

Curricular "Emergency preparedness"

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TTUHSC School of Pharmacy

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Curricular Affairs

Weekly Update - October 8, 2013

Last week we had a fire drill here at the Lubbock campus. As we were standing out in front of the building we joked "good thing we weren't giving an exam"... but then, that's not so funny is it?

What is your course team's emergency plan? Or, at least, how would you round up everyone on the team to make quick decisions should an unexpected need arise?

It is probably impossible for teams to have a "what if" plan for every contingency – you just couldn't predict every possibility. You could share ideas for what your preferences might be should you have an entire campus or class bumped out of an exam or lab session or any activity, for that matter, but the most reliable planning a team could probably do would be to decide how they will contact 1) each other 2) other key individuals should you be in a situation where you have to gather for some on-the-fly problem solving.

A couple of recommendations:

- 1) Have more than one method of contacting each member of your teaching team, or some kind of contact chain. If the problem is a network or power failure, email or computer based directories won't be of much use.
- 2) Try to send communication to your class (by whatever means are feasible given the situation) that the team is responding. You don't need to have a plan locked down yet. They just need to know you're working on it. In the absence of this assurance, rumors and confusion will run rampant. You can always update them as information evolves.
- 3) Include folks like myself, like Stevie Rozzell, or Teresa Pro, as well as the Regional Deans or Student Services staff responsible for the campus(es) affected in your problem solving. What you may end up needing from us could vary, but these are folks that need to be in the loop.

We can't make our curriculum or schedule immune to disaster, but despite our size and complexity we can strive to make our response to problems nimble and coordinated.

Dr. Rebecca Sleeper