

**Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee**  
**Tabletop Exercise Notes**  
**April 20, 2022, 3:30 p.m. – UNA Culinary Center, East Campus**

I. Mr. George Grabryan of Florence-Lauderdale EMA welcomed everyone to the Tabletop Exercise to walk through the University's response to an emergency. Those present were Chief Les Jackson (chair); Dr. Eric Becraft; Cindy Conlon (vice chair); Minnette Ellis; Dr. Kimberly Greenway; Tiffani Hill-Patterson; Ethan Humphres; Dr. Leshan Kimbrough; Randall Phifer; Jennifer Sutton; UNA Police officers Greg Kirby, Bill Burke, Devin McCallister, Sgt. Anthony McGee, Adam Meeks, and Brian Llewellyn; Shoals Ambulance Director Charles Dalton; Florence City Schools Director of Federal Programs Casey Reed; Lauderdale 911 Center Manager Melissa Hearn; and Lauderdale EMA Deputy Director Heath Bennett.

II. Mr. Grabryan gave an overview of the Tabletop Exercise as a way to ensure the functionality of the policies and procedures developed by the Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee. This exercise is a way to help the University anticipate problems and communicate with the campus community to keep it safe. Ms. Hearn gave a brief review of what happens when a 9-1-1 call is placed.

III. To begin, Mr. Grabryan and Chief Jackson had police officers walk through several suspicious-persons scenarios, including possible theft, marijuana usage, and a homeless person in an unauthorized building. The officers and Dr. Greenway role-played and Chief Jackson and Mr. Grabryan offered feedback on each officer's approach.

IV. Main scenario discussion: Active shooter on campus, officers down, from real event at Bridgewater College in Virginia on Feb. 1, 2022.

- A. Suspicious-person call made and University Police respond.
  - 1. After a brief interaction, suspect shoots two officers.
  - 2. Ms. Hearn noted that 911 would get overwhelmed with calls from students, staff, and parents and that the office would coordinate with Florence Police dispatch.
- B. Getting out a Lion Alert to campus would be priority.
  - 1. A shelter-in-place order was sent to the Bridgewater campus four minutes after the initial call. Could we be that quick?
  - 2. Other law enforcement agencies would respond to assist.
- C. Mr. Dalton stated that an ambulance crew would get as close as possible to the scene to provide medical aid but could not help if the scene was not secure.
  - 1. He said the crew would make EMA aware of the ambulance staging.
- D. Florence Fire Department would also work the scene and would request officers to be there to secure the area.
- E. Mr. Dalton said the crew would consider airlifting from the scene, but if that wasn't possible, they could transport to NAMCI and airlift from there.

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- F. Mr. Dalton also said they would call in mutual aid from Keller, Athens, and other local facilities.
- G. Mr. Grabryan noted that EMA vehicles are equipped with tourniquets and quick clot supplies so they could help with medical aid as well.
- H. Dr. Greenway said the University would triage communications. First is to deal with the situation and then communicate what is happening in a short, succinct press release. The University Public Relations staff would work on a statement and release it when given the go-ahead by administration.
- I. Once the suspect is caught, they have to be secured somewhere. Where would that be here?
1. Chief Jackson noted that there would be multiple crime scenes that would need to be secured.
  2. Mr. Grabryan asked how the University would handle the deaths of officers.
  3. Various resources would be offered for the campus community, including counseling and grief support.
- J. The group then discussed what would happen if an officer had to shoot the suspect.
1. The University would not be able to release much information.
    - a. Officer Burke also noted that there would likely be a lot of misinformation.
    - b. Dr. Greenway stated that in a previous situation, the university removed all officer photos from the University directory, did not release who was on duty at the time, placed the officer on immediate leave, and called in the state authorities to investigate.
  2. Medical aid would be offered to the suspect who was shot.
  3. Then the University would prepare for criminal court, a use-of-force review, a grand jury hearing, liability, and civil suits.
- V. The exercise concluded at 4:45 p.m., and the group completed feedback forms to assess the exercise design and note any strengths and weaknesses in the University's response.

Submitted by Tiffani Hill-Patterson

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