

# ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### Quick Reference Guide

Summer 2007\*

NOTE: This reference guide is intended as a quick, hands-on list of procedures to be followed in specific emergency situations. For more information, please refer to the AASU Emergency Response Procedures Handbook for Faculty and Staff.

**Campus Police: 912.921.5555**  
**5555 From Any**  
**Campus Phone or Call Box**



*\* Many telephone numbers in this guide will change effective Fall 2007.*

## Purpose

The purpose of this reference guide is to provide guidelines to assist persons in dealing with specific emergencies on campus. The guidelines are intended to better enable the university community in protecting life and property and minimizing the damage caused by emergency situations, as well as to promote awareness in responding to emergencies. This guide complements the AASU Emergency Operations Plan and the AASU Emergency Response Procedures Handbook for Faculty and Staff. The guidelines also apply to the Armstrong Center and AASU departments in the Savannah Mall.

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## **BLAST**

AASU has in place BLAST, an emergency communication system designed to send vital messages to individuals' designated emergency phone numbers and e-mail addresses in the event of a disruption of normal campus operations or in the case of an emergency. For more information about BLAST, and the procedures for faculty, staff, and currently enrolled students to update their BLAST information, go to: [www.armstrong.edu/blast/](http://www.armstrong.edu/blast/). The AASU University Police Department is responsible for BLAST and for testing and evaluating this emergency system.

## **Fire**

If you find a fire, pull the nearest fire alarm and call 5555 or 911. Use fire extinguishers only if the fire is small (waste basket size), and you feel comfortable using the extinguisher.

To use the extinguisher:

- Pull the pin.
- Aim nozzle at base of fire.
- Squeeze handle and spray in side-to-side motion.

### **Fire Emergency Response**

In the event of fire alarm activation, all university personnel will immediately evacuate the building unless otherwise directed by authorized personnel. DO NOT use elevators in the event of fire.

- Evacuate buildings immediately, using designated routes and exits.
- Evacuation should be conducted in a quiet, orderly fashion, with no running, or talking, to minimize confusion and allow for changes of orders to be heard.
- When exiting a room, always use the back of your hand to test the door for heat. If the door is hot, do not open it. Change direction and find another exit.

- Use stairways to evacuate. Do not use elevators.
- Special care should be taken to assist disabled individuals in evacuating.
- In a fire emergency, standard evacuation procedures should be followed:
  - If time permits, windows should be closed by a designated person.
  - The last person to leave the room should close the door.
  - University Police should go immediately to stations to guard doors and assist with evacuation and crowd control.
  - Smoke is the greatest danger in a fire, so be prepared to stay near the floor where the air will be less toxic. If necessary, crawl to exit.
  - If trapped on a second story or higher, hang an article of clothing out of the window to attract attention of bystanders or emergency personnel. IF WINDOWS ARE CLOSED, DO NOT OPEN A WINDOW UNLESS YOU NEED TO IN ORDER TO ESCAPE. OXYGEN CAN FUEL THE FIRE. Close doors and place material under them to prevent smoke from coming in. Anyone trapped in the room should remain close to the floor to avoid smoke.
  - If another person is on fire, yell: STOP – DROP – ROLL.
  - If you are on fire, STOP – DROP – ROLL.
  - During the evacuation, direct crowds away from fire hydrants, roadways, and clear sidewalks immediately adjacent to the building. Ask bystanders to assist in watching windows, doorways, etc., for persons that may be trapped inside.

## **Hurricane Response Plan (abbreviated)**

**NOTE:** The university will close when Chatham Emergency Management Agency announces “Voluntary Evacuation of the Islands.” When the university is closing, all personnel should take time to record on their voice mails the following message: “The university is closed due to Hurricane \_\_\_\_\_. For information concerning Armstrong Atlantic’s reopening, please check Savannah broadcast media or call 912.927.5211.”

**WATCH** – Conditions are favorable for some form of severe weather or other natural disaster to occur. Precautionary measures should be taken at this time.

**WARNING** – Severe weather or other forms of natural disasters actually pose an immediate threat to the area. Quick action to protect oneself is essential.

