



PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AND UNIVERSITY POLICE
Office of Emergency Management

Welcome Our
New Team
Member!

Touch-A-Truck
2025

COOP Policy
Development

Spring and
Flood Safety

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

In the Office of Emergency Management, we are constantly looking at how to constantly improve what we do and how we do it. I'm not one who is in favor of "well, that's how we have always done it." Nor am I in favor of changing things just to say we changed them. I want to see improvement, even if it is incremental.

This is how we address all of our processes. We created the Crisis Coordinator Advisory Committee and have listened to the suggestions of this group on how to make this program better. We have one final meeting to schedule and are already looking at how we can implement some of the improvements that were suggested for the Crisis Coordinator program. Having our new employee – Omar-Shariff Roberts – on board now is certainly part of that improvement. Having someone who can focus on the program as a major part of their daily activities is vital to the future of the program as better engagement and communication was one of the major improvements identified by the committee.

We are also looking at improving our Continuity of Operations program with a policy initiative that Christy discusses later in this newsletter. This policy will, hopefully, help us to gain better buy-in from departments across the university while also increasing the overall resilience of the university from an operational standpoint. Continuity planning can be directly linked to how well we are able to recover and return to some semblance of normalcy after an emergency.

We are also looking internally at how we do emergency management and how we stack up against the national standards for program functionality. We are utilizing the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standard as our guide to gauge where we are as a program and where we want to go. This is not a quick process and will require us to consider what areas we want to focus on for future improvements.

Overall, we are working to get better at what we do – mitigating, preparing, responding, and recovering. We are, as always, a work in progress and strive for continuous improvement.

A MOMENT WITH...

Omar-Shariff Roberts

Emergency Preparedness Specialist
Department of Public Safety
Office of Emergency Management



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF!

I am Omar-Shariff Roberts II. I am an Eagle Scout and proud Georgia scholar, having graduated from Marietta High School in Marietta, Morehouse College in Atlanta, and the University of Georgia in Athens. Before joining the Office of Emergency Management at Kennesaw State University, I was employed at the Fulton County Board of Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN KSU?

As a resident of Kennesaw, I value my community and the resources available within it. Nestled in the heart of Kennesaw, Kennesaw State University serves a wide variety of students across numerous degrees and certifications. The Office of Emergency Management serves as a direct undergirding agency of support that manages the safety and security of students while indirectly supporting the Kennesaw and Marietta areas. My affiliation with this great institution allows me to continue to support my community while enhancing safety.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO AWAY FROM CAMPUS?

Outside of work, my hobbies are varied and eclectic. I enjoy domestic and international travel, cooking, painting, working out, gaming, and spending time with friends and family.

WHY DID YOU GET INTO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

I have always been interested in making things and the environment safer for my family and those around me. I was introduced to the world of emergency management by participating in a Boy Scouts of America Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge Clinic. This experience opened my eyes to the importance of being prepared for an emergency. I could easily understand and synthesize the basic concepts of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. After graduating from Morehouse College, I had the opportunity to work as the City Readiness Initiative Assistant at the Fulton County Board of Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness. While there, I could put these concepts into practice by assisting in preparing, responding, recovering, and mitigating public health disasters, thereby solidifying my path. This life-changing experience led me to seek more knowledge in the field. I changed the concentration of my master's degree from environmental health to disaster management while attending the University of Georgia.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK 2025

Wayne Randle
Emergency Management Coordinator

KSU's Office of Emergency Management joined the KSU Police Department Community Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement and K-9 Units at the City of Kennesaw's "Touch-A-Truck" event on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

KSU Department of Public Safety received hundreds of interested guests who were afforded the opportunity to see operations and equipment of Public Safety and Police in our efforts to keep students, staff and faculty of KSU safe and secure.

Sgt. Michael Guerrero, head of the KSU CORE Program, demonstrated the latest technology in police patrol vehicles and awarded the kids with games and prizes. Sgt. Teddy Setser introduced his K-9 Officer Santi to hundreds of delighted attendees. OEM provided an up close look at KSU OEM's Incident Support Vehicle, designed to support field operations during an emergency on campus.



CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS POLICY

Christy Hendricks
Continuity Planner



In an effort to ensure continued operations during unforeseen events at Kennesaw State University, the Office of Emergency Management is working to create a new Continuity of Operations (COOP) policy. This policy is designed to ensure that all departments and sub-units have and maintain a continuity of operations plan. The plans will identify essential functions and services, safeguard the well-being of students, faculty, and staff, and enhance the institution's overall preparedness for emergencies.

As we work through the process of creating the policy, we encourage continuity managers to update their plans. Christy Hendricks will be reaching out to others to create new plans. In addition, each department and sub-unit should have an individual Modified Operations Plan. The Office of Emergency Management is working on a template for those plans and more information will come out soon. The Modified Operations Plan will be incorporated into the COOP plans.

If you have any questions regarding the policy or your department's continuity plan, please email Christy Hendricks or call at
470-578-3684.



SPRING AND FLOOD SAFETY

Jamie Case
Emergency Preparedness Specialist

As spring arrives and ushers in warmer temperatures and increased rainfall, it is important to understand your risk and be prepared for potential flooding.

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the world!

By taking necessary precautions, you can minimize the potential dangers and protect yourself, your community, and your loved ones from the devastating effects of floods.



Can happen anywhere in the United States



Can result from rainfall, tropical storms, storm surges, or dam overflows



Can occur slowly over many days or happen very quickly



Potential impacts: power outages, polluted drinking water, infrastructure damage



Know your area's type of risk and consider your personal risks.



Move to higher ground or higher floors to stay above rising flood waters.



Evacuate immediately if told to do so. Do not underestimate the threat of flooding by failing to evacuate.



Turn around, don't drown! Never swim, walk, or drive in floodwaters.



Sign up for emergency alerts. Follow instructions!



Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Bridges can wash away with no warning.

Don't underestimate the power of water!



6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.



Safety after the flood

- Follow re-entry guidance
- Do not assume drinking water is safe
- Stay away from floodwater
- Do not touch electrical equipment
- Document property damage

Meet the Team!



James Westbrook

Director of Emergency Management
jwestbr9@kennesaw.edu



Christy Hendricks

Continuity Planner
dhendr16@kennesaw.edu



Omar-Shariff Roberts

Emergency Preparedness Specialist
orobert4@kennesaw.edu



Jamie Case

Emergency Preparedness Specialist
jcase6@kennesaw.edu



Wayne Randle

Emergency Management Coordinator
rrandle@kennesaw.edu



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AND UNIVERSITY POLICE
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