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Disaster Resilient Universities® (1)

Background

In 2000, six schools participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Resistant Universities pilot initiative. The intent of FEMA's initiative was to support university efforts to reduce and manage vulnerability to hazards. The pilot initiative yielded a grant program and a how-to guide focused on mitigation and risk reduction. The grant program was short-lived—there was only one funding cycle, and fewer than 20 schools receiving grant funding for campus mitigation planning.

Background: When FEMA cut the funding, several institutions of higher education kept the core concept of the DRU alive. They saw the need for a practical, common-sense approach to disaster planning on their campuses. In 2005, after a national meeting of DRU campuses at the University of Washington, the University of Oregon started the Disaster Resilient Universities® (DRU) listserv. The listserv quickly became the cornerstone of the DRU Network® and served as a multidisciplinary, practitioner-based communication resource. The goal was simple: facilitate open communication, discussion, and resource sharing among university/college practitioners charged with making America's campuses more disaster resilient.

What DRU does: As of July 2019 the DRU listserv had more than 2200 members representing approximately 800 institutions. Today, the DRU Listserv provides a simple resource for increased communication, coordination, and collaboration among universities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, operate during, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other crises.

The DRU Network and concept has continued to evolve over time. Key to the evolution was the formation of the University & College Caucus (UCC) under the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and Partnership with National Center of Campus Public Safety (NCCPS). The DRU Network and UCC have developed a number of tools and resources on a peer-to-peer multidisciplinary basis. These include:

- Annual summits and roundtables;

- Practitioner-based training and course development;
- Standards & resilience crosswalk tool;
- Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for Higher Education;
- University Incident Management Teams (IMT) concept and development;
- National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA); and
- 2016 National Higher Education Emergency Management Program Needs Assessment

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, DRU members helped affected Institutions of Higher Education via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process and their own expertise. The DRU Network also provided real-time data to the U.S. Department of Education on campus closures and other issues. In 2015, the DRU and UCC members developed first National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA) for all intuitions of higher education to establish more formal partnerships between schools and other mutual-aid groups to help IHEs develop simple, open-source data-collection tools that assess the effects of disasters.

Why DRU matters: Creating a disaster-resilient campus is an exceedingly complex problem. It requires communication, coordination, cooperation, and a focused effort from the entire university, including the executive leadership, faculty/researchers, staff, students, and external partners. The DRU Network helps this effort because its interdisciplinary approach leverages members' knowledge and expertise to provide technical assistance and resources.

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Disaster Resilient Universities®

DRU Projects

[2018 Disaster Resilient Universities Summit White Paper](#)

The 2018 National DRU Summit was held in Eugene, Oregon, on April 4 and 5, 2018. The summit featured presentations by higher education experts and thought leaders, as well as peer-to-peer discussions, workgroups, and networking sessions to help participants advance the concept of resilience on their campuses. The white paper summarizes the peer-to-peer discussions that took place.

[National Higher Education Emergency Management Program Needs Assessment \(2016\)](#)

National Center for Campus Public Safety (NCCPS), Disaster Resilient Universities® (DRU) Network, and International Association of Emergency Managers - Universities and Colleges Caucus (IAEM-UCC). This report presents the results of a needs assessment of emergency management programs at institutions of higher education (IHEs) in the United States. The findings are based on information collected from a survey of emergency management practitioners at IHEs, targeted interviews, case studies, discussions at a summit of representatives from Oregon IHEs, and input from a project advisory committee. This report focuses on the spectrum of hazards and events that cause emergencies at IHEs: natural hazards (i.e. earthquakes, floods, severe weather events), biological hazards (infectious diseases), human-caused events (i.e., active shooter, fires, chemical spills), technology-caused events (cyber attacks), and others. It considers how campus emergency management programs plan for, respond to, and recover from events. A research team from the University of Oregon Community Service Center (CSC) conducted the research, analyzed the results, and provided key findings as part of the study. The CSC research team identified five key themes related to emergency management program needs: institutional engagement, training and exercises, plans and operational continuity, staffing and resources, and partnerships and assistance. The findings are organized around these five themes, with each theme including supporting data and analysis.

DRU Community of Practice and Repository (<https://communities.firstresponder.gov/>).

“DHS First Responder Communities of Practice” is a professional networking, collaboration, and communication platform created by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate. This vetted community of members focuses on emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and other homeland security issues. A DRU group shares information and technical resources (such as templates or examples, After Action reports, lessons learned, and best practices or case studies); it also engages in discussions and dialogues related to the profession and emerging issues around campus emergency management.

Training & Course Development

DRU members were on the HEOA/Clery Act negotiated rulemaking team and also worked with FEMA to help built a series of courses aimed at campus resilience.

- “Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education (L-363)” is a three-day course designed to teach campus teams the foundations of emergency planning, risk assessment, and overall preparedness and readiness.
- “Emergency Planning for Campus Executives (G-367)” is a modular, two-hour course designed for senior executives at higher education institutions.
- “Executive Seminar: Prevention of, Response to, and Recovery from Campus Emergencies (MGT324)” is a two-day overview of prevention, response, and recovery activities for college and university campuses.

Emergency Management Accreditation Pilot Program

DRU members partnered with International Association of Emergency Managers - Universities & Colleges Caucus (UCC) to bring the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP, an internationally recognized emergency-management standard and accreditation system) to colleges and universities. The DRU and UCC members worked with EMAP on a pilot project for accrediting institutions of higher education that have campus-based, emergency-management programs. Pilot assessments of four institutions started in October 2011 and concluded in August 2012. We are proud to announce that the EMAP program is now open to any college/university globally.

