWAY FROM CAMPUS?

Any activity with friends. Life is a lot more fun when good friends are with you on the journey.

ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES DURING AN EMERGENCY

Christy Hendricks
Continuity Planner

During an event that causes a campus closure, Kennesaw State University may be required to maintain minimum staffing levels for essential functions. Kennesaw State University has identified essential employees for two such events – winter weather closures and hurricanes/tropical storms. In the event of these kinds of events, the leadership of each department will determine minimum staffing levels to meet the emergency needs of the KSU community. If you are unsure on your status, ask your supervisor.

Essential Employees

When determining essential employees for winter weather, three levels have been identified.

- Level 1: Essential employees who must be on campus to perform duties when the campus is closed for winter weather, which may include the need to stay on or near campus before winter weather hits
- Level 2: Essential employees who should arrive on campus during a winter weather closure when it is safe for them to travel
- Level 3: Essential employees who should come in as soon as possible to support the mission of the University

Level 1

- Police Officers
- Communications Supervisors and Officers
- Emergency Managers
- Live-In Residence Life Staff & Select Housing Staff
- Dining Service Staff
- Facility Operations responsible for Snow/Ice Removal
- Facility Operations Emergency Techs (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing)

Level 2

- Security Officers
- Public Safety Command Staff
- Health Services Limited Staff
- EH&S (if labs are open)
- UITS Infrastructure and Server Support Networking

Level 3

- Big Owl Bus Drivers

[Click here for information on KSU's Modified Operations Policy!](#)



A NEW YEAR OF CPR... FOR FREE!

Wayne Randle
Emergency Management Coordinator

Each year, Emergency Medical Services care for over 350,000 individuals in the United States who experience out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Cardiac Arrest claims more lives than cancer, flu, pneumonia, road accidents, HIV, firearms, and house fires combined.

About 90% of cardiac arrest patients die. During the period of 2005 to 2025, cardiac arrest survival has been around 10% for out-of-hospital incidents and 21% for in-hospital events. Over 70% of cardiac arrest events occur in the home. The latest study from the American Red Cross reveals the following statistics:

- 41.2% of cardiac arrest patients received bystander CPR
- 11.7% of cardiac arrest patients who arrested in public had bystander-applied AED
- 26.1% of cardiac arrest patients survived hospital admission
- 10.2% of cardiac arrest patients survived to hospital discharge
- 79.6% of discharged cardiac arrest patients had a positive neurological outcome

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation can have a significant impact on these statistics. According to the National Institute of Health, the survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest without intervention is 0%. With CPR intervention, the survival rate rises to 9%. The use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) increases survival rates to as high as 38%.

The key to successful CPR is timing. For every minute the patient does not have CPR after arrest, the chance of successful conversion reduces by 10%. Thus, the more people trained and certified in CPR, the better the chances of successful conversion. This is where KSU's Office of Emergency Management can help! OEM has made CPR training a priority. In 2024, OEM trained nearly 200 students, faculty and staff in CPR. Our goal for 2025 is to continue this effort.

The priority of teaching CPR is of utmost importance. For this reason, OEM has committed to providing high quality CPR Certification to students, faculty, and staff **free of charge**. To us, it's that important.

Learn CPR this year! Saving a loved one is certainly worth it.

Included in the course:

- Free training for all KSU students, faculty, and staff (saves \$50-100!)
- Free pocket mask in case of emergency
- Certification through the American Heart Association
- AHA HeartSaver Card, valid for 2 years
- Ability to save a life!

More information on class offerings (dates and times) can be found on the [OEM training website](#).

Upcoming Training Opportunities

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Jan 29 CPR/AED Basic Life Support
Academic Learning Center | 8AM-10:20AM | 2PM-4:30PM

Jan 29 Civilian Response to Active Shooter
Academic Learning Center | 10:30AM-12:30PM

Feb 6 Severe Weather Safety & Response
Academic Learning Center | 1PM-2PM

Visit [our training website](#) for more information.

**Register
here!**

We can bring training to you!
Request training(s) for your department,
classes, or group. [Email us!](#)

GEORGIA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Jamie Case
Emergency Preparedness Specialist

February 3rd-7th is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Georgia. It's true that we are no strangers to severe weather, including thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, flooding, and heavy winds, which is why it is important to know what to do in any severe weather situation! Here are some severe weather safety tips to help you improve your emergency plans:

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS



Build a kit.
Make sure to have food and water for each person (and pets!), medications, and basic necessities.



Make a plan.
Make sure you know what to do when severe weather strikes. Create a rendezvous point for your family in case you are separated.



Be informed.
Sign up for watch, warning, and advisory alerts for your community. Have a NOAA weather radio.



THUNDERSTORMS



Know your area's risk for thunderstorms.
Sign up for your community's warning system/emergency alerts.



Strengthen your home.
Cut down/trim trees that may fall. Consider buying surge protectors and lightning protection.



Make an emergency plan for you and your family.
Know where to go and what to do. Identify safe places near your work and home. Include your pet!

When thunder roars, go indoors!

LIGHTNING



Be aware.
If the forecast calls for thunderstorms, postpone or cancel outdoor activities. Sign up for emergency alerts.



Go indoors/seek shelter.
Stay away from elevated areas, never lie flat on the ground, never shelter under a tree, separate from others, and stay away from bodies of water.



How to help someone struck by lightning:
Call 911 for help, assess the situation and move them if safe, and perform CPR if needed.

Lightning is one of the leading causes of weather deaths in the United States.

TORNADOES



Know your area's risk for tornadoes.
Sign up for your community's warning system/emergency alerts.



Identify a safe place.
Small, interior, windowless room or basement on the lowest level of a sturdy building.



Know the signs.
Tornadoes are rotating, funnel-shaped clouds that usually contain a cloud of debris and/or sound like a train.

Tornadoes have been reported throughout the year, but are most likely to occur from March to May, with the peak in April.

FLOODING



Know your area's risk for flooding.
Sign up for your community's warning system/emergency alerts.



Have a plan.
Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response. Build an emergency supply kit.



Turn around, don't drown!
Never walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Six inches of water can knock you down and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle related.



Are you signed up to receive emergency alerts from KSU?
Make sure your phone number is listed as mobile/cellular in OneUSG (faculty/staff) or Owl Express (students).



For more information on how to prepare for and stay safe during severe weather, [click here!](#)



KSU IS STORMREADY!

StormReady is a National Weather Service program designed to recognize sites that have reached a high level of severe weather preparedness.

KSU has been recognized as a StormReady university since 2014 and recently renewed our StormReady status. We are extremely fortunate to work alongside our NWS partners to ensure campus safety!

Click here to see if your
home/community is
StormReady!

Meet the Team!



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Download LiveSafe

The free LiveSafe app provides students, faculty, and staff with a direct connection to campus police so that everyone can easily communicate all of their safety needs. Its easy-to-use features help you stay safe every day and enable us to provide better protection for you.

