Message from the Police Chief

Dear UK Faculty & Staff:

The University of Kentucky Police Department recognizes that managing events following a serious emergency on campus can quickly overwhelm the resources of first responders. In an effort to maximize the knowledge and skills of our great institution and its employees, the Police Department provides an opportunity for faculty and staff to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in the campus community.

The primary purpose of University of Kentucky Campus Community Response Team (UK C-CERT) is to apply established CERT curriculum, adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to our university environment. Every campus community is a virtual “city within a city,” with many of the same challenges to public health and safety faced by any other community, but also some unique or special risks and vulnerabilities. University of Kentucky has a large, diverse and multicultural population of faculty, staff, and students on campus in offices, residence halls, classrooms and patient areas. The complexity of the University’s critical infrastructure and the tens of thousands of visitors for special events and conferences underscores the need to educate employees about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our campus and its vital resources.

UK C-CERT members will receive training in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medial operations. Utilizing the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, UK C-CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

I encourage you to take an active role as a UK C-CERT member and support your peers and subordinates who wish to invest in the University’s emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency efforts. Utilizing the skills and knowledge of campus volunteers will not only tremendously enhance the safety and security of our entire campus community, but support an environment of teamwork and an attitude toward readiness. I challenge you to discover new perspectives on your limitations and capabilities for providing assistance to those around you.

Sincerely,

Joe Monroe
Chief of Police