

# Dewberry's Emergency Management Services for Colleges and Universities

Colleges and universities face similar emergency management challenges to small and medium-sized cities. They must prepare for major emergencies while ensuring the day-to-day safety of thousands of students, faculty, staff, and visitors. However, campuses are also expected to be open and friendly environments.

Recent events have only further reinforced the need for colleges and universities throughout the United States to focus on the importance of planning and preparing for major disasters. We have a long history of working hand-in-hand with colleges and universities and offer the following dedicated services to assist college and universities as they work to become better prepared, make their campuses safer, and maintain a collegial environment:

## Response and Recovery Capabilities Assessment

Through a detailed review of university plans, policies, and procedures and a highly interactive workshop with key university personnel, we can conduct a response and recovery assessment of departments and the university as a whole. This assessment looks at areas such as staffing, training, planning, exercises, leadership, and equipment levels. Following the assessment, we provide a report detailing each area's strengths along with a roadmap for improving the college or university's ability to respond to and recover from major emergencies.



Dewberry's approach to risk assessment utilizes GIS technologies and aerial imagery. ▲

## Emergency Planning

We have extensive experience reviewing, updating, and/or creating emergency plans that are specific to our client's needs, incorporate nationwide best practices, and are compliant to local, state, and federal laws and standards such as the National Incident Management System (NIMS). We work with colleges and universities to ensure that their plans are synchronized with local emergency plans; we also make certain that local first responders are involved in the planning process. We have helped develop new or evaluated current plans such as:

- Emergency Operations Plans (EOP)
- Emergency response manuals for faculty, staff, and students
- Shelter and evacuation plans
- Family/student assistance center plans
- Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)
- Disaster Resistant University Plans

We helped complete one of six original Disaster-Resistant University (DRU) projects designated by FEMA in 2003. The pilot project has since served as a model for mitigation planning efforts for university campuses nationwide. Supported by FEMA grants and resources, FEMA encourages this all-hazards approach, which may include safety and security measures. Since the pilot project, we have completed DRU plans for twelve colleges and universities.



*The Disaster-Resistant University plan completed for Colleges of the Fenway was the first approved for a consortium of private schools. "The outreach and public participation process was one of the best that we have seen in a plan," says Richard Thibedeau, FEMA Region I.* ▲

**"Every campus in the state is looking at their emergency plans. The University of Louisiana System is the only system that has contracted with an external evaluator to provide a standards-based plan and is the only system to bring the right people together to work collaboratively. You are the model."**

**- Mike Abiatti, Board of Regents**

## For more information, contact:

### Jon Stewart

Senior Emergency Management Specialist  
703.849.0462

**Jane Sibley Frantz, AICP, CFM**, Deputy Branch Manager,  
Emergency Management & Homeland Security  
703.849.0473