Professional Association Engagement

The DRU Network is actively engaged with other professional associations, such as the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), International Association College Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), Campus Safety Health and Environmental Association (CSHEMA), University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA), National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), and others.

Partnerships

The DRU Network is engaged with other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emergency Management Institute, National Center for Domestic Preparedness and Training, National Center for Campus Public Safety, and many more.

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Disaster Resilient Universities® (D)

Oregon Resilience Initiatives

Resilience is the ability to adapt to an ever-changing environment and still meet your mission and strategic objectives. The Safety and Risk Services unit works with our campus partners to support the university's mission of exceptional teaching, discovery, and service.

Our team continues to create links with campus partners to assess and address vulnerabilities, so our partners can continue to innovate and excel. To achieve our goal of becoming a more resilient university, we strive for proficiency in three areas:

1. **Strong leadership and culture** which stimulates the ability to stay aware, stay engaged, adapt, and make good decisions.
2. **Well-developed networks** which helps us use partnerships to leverage assets efficiently.
3. **Change readiness** which requires active planning, proactive thinking, and innovative problem-solving.

Change readiness is ingrained in the SRS philosophy. Even though we cannot predict exactly when a crisis or emergency will occur, we can minimize losses through planning, training, and mitigation. We prepare by using an interdisciplinary approach to campus risk management, safety, and emergency preparedness — one that leverages our key asset, our people, by giving them the knowledge, skills, and technical assistance to address ever-changing vulnerabilities. Our efforts extend well beyond campus in supporting both state-wide and national resiliency initiatives, such as the [Oregon Campus Resilience Consortium Concept \(/oregon-campus-resilience-consortium-concept\)](/oregon-campus-resilience-consortium-concept) and [National Disaster Resilient Universities® \(DRU\) Network \(/about-us\)](/about-us).

We believe our integrated organizational approach will soon become a model of how to turn one of the campus' greatest concerns — the safety and well-being of our people — into our strongest asset for building a resilient university.

OREGON RESILIENCE INITIATIVES (/OREGON-RESILIENCE-INITIATIVES)

[Campus Resilience Consortium Concept](#) (/oregon-campus-resilience-consortium-concept)

[Oregon Campus Safety Work Group](#) (/oregon-campus-safety-work-group)

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Disaster Resilient Universities® (1)

Resources

DRU Network Listserv

The DRU Network is a peer-to-peer network that provides simple resources intended to increase communication, coordination, and collaboration between universities practitioners worldwide that can be used to make our campuses more disaster resilient.

The DRU listserv is one of those simple resources. The DRU listserv is a closed list. You must have a university-provided email (.edu) to subscribe and fill out all required fields in the following form. The list is monitored for inappropriate posting: personal attacks, equipment and/or product advertising, or spam. Offenders will be removed and banned from the list. To request membership to the DRU listserv, please fill out the membership request form.

DRU NETWORK MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FORM
([HTTPS://APP.SMARTSHEET.COM/B/FORM/A99B8817C11D4590B31C09CC52819B3A](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/A99B8817C11D4590B31C09CC52819B3A))

National Higher Education Needs Assessment Project

The 2016 National Needs Assessment is an example of partnership resulting in a better understanding of campus emergency management needs. Kim Richmond, Director, National Center for Campus Public Safety, worked with the 2016 National Needs Assessment Advisory Committee to develop a survey of universities and colleges. Campus advisory committee members include:

- André LeDuc (chair), Chief Resilience Officer and Associate Vice President Safety and Risk Services University of Oregon
- Geoffrey Bartlett, Director, Emergency Management, Tufts University
- Jim Caesar, Campus Emergency Manager, University of California - Santa Barbara
- Paul Dean, Chief of Police, University of New Hampshire
- Krista M. Dillon, Director, Emergency Management Fire Prevention, University of Oregon

Troy Harris, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Resilience, Westmont College
Andrew D. MacPherson, Director, Public Safety and Emergency Management, Grayson College
Adrian Wiggins, Executive Director, Campus and Public Safety, Morgan State University
Madeline Sullivan, U.S. Department of Education - Office of Safe and Healthy Students
Bronwyn Roberts, Director, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools - Technical Assistance Center
Wendy Walsh, Higher Education Program Manager, FEMA- Emergency Management Institute
Sharon K Snyder, Department of Homeland Security Office of Academic Engagement
Calvin K. Hodnett, Special Advisor for Campus Public Safety Law Enforcement Engagement Unit Office of Partnership Engagement Federal Bureau of Investigation

Emerging Issues in Managing International Programs at Institutions of Higher Education

In October 2015, global health and safety managers, with support from the National Center for Campus Public Safety (NCCPS), the Disaster Resilient Universities® (DRU) Network, and the University of Oregon Community Service Center, met at the University of Minnesota's International Center for a focus group to review key risk-management and mitigation issues identified in a pre-focus group survey of DRU members, prioritize emerging risk issues for higher education, and develop a preliminary set of recommendations to address these issues. These recommendations were reviewed in a second focus group at the University of Oregon Portland Campus in February 2016 and resources required to implement those recommendations were discussed.

National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA)

(<https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/gmRCn38xcEafDkVKueJoTyiB>)

Similar to other mutual aid agreements, the National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement is a source for providing and/or receiving assistance. Participating in multiple agreements provides institutes of higher education with flexibility when evaluating the most effective and efficient means of obtaining resources during an emergency. Unlike typical government mutual aid agreements, NIMAA membership can include both public and private institutions. The NIMAA is a mutual aid agreement that is complementary to other mutual aid agreements / programs, and works in cooperation with other plans.

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