- The University Police Department will begin assisting personnel in leaving the campus and checking each building to make certain that it is empty and secure. When the decision is made by the president to close the campus, if the storm is classified as 1 or 2, all personnel with the exception of University Police officers must vacate. Storms classified as levels 3, 4, or 5 require total evacuation; however, one (1) University Police officer will remain on campus.
- Under no circumstance will any students be allowed to remain in campus residence halls. Students who do not have a safe place to evacuate will be bused by the university to other University System of Georgia inland campuses.
- For students/employees with no other means of transportation, some CAT bus routes will operate on a schedule announced after Warning and Mandatory-Full Evacuation orders are issued. Evacuees will be transported by CAT to the Savannah Civic Center to board school buses for transport to inland shelters.

## Tornado: Watch or Warning

Tornado **WATCH**: Weather conditions are conducive for a tornado to develop.

During **WATCH**:

- Be particularly alert for the sound of roaring winds and/or large hail.
- Because of the large numbers of people on campus, dismissing classes is not recommended unless CEMA notifies the university.

Tornado **WARNING**: A tornado has been sighted and protective measures should be taken immediately. Seek safe shelter. University Police will announce the warning either with bullhorns or through the BLAST emergency communications system.

During **WARNING**:

- Individuals outside immediately move off streets and inside a building with doors shut and windows down.
- Faculty, staff, and students in mobile homes or modular buildings on campus immediately vacate buildings and go to permanent structures.
- Those in permanent structures close doors, interior and exterior, and move to interior room or hallway on lowest floor. Seek refuge in doorway, interior hallway, under desk or table, on lowest floor of the building.
- Stay away from windows and exterior doors.
- If outdoors and unable to get to shelter, seek ditch or depression in the ground and lie flat on the ground. **Caution**: Avoid power or utility poles as they may be energized. Be aware of potential for flooding. Use arms to protect head and neck.
- Stay out of automobiles. If caught in a vehicle, get out of the car and take shelter in a nearby building. If shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or crouch near a strong building. Be aware of potential for flooding.

- If caught in the Aquatic and Recreation Center, the Sports Center, or the Fine Arts Auditorium, get into a restroom, if possible.

### **Tornado: Classroom Response**

When the tornado warning is received, if there is sufficient time to take shelter:

- Evacuate classrooms into hallways, restrooms and away from windows and exterior doors quickly, quietly and orderly.
- Professors should be the last out of the room and check to make certain that all students have evacuated.
- Special care should be taken to assist disabled students in evacuating.
- Persons should take position for greatest safety by crouching on knees, head down with hands locked at back of neck and should use anything available to protect their heads.
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD PERSONS GO OUTSIDE!

### **Flood Emergency Response**

In the event that students and staff are unable to leave campus because of flash flooding or rising water, all personnel should move to the second floors of classroom buildings. Residence hall students should leave the residence hall area and proceed to Memorial College Center.

### **Natural Gas Leaks**

Natural gas leaks are rare occurrences but nevertheless are extremely dangerous. Natural gas leaks are identified by the smell of rotten eggs or a hissing sound.

In the event of a natural gas leak:

- Do not turn lights on or use telephones or fax machines.
- Evacuate the building.

- From another location, contact Plant Operations, **912.927.5329**
- If a leak occurs after 5 p.m., call University Police, **912.921.5555**
- Remain outside building until authorities allow reentry.

## **Hazardous Materials Emergency Response**

Any spillage of a hazardous chemical or radioactive material will be reported to University Police immediately, **912.921.5555**.

- Evacuate affected site immediately. Do not walk on or touch any spilled substance. Try to stay upstream, uphill, and upwind of accident.
- Cover mouth with cloth while leaving the area. From another location, contact Plant Operations, **912.927.5329**
- If spill occurs after 5 p.m., call University Police, **912.921.5555**
- Do not reenter area for any reason. Remain outside affected area until authorities allow reentry.

## **Violent or Criminal Behavior**

- In the event of violent, hostile, or criminal behavior, leave the immediate area if possible, and direct others to do so.
- Immediately contact the University Police Department, **912.921.5555**. Dial **5555** from a campus phone or from any emergency call boxes around campus.
- Tell dispatcher your name, location, telephone number, and details of what is happening.
- If the offender has weapons or is suspected of having weapons, take cover immediately using all available concealment. Close and lock doors when possible to separate yourself and others from any armed offender.

- Note: The University Police Department is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is a State Police Agency with the same arrest powers as any other state agency or city and county police agency. Its jurisdiction is Board of Regents property and 500 yards beyond BOR property.

