



Office of  
Emergency Management  

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Division of Administration  
& Finance



**2023**  
**Annual Report**

# Introduction

## Mission

To support our campus community staff, faculty, and students to ensure that as a university we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

## Year Highlights

OEM has accomplished many goals over the past year, but here are a few highlights:

- Continuity of Operations Planning Program Implementation of Veoci – Campus-Wide
- Student Housing & Residential Life Training – Emergency Preparedness
- Preparation for the UH Big 12 Athletics Season
- Participation in the Big 12 Functional Exercise in Waco, Texas
- StormReady Recertification
- Revitalization of OEM Social Media
- Participation and Planning of the XFL Season 2023



## Staff Accomplishments:

- FEMA Continuity of Operations Planning Practitioner Level 1 – Evan Broadbent
- Acceptance into the University of Houston, Political Science, PhD Program – Maia Solomon
- Veoci Incident Management System Bootcamp Administrator Level 1 and Level 2 – Evan Broadbent
- SORM Continuity Symposium Presentation, Building a Continuity Program from the Ground Up – Ginger Walker



- University of Houston, Division of Student Affairs, Friend of the Division 2023 – Ginger Walker
- International Association of Emergency Managers, Certified Emergency Manager – Ginger Walker
- University of Houston, McElhinney Award Winner 2023 – Ginger Walker
- TDEM Workshop - The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Understanding the common language in EM and COOP





## Preparedness Activities

A major component of our office is developing and reviewing plans. OEM maintains the Emergency Management Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Mass Evacuation Plan, and Mass Notification Plan.

- Campus-wide implementation of Continuity of Operations Planning Program of Veoci
  - 255 COOPs were created from 28 different colleges/divisions
- Student Housing & Residential Life Training
  - 300+ RA's trained on emergency preparedness
- Participation in the Big 12 Functional Exercise in Waco, Texas
- Community Emergency Response Team Training – 2023
  - 9 participants completed 8 weeks of classroom training and then completed a drill
- Building Emergency Response Plans
  - 11 plans being reviewed and completed
- Hurricane Preparedness Training
  - 80+ staff members trained on hurricane preparedness



→ OEM participating in outreach, exercises, and trainings



## Big 12 Preparation

The first year of UH athletics as a part of the Big 12 Conference has brought its own set of new experiences to UH OEM. OEM did the following to prepare for the shift:

- Tabletop Exercise in Preparation for the Big 12 Football Season 2023
- TDECU Emergency Action Plan
- TDECU Emergency Action Plan Workshop
- Football Command Post Enhancements
- EOC Command Post Orientation
- TDECU Observation Post Enhancements
- Big 12 Basketball Season Planning
- Fertitta Center Emergency Action Plan



# StormReady



- **StormReady Re-Designation in 2023**
  - The University of Houston is recognized by the National Weather Service as being StormReady.
  - This means the University has met several requirements regarding our ability to receive, disseminate and monitor weather warnings through the use of the University of Houston Police Department's (UHPD) Dispatch Center and the Emergency Operation Center.
- **University of Houston Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador**
  - The Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador initiative is an effort to formally recognize NOAA partners who are improving the nation's readiness against extreme weather, water, and climate events.
  - As a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, UH is committed to working with NOAA and other Ambassadors to strengthen national resilience against extreme weather.



## Training and Exercises

This year OEM facilitated or conducted 59 trainings, exercises, or drills.

<b>Trainings</b>		
Type/Name	Number of Participants	Capability Exercised
EOC Liaison Training	5	Preparedness
Command Post Training	35	Preparedness
COOP Liaison Veoci Training	76	Reponse/Recovery
Hurricane Preparedness Presentation	89	Preparedness
Ride Out Training	25	All
SHRL RA Training	200	Preparedness
Everbridge "Train the Trainer"	15	Preparedness/Response/Communication
Football Incident Communications Meeting	32	Preparedness
CERT	9	Preparedness/Response/Communication
Building Emergency Reponse Plan Training	8	Preparedness

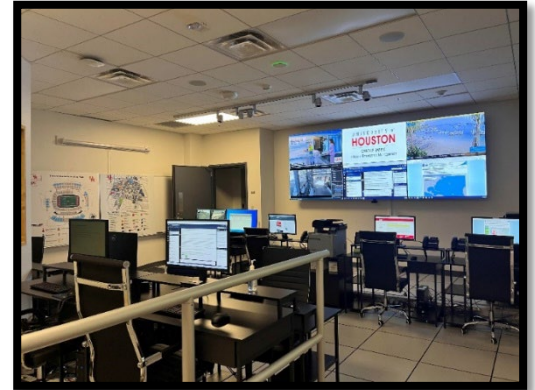
<b>Exercises</b>		
Type/Name	Number of Participants	Capability Exercised
WebEOC Regional Exercise	30	Communication
Football Game Tabletop Exercise	41	

<b>Drills</b>		
Type/Name	Number of Participants	Capability Exercised
Monthly Audible Siren Test	Campus-Wide	Public Information/Warning
WebEOC Drills	1	Preparedness/Response/Communication
UH Alert Emergency Notification System Test	Campus-Wide	Public Information/Warning



# EOC Utilization

- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated 15 times in 2023 for various special events and occasions.
- The EOC provides a central intelligence space for decision makers and response team personnel to gather critical information, coordinate response activities and manage personnel as the situation dictates.
- Various situations on campus will trigger the EOC's opening, including lengthy crisis situations like hurricanes or large recreational events like football games.



## Special Events Supported

### Football

7 Home Football Games with individual IAPs created and OEM support in EOC

### Commencement

IAPs for Spring 2023 & Fall 2022 Commencements with OEM support in EOC

### Basketball

Season Long IAP with OEM support in Observation Post as requested

### Other Events

IAP creation with OEM support in EOC or Command Post as needed for large campus wide events





# Future of OEM

## A message from our Director -

As 2023 comes to a close we reflect on the amazing accomplishments of the Office of Emergency Management.

We received numerous awards, accomplished difficult tasks, overcame challenges, and all the while exceeding beyond my expectations.

Whether it be through our enhanced preparedness activities, various mitigation strategies, prevention tools, response capabilities or the quick and concise recovery coordination, OEM was ready.

Bring on 2024, OEM is ready for you.

- Ginger Walker, Director, Office of Emergency Management



→ OEM conducting Outdoor Warning Siren testing



→ OEM with the Houston/Galveston NWS Office

Office of Emergency Management  
[www.uh.edu/oem](http://www.uh.edu/oem)