## **Workplace Violence Prevention**

- Be aware of what is going on around you at all times. Awareness is a proven method for increased personal safety.
- Tell your supervisor/instructor when you notice unusual or suspicious behavior.
- Refer employees exhibiting inappropriate behavior to Human Resources, **912.927.5267**.
- Refer students exhibiting inappropriate behavior to Student Affairs, **912.927.5271** or AASU Counseling and Volunteer Services, **912.927.5374**.
- Do not hesitate to call AASU Police, **5555** for help.

## **Hostage Situation**

If taken hostage, or if you witness another person being taken hostage:

- Dial University Police, if possible, **5555** or **912.921.5555**. Supply as many details as possible including number of persons involved, description, weapons, etc.
- Observe captors; try to memorize physical traits, voice patterns, clothing, or other details.
- Do what you are told without argument. Avoid appearing hostile.
- Do not attempt to negotiate or argue.
- Do your best to appear calm, and try to get others to remain calm. Tell them to do what they are told.
- Maintain eye contact with the hostage taker at all times if possible, but do not stare.

- Do not make sudden moves. If you must go to bathroom/need medications/first aid, ask your captors.
- Displaying some fear may work to your advantage.
- If forced to present terrorist demands to authorities, state clearly that the demands are from your captors. Avoid making a plea on your own behalf.
- Try to stay low to the ground or behind cover from windows or doors, if possible.
- DO NOT attempt escape unless there is an extremely good chance of survival.
- Be prepared for evasive action in the event the police make entry. Often they will shout instructions. Follow them immediately.

## **Bomb Threat Emergency Response**

### **Specific Response to Caller**

If you are the person receiving a bomb threat via telephone, remain calm and talk to the person as long as you can.

All receptionists, administrative assistants, and other personnel who typically answer telephones at AASU should keep a “bomb threat notification card” in their desks. (See the *AASU Emergency Response Procedures Handbook for Faculty and Staff* for more detail.) Wave the bomb threat notification card in the air to get the attention of someone in the area. Give the card to the first person to respond to you. The card gives a complete description of what is taking place and the procedures to follow. The *AASU Emergency Response Procedures Handbook for Faculty and Staff* covers this issue in detail.

The person receiving the call should try to obtain as much information as possible. Listen to what the caller is saying and do not interrupt. Take down the

entire message. If possible, try to keep the caller on the line and try to gather further information.

- If you receive a bomb threat, CONTACT UNIVERSITY POLICE AT 5555 FROM ANY CAMPUS PHONE OR 912.921.5555

## **Suspicious Packages/Mail**

All staff and faculty are required to report any suspicious packages or objects found on campus to the University Police, **912.921.5555** immediately.

Possible warning signs:

- wiring
- noise coming from the envelope or package
- weight of the package or letter is odd for its size
- liquid or powder leaking
- chemical odor or odd stains present
- excessive packaging

In the event of a suspicious package/mail:

- Do not handle it.
- If you suspect that the package could be explosive, evacuate the area and call University Police, **912.921.5555** from a secure location.
- Avoid the use of radios and cell phones near any suspicious envelope or package. Radio waves can detonate an explosive device.
- If the letter or package has already been opened and powder or other substance has spilled from the package or letter, do not clean it up. Leave it where it is, evacuate the area, wash your hands with soap and water, and call University Police, **912.921.5555**.
- If someone opening a suspicious package is covered with a possible chemical agent, they should remain in place.
- At a minimum, the contaminated individual should evacuate to an isolated area, away from other personnel who were not exposed.

## **Serious Health Concerns**

A growing concern among students and faculty alike is the increase in infectious diseases such as meningitis. Common symptoms are: stiff neck, severe headache, high fever, sensitivity to light, sleepiness, confusion, and seizures. Blood infections may cause fever and rash. For further information, please contact Counseling and Volunteer Services, **912.927.5374**. For immediate concerns regarding serious health issues, call AASU Health Center, **912.961.5726**; Chatham County Health Department, **912.356.2684**; Chatham County Health Department Immunization Clinic, **912.356.2441**.

Questions/concerns regarding students with disabilities: Disability Services, **912.927.5269**

## **Possession of Firearms or Other Weapons**

*The Georgia Criminal Code*, Section 16-11-127.1, makes it a felony to possess a weapon in, on, or within 1,000 feet of the campus. “Weapon” means and includes all firearms, switchblade knives and all knives having a blade of two or more inches, martial arts devices, clubs or other bludgeon-type instruments, stun guns, or tasers. This policy excludes classroom work authorized by the teacher and does not apply to sports equipment, law enforcement training courses, or military training programs. The provisions of this code do not apply to duly authorized personnel.